



It is the mission of the Urbana Park District to:

- *Improve the quality of life of its citizens through a responsive, efficient, and creative park and recreation system,*
- *Pursue excellence in a variety of programs, parks, and special facilities that contribute to the attractiveness of neighborhoods, conservation of the environment, and the overall health of the community.*

**NOTICE AND AGENDA OF MEETING
URBANA PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (UPDAC)
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025
7:00 PM
PLANNING & OPERATIONS FACILITY
1011 E. KERR AVENUE
URBANA, IL 61802**

I. Call to Order

II. Public Comment

Any member of the public may make a brief statement at this time within the public participation rules of the Board.

III. Approval of the Minutes of the January 28, 2025 Meeting

IV. New Business

- A. Urbana Park District Capital Improvement Plan/Budget
- B. UPD Alcohol Permits

V. Reports

- A. UPDAC Chair
- B. Board Representative
- C. Director's Report
- D. Capital Projects Report

VI. UPDAC Member Comments and Open Discussion

VII. Adjourn

Upcoming meetings:

March 25, 2025

April 22, 2025

May 27, 2025

June 24, 2025

****This month's Secretary is Myra Stevens****

Note: The Meeting Agenda and Supporting Materials are on the UPD website at <http://www.urbanaparks.org/documents/index.html>; choose the "Public Meetings" category and search for the meeting information you wish to download.

MEETING MINUTES
URBANA PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (UPDAC)
TUESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2025
7:00 PM
CHAMPAIGN-URBANA SPECIAL RECREATION (CUSR) CENTER
2212 SANGAMON DRIVE
CHAMPAIGN, IL 61821

The meeting of the Urbana Park District Advisory Committee (UPDAC) was held Tuesday, January 28, 2025 at the CUSR Center at 7:00 pm. The notice and agenda of the meeting were posted at the park district administrative office and at the location of the meeting. Copies of the notice and agenda were received by each member of the committee and by local newspapers, radio, and television stations at least forty-eight hours before the meeting in compliance with the Open Meetings Act of the State of Illinois. A copy of the notice and agenda is attached to the minutes. Also available for inspection are all documents that were reviewed or approved at the meeting.

UPDAC Members	PRESENT	ABSENT
Hannah Sheets, Chair	X	
Eusebio Briseño	X	
Lauren Chambers	X	
Lori Choquette	X	
Kanittha Fay		
Sylena Harper		
Lauren Karplus	X	
Lucia Maldonado		
Martha McSims		X
Rachel Spencer	X	X
Ashley Sims	X	
Michael Stevenson	X	X
Myra Stevens	X	
Brittany Tammen	X	
Gretchen Madsen Webb	X	
Darius White		X

Others Present:

Tim Bartlett, Executive Director;
Corky Emberson, Superintendent of Recreation;
Nikiaya Brandon, CUSR Adult Program & Events Coordinator

I. Call to Order

UPDAC Chair, Hannah Sheets, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Champaign-Urbana Special Recreation Center Tour

Nikiaya Brandon of CUSR gave us a presentation and handout. She had a series of slides. One of these introduced us to the CUSR Team. She also talked about the CUSR Advisory Committee and commented that they were looking to fill two additional seats on the committee. Applications available on the CUSR website. They have bi-monthly meetings that vary on which days to meet at 6:00 PM. She commented that there was no one currently on the committee with disabilities, but there are some members that are parents of those with disabilities.

She talked about the Cupcake 5K. It has been a good fundraiser and awareness event, and is growing in both participation and sponsorship. They have better swag and a fun afterparty, and the event raises a good amount for scholarships.

She told us about last year's highlights and new things beginning this year. They now serve two locations: the one in Champaign and now they also offer services at the Phillips Recreation Center in Urbana. Some of the programming offered includes Powerlifting (now at the Health & Wellness Center), theater programming, gymnastics (at iPower) and Special Olympics training.

She discussed the strategic plan and future goals. These include plans to increase participant levels, new/additional fundraisers, grants for park/parking improvements, and scholarships for adult programming.

We then took a tour of the facilities which include the lobby, activity room, two sensory rooms, and the large gym which is a multiple use area for everything from sports to theater to hang out area. There is a big involvement with Special Olympics which provides sports training, competition, and support at the state level and where a number of volunteers help with a good portion of all that is required. At CUSR the Mustang is their mascot.

IV. Discussion

C. Champaign-Urbana Special Recreation

Corky talked about inclusion aides at UPD and how they try to provide whatever is needed to get someone included. The question is "how can we help?" rather than it can't be done. They also look to pair buddies with someone if needed. There was also discussion about the Tom Jones Challenger Special Recreation and their use of AMBUCS park. Other discussion points related to the number of kids involved with that program and how they work together with the park district.

V. Approval of the Minutes of the November 19, 2024 Meeting

The minutes of the November 19, 2024 UPDAC Meeting were presented for approval.

Lori Choquette made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 19, 2024 UPDAC Meeting with a second from Brittany Tammen. A vote was taken and the motion passed.

VI. Reports

A. UPDAC Chair

Hannah said she had attended the recent parks conference and had seen some very good and interesting talks. She commented on a good one about spending time outdoors and camping. She was disappointed that some were cancelled due to lack of a speaker.

B. Board Representative

No report.

C. Director's Report

Tim thanked CUSR, commented on success of Cupcake 5K, and discussed the OSLAD grant that will help with road/parking/park improvements. He thanked Senator Faraci for advice in getting the grant and his suggestions to work with city of Champaign and the Unit 4 School District.

He talked about a fee for those out of district to access CUSR, and also discussed how federal freezing of funds could affect future projects.

He asked Corky for update on the Health & Wellness Center – in 3 weeks there are 752 memberships and 5018 visits, with over 600 basketball visits this weekend. \$8,000 in scholarships have been awarded from the OSF Healthcare gift and there are 75 silver sneakers members. There has been a high demand for pickleball, volleyball and basketball. Residential rates are being given and discounted for those employed within the Urbana School District, City of Urbana, and Urbana Free Library.

D. Capital Projects Report

The Baker's Lane Trail in Weaver Park that links to the Kickapoo Rail Trail (KRT) has some funding uncertainties due to the federal grants freeze. The KRT Trailhead Project that includes a new pavilion, parking, and amenities will go out to bid, as will the South Ridge Path Project. They will also be looking at design work for Phillips Recreation Center to make it more accessible.

VII. UPDAC Member Comments, Questions, and Open Discussion

Lauren Karplus wanted to thank the park district for taking action on summer swim team practice times, and moving it so that there will be an evening session which will allow parents who work to sign their kids up to participate.

Lauren Chambers wanted to let everyone know about all of the positive comments that she has received on the new Health & Wellness Center. She also commented about the cold water in the showers at the UIAC – Lori Choquette also agreed with this comment. Tim said they are looking into the situation.

Eusebio Briseño also wanted to give a shout out to the Health & Wellness Center. He said he likes his membership as it is allowing him to train for a run during the extreme cold this past week. He also likes to play volleyball during open gym. He had a concern about small child on volleyball court, who was possibly without an adult. Corky will look into this matter.

Hannah wanted to thank CUSR. She said she appreciated how difficult it was to have multiple bosses (both UPD and CPD) and they do a good job of balancing different priorities between the park districts.

VIII. Adjourn

Hannah adjourned the meeting at 8:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Lori Choquette

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