



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, MAY 27, 2025
6:30 PM
PERKINS ROAD PARK SITE
1501 E. PERKINS ROAD
URBANA, IL 61802**

This meeting will take place outdoors with limited seating and include a walking tour of the Perkins Road Park Site. Meeting participants and attendees should dress appropriately for the weather and wear comfortable, close-toed shoes and long pants. To request accessibility accommodations, please contact the Urbana Park District Administration Office at 217-367-1536.

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 April 22, 2025 Meeting

IV. New Business

- A. Perkins Road Park Site Tour

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:

***June 24, 2025
July – NO MEETING
August 26, 2025
September 23, 2025
October 28, 2025
November 18, 2025***

****This month's Secretary is Eusebio Briseño****

Note: The Meeting Agenda and Supporting Materials are on the UPD website at <https://www.urbanaparks.org/urbana-park-district-advisory-committee-updac>.

MEETING MINUTES
URBANA PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (UPDAC)
TUESDAY, APRIL 22, 2025
7:00 PM
PLANNING & OPERATIONS FACILITY
1011 E. KERR AVENUE
URBANA, IL 61802

The meeting of the Urbana Park District Advisory Committee (UPDAC) was held Tuesday, April 22, 2025 at the Urbana Park District (UPD) Planning & Operations Facility 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		X
Sylena Harper	X	
Lauren Karplus	X	
Lucia Maldonado	X	
Martha McSims		X
Rachel Spencer		X
Ashley Sims	X	
Michael Stevenson	X	
Myra Stevens	X	
Brittany Tammen		X
Gretchen Madsen Webb	X	
Darius White		X

Others Present:

Cedric Stratton, Commissioner;
 Laura Hastings, Commissioner;
 Tim Bartlett, Executive Director;
 Derek Liebert, Superintendent of Planning & Operations;
 Keenan Portis, Park Planner;
 Kelsey Beccue, Development Manager;

VIII. Call to Order

UPDAC Chair, Hannah Sheets, called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM.

IX. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

X. Approval of the Minutes of the March 25, 2025 Meeting

Hannah presented the minutes of the March 25, 2025 UPDAC Meeting for approval. Gretchen noted that she was not in attendance at the March meeting. There were no other changes noted.

Lori Choquette made a motion with a second from Lauren Chambers to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2025 UPDAC Meeting with the noted attendance correction. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

XI. New Business

A. King Park

Tim Bartlett opened the discussion with a historical review of King Park. It began as a mobile home park. Because of a TIF district established by the City of Urbana, the residents were moved into better housing. After residents moved out, there were a number of dwellings along Lincoln Avenue that were removed to open up the park along the road.

Next, Keenan provided a review of the ongoing community planning process for development of a new master plan for King Park. Some highlights of that review included:

- A discussion of the budget for a new playground – currently \$1.2 million
- An introduction to the King Park Steering Committee and outcomes from their meetings
- Park amenities for young children
- The influence of King School and its multinational and multicultural population of students.
- Park amenities for older children and young adults
- Different options for the current Bankshot court
- Future land acquisition and park expansion to the west at the Felmley-Dickerson site, including amenities like a splash pad, bike training area, gardens, and green parking
- Arts & culture options for the park – word art, murals, sculpture
- Types of gathering spaces – grass amphitheater, seating plaza, pavilion, sculpture plaza
- Landscaping – peace garden, naturalized landscapes, colorful flowers
- Signage – inspirational, interpretive, entry archway

Next, Keenan gave a summary from the various engagement opportunities with the community, noting that a splash pad was the most requested amenity.

Keenan shared two master plan options that have been developed so far with differing layouts and locations of the playground, paths, parking, and entry areas. A general discussion followed about the future plans for the park, items missing, and a focused discussion of the splash pad, given the plans to locate one at Prairie Park.

Additional discussion included Lucia mentioning that it would be good to include something that celebrates multiculturalism. Tim responded that playground theming might be a good opportunity.

There was some talk about art installations in the park as targets for graffiti. Cedric suggested a sanctioned graffiti area to provide a controlled outlet, and there was discussion about how well that might work. Concerns included worries about hateful messages, ongoing maintenance, and perception that graffiti would be seen as allowable elsewhere in the park district. Some UPDAC members thought that there might be a level of self-policing that would naturally occur with regard to hateful messages.

Reports

E. UPDAC Chair

Hannah commented on the Champaign-Urbana Special Recreation musical, noting that she enjoyed it a great deal.

F. Board Representative

Cedric reminded UPDAC that Tim is retiring in June and that the Board has been interviewing Executive Director candidates. He said that the Board would be announcing a decision next month. He commented that the park district's You Belong Here message resonated with all the applicants.

G. Director's Report

Tim suggested everyone check out Champaign's new downtown plaza and Skelton Park. Calling back to earlier discussion on King Park, Tim said everyone should go look at the *Byways to Equality* sculpture by Preston Jackson and see if they can count the number of stories that are depicted in it. He also mentioned that UPD is looking to create a mental health program for staff, along with incorporating some de-escalation training. Several UPDAC members shared their experiences with de-escalation training in regard to enforcement of rules, noting that there are "train the trainer" options to be sure that information can be provided to part-time and seasonal staff as well.

Lucia brought up the ongoing threat of arrest and deportation in our community, noting that many are afraid to send their kids to school. She suggested the park

district work to communicate the message that people are welcome and connect people to resources. There was a wide-ranging discussion on this topic and what the park district can do.

H. Capital Projects Report

Derek shared that the South Ridge Park Path Project has been completed.

XII. **UPDAC Member Comments and Open Discussion**

Lori Choquette shared an ongoing parking conflict at the Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center, where students and staff are consistently parking in the spots designated for UIAC. Corky and Tim said they would follow up directly with the school.

XIII. **Adjourn**

Hannah Sheets adjourned the meeting at 8:46 PM.

Respectfully submitted by Michael Stevenson