



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, OCTOBER 28, 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 September 23, 2025 Meeting
- IV. New Business
 - A. Recreation Program Review
- 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:

November 18, 2025*
****Third Tuesday***
December – NO MEETING
January 27, 2026
February 24, 2026
March 24, 2026

*****This month's secretary is Kelsey Beccue*****

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, SEPTEMBER 23, 2025
 7:00 PM
 PHILLIPS RECREATION CENTER
 505 W. STOUGHTON
 URBANA, IL 61801**

The meeting of the Urbana Park District Advisory Committee (UPDAC) was held Tuesday, September 23, 2025 at the Urbana Park District (UPD) Phillips Recreation 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	
Sara Curtis	X	
Carmen Franks	X	
Matthew Fletcher	X	
Sylena Harper	X	
Lauren Karplus	X	
Lucia Maldonado	X	
Martha McSims		X
Sara Rand	X	
Rachel Spencer	X	
Ashley Sims		X
Gretchen Madsen Webb	X	

Others Present:

Ashley Withers, Commissioner;
 Rachel Lenz, Executive Director;
 Derek Liebert, Superintendent of Planning & Operations;
 Corky Emberson, Superintendent of Recreation;
 Kelsey Beccue, Development Manager

I. Call to Order and Introductions

Hannah Sheets called the meeting to order at 7:44 PM. Next, she had everyone introduce themselves.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Approval of the Minutes of the August 26, 2025 Meeting

Hannah presented the minutes of the August 26, 2025 UPDAC Meeting for approval.

Rachel Spencer made a motion with a second from Lori Choquette to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2025 UPDAC Meeting. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. New Business

A. UPDAC Year-in-Review

Kelsey Beccue presented on the activity and accomplishments of UPDAC last term. UPDAC's main areas of discussion were across three broad categories: park development projects, programs, and park district administration and operation.

With regard to park development, Kelsey reviewed UPDAC's consideration and discussion of:

- The Prairie and Weaver Park Master Plan
- King Park Master Plan
- Perkins Road Site

With regard to park district programs, Kelsey reviewed UPDAC's consideration and discussion of:

- After school programs/SPLASH
- Outreach & Wellness programming
- Champaign-Urbana Special Recreation programming

With regard to park district administration and operation, Kelsey reviewed UPDAC's consideration and discussion of:

- Intergovernmental cooperation
- Capital Improvement Plan and Budget
- Urbana Park District matrix teams
- UPD Strategic Plan and the UPD Climate Action, Resilience, Education, and Sustainability (CARES) Plan

B. Upcoming Programs and Projects

Kelsey then reviewed UPDAC’s involvement in future projects over the next year in the areas of park development, park district programs, community partnerships, and park district administration and operation.

With regard to park development projects, Kelsey shared that UPDAC would be part of discussions surrounding the implementation of both the Prairie and Weaver Park and King Park master plans.

Kelsey then commented that after school programs and SPLASH would be a continued program focus area of UPDAC over the next year.

Next, Kelsey said that it was anticipated that some of our community partners would come to share some information about their work and their relationship with the park district. She noted that the district is working to schedule time with Experience CU/40 North and with OSF Healthcare, to discuss the African American Heritage Trail/King Park and Mental Health, respectively.

Finally, Kelsey said there were plans to share some more information about UPD financial cycles and broader parks and recreation trends.

V. Reports

A. UPDAC Chair

There was no UPDAC Chair Report

B. Board Representative

Commissioner, Ashley Withers, shared that at their last board meeting, they discussed new fleet vehicles and electric vehicle charging.

C. Director’s Report

Director Lenz announced that the district is planning a first anniversary celebration of the Health & Wellness Center (HAWC) for January 3, 2026. She said that the HAWC has significantly exceeded expectations with 1,896 total memberships. She also shared that all of the first year of OSF’s HAWC Scholarship gift (\$30,000) had been spent.

D. Capital Projects Report

Derek presented capital projects updates including:

- Future installation of EV charging stations
- Planning for Victory and Crestview parks

VI. UPDAC Member Comments and Open Discussion

Lauren asked about an evening swim team option for working parents of younger children. Corky said that with the evening swim team option for older kids, they saw

participation numbers increase. Lauren suggested that an evening swim team for younger kids might better build the pipeline for the older kids' swim teams.

Rachel Spencer asked about Urbana Park District baseball, noting difficulties in working with the local Little League. Corky said that the district does run a t-ball league for little kids and a wood bat baseball league for older kids, but that the Little League and the AAU teams are more popular for the ages in between. To help remedy this, the district is working with the school district on intramural teams to increase participation and provide more options.

Rachel Spencer also asked about hydrogen fueled vehicles to "green the fleet." Derek said that the district has looked into some other fuel alternatives, particularly liquid propane.

Lucia asked about soccer program administration noting that families have been getting last minute information from coaches. Corky said teams are being put together later and later due to late and last-minute registrations, which delays information distribution. Corky suggested that the district might take a look at hardening registration deadlines.

Sara commented on the accessibility of PrairiePlay. She said overall it was okay, but that it could be improved, particularly the swings. She also asked how we prioritize safety at special events. Kelsey said that all full-time staff members are all certified in AED, CPR, and first aid.

Gretchen asked if the district has Narcan. Corky responded that all facilities have it.

Kelsey provided an update on the possibility of park district t-shirts for public purchase.

Carmen shared information on an upcoming Illinois Green Infrastructure and Soil Erosion Conference.

Sara commented that Skate Fest was a great event.

VII. Adjourn

Hannah adjourned the meeting at 8:45PM.