



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 26, 2026
6:00 PM
UPD PLANNING & OPERATIONS FACILITY
1011 E. KERR AVENUE
URBANA, IL 61801**

- 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 Meeting Minutes**
 - A. March 24, 2026 UPDAC Meeting
 - B. April 28, 2026 UPDAC Meeting
- IV. **New Business**
 - A. King Park and the African American Heritage Trail
- 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 23, 2026
July – No meeting
August 25, 2026
September 22, 2026
October 27, 2026***

***** 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, MARCH 24, 2026
6:00 PM
PLANNING & OPERATIONS FACILITY
1011 E. KERR AVENUE
URBANA, IL 61802

The meeting of the Urbana Park District Advisory Committee (UPDAC) was held Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at the Urbana Park District (UPD) Planning & Operations Facility at 6:00 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 – 6:16	
Matthew Fletcher	X	
Sylena Harper		X
Lauren Karplus		X
Lucia Maldonado	X	
Martha McSims	X	
Sara Rand	X	
Rachel Spencer	X – 6:15	
Ashley Sims	X	
Gretchen Madsen Webb	X	

Others in Attendance:

Laura Hastings, Commissioner;
 Ashley Withers, Commissioner;
 Rachel Lenz, Executive Director;
 Kelsey Beccue, Development Manager;
 JT Barnhart, OSF Healthcare

I. Call to Order

Hannah Sheets called the meeting to order at 6:04 PM.

II. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

III. Approval of the Minutes of the February 24, 2026 Meeting

Hannah presented the minutes of the February 24, 2026 UPDAC meeting for discussion and approval.

Lori Choquette made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2026 UPDAC Meeting with a second from Sara Rand. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. New Business

A. Presentation on Mental Health with OSF Healthcare

JT Barnhart, President of OSF Sacred Heart Medical Center (OSF SMHC), presented on the new mental and behavioral health initiatives of OSF in Urbana. He began with some general background information about OSF SHMC in Urbana, noting that it's home to the area's only hospital-based inpatient Adult Behavioral Health service and that it provides mental health care for young adults, older adults, and people with combined medical and psychological needs. He also said that it still has 24/7 emergency services. He went on to note that there is a higher population of college-age students in this area whose mental health needs are underserved, and this initiative is helping to address that service gap.

Sara Rand asked about youth mental health needs in this area, noting that there is also a gap in available services for that segment. JT said it's possible that OSF will look to address that in future phases of program expansion. Kelsey asked what's driving the increase in mental health needs among the population, and JT responded that it's a combination of less stigma in seeking treatment and more awareness of mental health conditions and available resources.

JT also shared some information on other OSF Healthcare centers in central Illinois. OSF SMHC in Danville is a comprehensive health care facility serving Danville and surrounding areas, and is home to the Bobette Steely Hegeler Cancer Center. OSF Healthcare St. Joseph Medical Center is located in Bloomington-Normal and is an acute care Level II trauma center with specialty services including a Birth Center, cancer care, cardiovascular surgery, orthopedic surgery, neurosurgery, and neurointerventional radiology. Between Champaign-Urbana, Danville, and Bloomington-Normal, OSF Healthcare is able to serve a wide variety of healthcare needs.

JT then presented on the shifts in services OSF is making to accommodate the new mental and behavioral health initiatives in Urbana. Select inpatient services in Urbana are transitioning to Danville and Bloomington, so that Urban can focus on behavioral health, emergency care, and limited inpatient medical care. OSF is investing \$13 million in Urbana to expand behavioral health – there will soon be 65 inpatient behavioral health beds. It is also investing \$8 million in Danville to renovate the labor and delivery unit, which remains open during construction.

Some key points he noted about this transition:

- OSF Healthcare remains operational in Urbana
- Statewide there is overwhelming demand for behavioral health services that OSF is able to fill locally
- The target date for construction completion in Urbana is December 2026

He then reviewed some of OSF’s total service offerings in the area and some of their service statistics.

The conversation then transitioned to ways that the Urbana Park District (UPD), OSF, and the wider community might work cooperatively to address mental health needs in the community. There was some discussion of de-escalation training, and Rachel noted that UPD staff have undergone de-escalation training recently. Lucia noted that Urbana schools are now offering mental health screenings. Rachel also commented on Parks Rx, the program through NRPA that worked cooperatively with healthcare providers to write “prescriptions” for parks and outdoor activity as a way to help address mental health.

Some other suggestions for partnership included collaborating with OSF for Active Aging Week since their expansion offers services for older adults. Lori Choquette suggested that UPD and OSF might work together to offer periodic mental health screenings at the Health & Wellness Center.

V. Reports

A. UPDAC Chair

No report.

B. Board Representative

Ashley gave some updates on the KRT Trailhead Pavilion construction at Weaver Park. She also commented on the new sculpture at Meadowbrook Park, and new sculptures coming to South Ridge Park and Larson Park.

C. Director’s Report

Rachel shared that UPD is enlisting the services of Bluesky Recreation to facilitate the strategic plan focus groups. She noted that UPD did not receive the Tourism Attraction Grant for King Park

D. Capital Projects Report
No report.

VI. UPDAC Member Comments and Open Discussion

Sara said that we should all be aware of the language we use to describe people, and to be sure to not use dehumanizing language.

Lori asked about a rumor she had heard that the Urbana Indoor Aquatic Center (UIAC) won't reopen after the May closure. Rachel said that's not true, UIAC will open as scheduled.

Rachel Spencer suggested again that UPD bring back a little league style baseball program. Rachel said that Corky has brought the idea up with Recreation staff.

VII. Adjourn

Hannah Sheets adjourned the meeting at 6:57 PM.

MEETING MINUTES
URBANA PARK DISTRICT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (UPDAC)
TUESDAY, APRIL 28, 2026
6:00 PM
DELCOMYN PARK SITE
3201 S. HIGH CROSS ROAD
URBANA, IL 61802

The meeting of the Urbana Park District Advisory Committee (UPDAC) was held Tuesday, April 28, 2026 at the Delcomyn Park Site at 3201 S. High Cross Road at 6:00 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 in Attendance:

Laura Hastings, Commissioner;
 Rachel Lenz, Executive Director;
 Corky Emberson, Superintendent of Recreation;
 Derek Liebert, Superintendent of Planning & Operations;
 Kelsey Beccue, Development Manager;
 Fred Delcomyn
 Nancy Delcomyn

I. Call to Order

Hannah Sheets called the meeting to order at 6:14 PM. Recognizing no quorum, she announced the meeting must be adjourned.

II. Public Comment

III. Approval of the Minutes of the March 24, 2026 Meeting

IV. New Business

A. Delcomyn Park Homestead

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

Hannah Sheets adjourned the meeting at 6:15 PM.