



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 28, 2024
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 April 23, 2024 Meeting

IV. New Business

- A. Urbana Park District ADA Plan
- B. Prairie and Weaver Park Master Plan 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:

June 25, 2024

July – No meeting

August 27, 2024

September 24, 2024

October 22, 2024

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

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, APRIL 23, 2024
 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 23, 2024 at the Urbana Park District 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
Ashley Withers, Chair	X	
Lauren Chambers	X	
Lori Choquette	X	
David Dorman	X	
Kanittha Fay	X	
Lucia Maldonado		X
Hannah Sheets		X
Ashley Sims	X	
Rachel Spencer	X	
Gary Stensland		X
Michael Stevenson	X	
Brittany Tammen	X	
Gretchen Madsen Webb	X	
Karl Weingartner	X	
Darius White		X

Others Present:
 Laura Hastings, Commissioner;
 Tim Bartlett, Executive Director;
 Corky Emberson, Superintendent of Recreation;
 Kelsey Beccue, Development Manager;
 Matt Lewis, Community Programs Coordinator;
 Katie Bickers, Community Outreach & Wellness Coordinator

I. Call to Order

UPDAC Chair, Ashley Withers, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM.

II. Public Comment

There were no comments from members of the public.

III. Approval of the Minutes of the March 26, 2024 Meeting

The minutes of the March 26, 2024 UPDAC Meeting were presented for approval.

Lori Choquette made a motion with a second from Rachel Spencer to approve the minutes of the March 26, 2024 UPDAC Meeting. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

IV. New Business

A. After School Programs

Tim introduced the topic of after school programs at the Urbana Park District (UPD). He shared that the federal grants that have historically supported UPD after school programs are phasing out. With that in mind, UPD must examine their role, duty, obligation, and interest in continuing to provide these programs, and how that looks after the federal funds disappear.

Corky then gave some background information on UPD’s flagship after school program, Students Playing and Learning After School Hours (SPLASH). The program has been funded over the past fourteen years with the 21st Century Grant, with the first seven years being relatively stable and funding beginning to diminish over the last seven. Brittany Tammen asked about how funding is distributed to UPD, and Corky responded that the Urbana School District (USD #116) receives the funding, allocates it to schools, and reimburses UPD for their staff time.

Matt Lewis and Katie Bickers then gave a presentation on SPLASH, covering the nature and history of the program in Urbana. They explained how the UPD is involved with SPLASH, what services UPD provides for the various local schools that participate in SPLASH, and what the goals of the UPD's involvement in SPLASH are.

USD #116 gets federal grant money for after school programs, which they then allocate to various schools. The schools in turn may or may not contract with the UPD to provide after school enrichment programs.

About 150 kids are served each day. The two presenters went over the various classes the UPD offers as part of SPLASH and the various trips they organize and reviewed SPLASH activities offered school by school.

Tim stated that federal grants that supported SPLASH and other after school programs are coming to an end. Funding may end as soon as August 2024. He suggested that the

UPD needs to examine the question of how to proceed when the funding runs out. Typically, 3 to 6 pm is the highest risk time for school kids. Also, a big issue for the UPD is to keep a connection to young students. Without SPLASH that connection could be lost.

Corky explained that in Urbana the grade schools have after school programs funded by the schools, but the middle schools don't, so middle schoolers are the target population that the UPD will try to provide after school programs for.

After the presentation they fielded numerous questions from UPDAC members.

V. Reports

A. UPDAC Chair

Ashley described the Health and Wellness Center open house floor signing event, and Corky noted that it was well attended by the community.

B. Board Representative

Laura Hastings described the April 22 Earth Day event, commenting that about 300 people attended. She also mentioned that staffing is an issue in regard to after school programs because of state regulations regarding teachers nearing retirement age. In some cases, there are teachers who would like to staff programs occurring outside school hours, but they are barred from doing so. There was then some further discussion regarding the importance of programming for students. Demand is coming from the students themselves. Rachel talked about the Chancellor's interest in community relations and urged a partnership between UPD and the University of Illinois. Corky said the UPD is trying to tap university resources.

C. Director's Report

The UPD is looking forward to the opening of the Health and Wellness Center. It will be a game changer for Urbana. The UPD is also looking to implement a splash pad and a skating rink at the site as well. Tim is focusing on Phase 2 in meetings with state legislators, as well as also discussing desired activities and athletic facilities for young people. There is a huge population that does not have good access to freely availability sports activities.

D. Capital Projects Report

Tim reported that the new Meadowbrook playground installation is moving forward as is the Kickapoo Rail Trail.

VI. UPDAC Member Comments and Open Discussion

Kanittha Fay updated described Urbana High School's Harmony Week event, noting it went very well. She also shared information about the upcoming Mayoral Recognition Ceremony at Urbana High School on May 8 where student volunteers will be honored. She also commended UPD for their participation in the Urbana Lunar New Year Event and their strides in increasing cultural representation.

Lori Choquette mentioned she had seen an article regarding the diversity of bird species in Urbana parks, including Weaver Park.

Tim mentioned that Kelsey is looking for new UPDAC members and asked the group for names. He said he is looking for geographic diversity.

Ashley announced a couple upcoming events at UPD:

- On April 27 at 11:30 am there will be a sculpture dedication at the Nature Center for *Mr. Big Beetle Finds His Way*
- On May 4 at 1:30 pm the new Sanitary District Bridge at Crystal Lake Park will be dedicated

VII. Adjourn

Ashley Withers adjourned the meeting at 8:27 PM.