



**CHAMPAIGN
PARK DISTRICT**



Urbana Park District



MINUTES

**URBANA PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
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MINUTES – CHAMPAIGN-URBANA SPECIAL RECREATION JOINT BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023
5:30 PM**

The Champaign-Urbana Special Recreation (CUSR) Joint Board Meeting of the Urbana Park District Board of Commissioners and Champaign Park District Board of Commissioners was held Thursday, December 7, 2023 at the CUSR Center, 2212 Sangamon Dr., Champaign, at 5:30 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 commissioner of the district 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.

UPD COMMISSIONERS	PRESENT	ABSENT
President Michael Walker	X	
Vice-President Meredith Blumthal	X	
Commissioner Cedric Stratton	X	
Commissioner Roger Digges		X
Commissioner Laura Hastings	X	

CPD COMMISSIONERS	PRESENT	ABSENT
President Craig Hays	X	
Vice-President Timothy McMahon		X
Commissioner Jane Solon	X	
Commissioner Barbara Kuhl	X	
Commissioner Mike Somers	X	

Also present were:

- Tim Bartlett, Executive Director, UPD;
- Sarah Sandquist, Executive Director, CPD;
- Corky Emberson, Superintendent of Recreation, UPD;
- Jarrod Scheunemann, Deputy Executive Director;
- Dan Olson, Director of Operations & Planning;

Christina Mott, CUSR Manager/Inclusion Coordinator;
Nikiaya Brandon, Adult Programs & Events Coordinator, CUSR;
Tristan Elzy, Youth & Teen Coordinator, CUSR;
Amanda Carrington, CUSR Center Receptionist;
Cole Alvis, Athletics and Volunteer Coordinator;
Allison Jones served as Recorder.

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Hays called the meeting to order at 5:31 PM.

B. INTRODUCTIONS

1. Introduction of CUSR staff
2. Introduction of Board Members

Staff and Board members went around the room and introduced themselves.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

One Urbana resident commented on CUSR programming and community feedback.

D. PRESENTATIONS

1. ADA Projects

Tim Bartlett and Corky Emberson reviewed multiple ADA Transition Plan projects from the Urbana Park District. Director Bartlett reviewed the history of the ADA Transition plan with the UPD and how attitudes have shifted from simply removing physical barriers to a perspective of “universal access” for all. Corky Emberson highlighted several projects, including the updates at Blair Park and upcoming renovations at Meadowbrook Park Prairie Play.

Dan Olson reviewed CPD’s progress on their ADA Transition plan, including information on barriers removed. He noted a focus on improvements to playgrounds in the last few years. He also reviewed a collaboration with the City of Champaign for Hedge Park, including water retention, trails, and sports surfaces. Other upcoming projects include a possible pull-up/drop-off lane for the CUSR Center, and improvements to the accessible parking at Hessel Park. Jarrod Scheunemann provided information on the reformation of the CUSR Advisory Committee to get community feedback on the services and programs of CUSR. He noted that the CUSR Center is only one of a few in the state of Illinois dedicated to people with disabilities and is a truly innovated program. He also noted working with Illinois legislators to keep them up-to-date on the capital needs of the CUSR center, including a roofing project.

2. CUSR Year in Review

CUSR staff presented a slide show and videos of updates and re-caps of the last year of CUSR programming and events.

- Christina Mott presented information on Inclusion Services provided.
- Cole Alvis presented information on Mustang Athletics/Special Olympics and Volunteers.
- Tristan Elzy presented updates on Summer Youth Programs, Afterschool Programs, and Youth & Teen Programs.
- Nikiaya Brandon provided information on Adult Programs, Theater, Program & Special Event Information, and New Programs & Special Events.

- Amanda Carrington reviewed the Double Good Popcorn Fundraiser, the 11th Annual Cupcake 5K, the CUSR Advisory Committee, completed tasks from the 2023 Strategic Plan, and presented the annual recap video.

Board and staff discussed growth in CUSR program participation numbers, unmet needs in the community, and collaborations with other community stakeholders. The Board also requested the presentation be e-mailed out for additional review.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of setting December 5, 2024 at 5:30pm as the date and time for the next Joint Champaign & Urbana Park Districts Board Meeting.

COMMISSIONER SOLON MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER KUHL TO APPROVE OF SETTING 12/5/2024 AT 5:30 PM FOR THE NEXT JOINT CUSR BOARD MEETING. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

F. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF - URBANA PARK DISTRICT

Commissioner Hastings thanked CUSR staff for all their hard work and expressed support for expanding the CUSR after school programming if possible. Board and staff discussed what would be required to make that a reality, including considerations such as staffing ratios, training staff, inclusion support, and maintaining noise levels for those with sensory needs. Board and staff also discussed community involvement in CUSR, such as the University of Illinois Kinesiology Program and Community Health Program, as well as the Parkland College Occupational Therapy students.

President Walker commented on the financial tension between supporting ADA compliant capital projects within the two Districts and directly supporting CUSR staffing and programming. The Boards agreed to continue the discussion on how best to balance both of those needs.

G. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF - CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT

Commissioner Solon commended CUSR staff for their outstanding work and growth in program attendance.

H. ADJOURN

COMMISSIONER SOMERS MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SOLON TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Approved:

Craig W. Hays, President

Jarrod Scheunemann, Secretary