



MINUTES

**URBANA PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES – CHAMPAIGN-URBANA SPECIAL RECREATION JOINT BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2024
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 5, 2024 at the Health and Wellness Center, 2002 E. Washington, Urbana, 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 Cedric Stratton	X	
Commissioner Meredith Blumthal	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;
- Jarrold Scheunemann, Deputy Executive Director, CPD;
- Christina Mott, CUSR Program Manager;
- Nikiaya Brandon, Adult Program & Events Coordinator, CUSR;
- Tristan Elzy, Youth & Teen Coordinator, CUSR;
- Crystal Garcia-Lyons, Office Manager, CUSR;
- Cole Alvis, Athletics, Inclusion, and Volunteer Coordinator;
- Allison Jones served as Recorder.

A. CALL TO ORDER

President Walker called the meeting to order at 5:34 PM.

B. INTRODUCTIONS

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

Staff and Board members introduced themselves.

C. PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no comments from members of the public.

D. PRESENTATIONS

1. ADA Projects

i. Urbana Park District

Corky Emberson reviewed new projects from the Urbana Park District and their impact on accessibility in the community. He noted the opening of the Prairie Play playground at Meadowbrook Park and the new Health and Wellness Center and stated that these locations feature many accessible amenities. Next, he reviewed upcoming projects that will have an ADA impact, including the trailhead pavilion for the Kickapoo Rail Trail, a new bridge into Busey Woods, the ramp leading into the Phillips Recreation Center, and renovations of the trail at South Ridge Park. He also noted that staff are continuing to utilize the District's ADA Audit to complete smaller projects and eliminate barriers.

ii. Champaign Park District

Jarrod Scheunemann noted the Champaign Park District's focus on "Access" throughout the district, including in operations, programs, and capital projects. He provided an overview of accessibility updates at Westside Park, Hessel Park, Heritage Park, Davidson Park, and Henry Michael Park. Updates include accessible parking, ground surfacing, new sidewalk and path nodes, and a new pavilion. He then reviewed upcoming improvements at Clark Park and the CUSR Center.

iii. CUSR Center

Jarrod Scheunemann reviewed the CUSR staff emphasis areas for the year, including Outreach, Education, and Participation Growth. He noted success in each area, with staff greater staff outreach to the local school district, staff taking ASL classes and gaining Inclusion Certification, and amazing growth in multiple program areas, including After School Programs.

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.

- Cole Alvis presented information on Inclusion Services, Volunteers, and Athletics.
- Tristian Elzy presented information on Summer Camps, After School Programs, Youth & Teen Programs, and Youth Special Events.
- Nikiaya Brandon presented updates on Adult Programs and Adult Special Events.
- Christina Mott provided information on Program Participation.
- Crystal Garcia-Lyons presented results from Program Surveys.
- Christina Mott reviewed CUSR Scholarships, the Cupcake 5K event, and the CUSR Advisory Committee.
- Jarrod Scheunemann presented highlights from the 2025-2028 Strategic Plan, including the Vision Statement, Mission Statement, Values, and Priorities.
- Christina Mott presented the CUSR highlights video.

Board and staff discussed growth in CUSR program participation numbers, staffing needs, and community outreach efforts.

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Approval of setting December 4, 2025 at 5:30pm as the date and time for the next Joint Champaign & Urbana Park Districts Board Meeting.

COMMISSIONER STRATTON MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER BLUMTHAL TO APPROVE OF SETTING 12/4/2025 AT 5:30 PM FOR THE NEXT JOINT CUSR BOARD MEETING. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN, ALL SAID "AYE."

COMMISSIONER SOLON MADE A MOTION WITH A SECOND BY COMMISSIONER SOMERS TO APPROVE OF SETTING 12/4/2025 AT 5:30 PM FOR THE NEXT JOINT CUSR BOARD MEETING. ALL VOTED "AYE."

F. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS FROM URBANA PARK DISTRICT

- Commissioner Blumthal inquired about additional scholarship needs within CUSR.
- Commissioner Hastings noted her excitement to see CUSR After School Programming being brought to Urbana. She also suggested that the Districts rotate the location of the CUSR Cupcake 5K between Urbana and Champaign.
- Commissioner Digges commented positively on strategic growth and advancement throughout CUSR.
- Commissioner Stratton was pleased to see all the fantastic working coming out of CUSR and is looking forward to what comes next.
- President Walker noted he was glad to see continued growth over the last few years.

G. COMMENTS FROM COMMISSIONERS FROM CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT

- Commissioner Kuhl applauded the CUSR staff's outreach efforts and hard work.
- Commissioner Somers stated that hearing such good news from the CUSR staff made his day brighter.
- Commissioner Solon noted that she was glad to see so many community needs being met.
- Commissioner McMahon was pleased to see such great passion and growth from the CUSR staff.

H. ADJOURN

President Walker adjourned the meeting at 6:33 PM.

URBANA PARK DISTRICT

Michael W. Walker, President
Urbana Park District

Tim Bartlett, Secretary
Urbana Park District

Date Approved: _____

CHAMPAIGN PARK DISTRICT

Craig Hays, President
Champaign Park District

Jarrod Scheunemann, Secretary
Champaign Park District

Date Approved: _____