
DATE: Monday, November 27, 2023
TIME: 7:00 p.m.
PLACE: 400 S. Vine Street, Urbana, IL 61801

The City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, met in regular session Monday, November 27, 2023, at 7 p.m.

ELECTED OFFICIALS PHYSICALLY PRESENT: Diane Wolfe Marlin, Mayor; Darcy Sandefur, City Clerk; CM Maryalice Wu, CM Christopher Evans, CM Shirese Hursey, CM Jaya Kolisetty, CM Chaundra Bishop, CM Grace Wilken, CM James Quisenberry

ELECTED OFFICIALS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Bourema Ouedraogo, Dave Wesner, Carol Mitten, Tim Cowan, Demond Dade, John Zeman, Elizabeth Hannan, Will Kolschowsky, Andrea Ruedi, Carla Boyd, Kimberly Smith, Larry Boone, Rich Surles, Stepheny McMahon, Kevin Garcia, Scott Tess, Carmen Franks, Nick Hansen, Breaden Belcher

OTHERS PRESENT: Elizabeth Pollock, Champaign County Public Defenders Office; Kevin James, Facilitator;

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

With a quorum present, Chair Marlin called the meeting of the Urbana City Council to order at 7p.m.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting

06-20-2023 Public Hearing and 06-26-2023 Minutes

Motion to approve by CM Wu and seconded by CM Bishop.

Voice vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None

3. Additions to the Agenda

None.

4. Presentations and Public Input

a. The Champaign County Public Defender's Office: An Inside View - Elisabeth Pollock, CM's Evans and Wilken

CM Evans provided an introduction Elisabeth Pollock from the Champaign County Public Defender's office. Pollock explained the challenges her office has faced over the last few years including being understaffed and a larger volume of clients. Pollock shared information about industry standards for caseloads. Questions and discussion ensued.

b. Public Input

The following individuals signed onto a form letter submitted as written input (see attached) in support of a skate park in Urbana: John Tubbs, Elise Colgrove, Addiel Martinez Perez, Emily Flowers, Jack Minor, Sam Newman, Kiley Wynn, Erin Smith, Aaron Scott, Mary Fraley, Sophia McCartney, Mamie Vandegrift, Johnny Lusardi, Dean Leavens,

Matthew Stori, Dominic Urban, Eric Gross, Phoebe Bostwick, Patrick Jackson, Andrew Lee, John Tubbs, Jake Simon, Celia Barkley, Katelyn Pollard, Hannah McDonald, Elijah Wilkerson, Kenny M., Grey Westbrook, Emerson Urban, Isaac Juarez, Tanner Coleman, William Kirkland, Alistair Forsyth, Baraka Culpepper, Hailee Isome, Ream Day, Lorenzo Pantano, Vic Fragos, Dominic Mendez, Isaiah Atchison, Owen Vaughan, Sam Sherwood, Kaila Juday, Shallon Malfeo, Otis Mitchell, Declan O'Connor, Adithya Narayan, Jack Perry, Kavi Patel, Lavie Maisha, Peter Wald, Idrees Bridgewater, James Lippert, Miles Bartusek, Mamie Vandegrift, Carsen Bartusek, Beatrice Biggs, Matt Crummett, Montrell Brooks, Aidan Hendron, Lukas Gollings, Charles Hechler, Alden Larsen, Michael Sandlin, Taylor Railey, Randolph Truffa,

The following individuals submitted written input (see attached) separate from the form letter: Carol Lockwood, Sam T., Jarred Sinnes, James Scherer, Lauren Frank, Meg McDonald, Jordan Hall, Tim Edwards, Steve Miller, Janice Weldon, Misty Rae, Marc Rosales, Max Dankowski, Amber Schnepf, Ryan Bosley, Juli Sherry, Adi Kapoor, Isabel Skidmore, Andrew Valentine, Frank Perez, Jacob Sigmon, Izzy Gallagher, Ryan Durst, Mark Maidens, Richard Nilles, Justin Marshall, Jesse Grubbs, Jonathan Robinson, Matthew Novelli, Kenna Reiss, Pavon Yekbote, Anonymous, Allen Massey, Anonymous, Melissa Lyke, Carly Gehm, Dr. Lisa Olshansky, Mark Stamps, Olly Greer, DeAngelo Brown, Evan Bergeron, Erin Bergeron, Ark Hu, Tanner, Ben Tschetter, Nicholas Rice.

The following individuals provided verbal public input: Brian Dunn, DeAngelo Brown, Carol Lockwood, Chris Manson, Adi Kapoor, Camilia Glowack, MJ Oviato, Andrew Valentine, Joseph Shanning, Matthew Neville, Andrew Nichols, Brynn Larkam, James Kilgore, Ravi John Pechilar, Jonathan Robinson, Tanner Coleman, Ethan Ashley Ferguson.

5. Council Input and Communications

CM Evans read a letter of public input on behalf of Steve Miller in support of a skatepark within the City of Urbana. ***CM Wilken*** announced a listening session with Police Chief Boone at Salt and Light on Thursday November 30. Asked residents for clarity on what the public wants in terms of a skate park. ***CM Wu*** thanked the public for coming out to provide public input and shared information about the Urbana Park District priorities. ***CM Bishop*** shared that the Cunningham Township is seeking donations for winter weather gear. ***CM Hursey*** acknowledged the need for a skate park within the community and expressed concern about the 205 High Cross Road rezoning. ***CM Kolisetty*** thanked the public for providing input about the need for a skate park. ***CM Quisenberry*** thanked the public for coming to provide input and shared suggestions on ways to submit written input. ***Mayor Marlin*** thanked all for providing input, clarified that the City does not have the capacity to implement a skate park and that the Urbana Park District is the governmental entity that could. Shared that staff had communicated with the executive director of the Park District about a skate park and it is in their plans.

6. Unfinished Business

None.

7. Committee of the Whole (Council Member Jaya Kolisetty – Ward 4)

Consent Agenda

None.

Regular Agenda

a. Resolution No. 2023-11-92R: A Resolution Authorizing an Intergovernmental Agreement for Participation in the Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS Master Agreement 2022) - Fire

Presented by Carol Mitten the City Administrator and Fire Chief Demond Dade. Item renews the intergovernmental agreement for participation in the mutual aid box alarm system (MABAS Master Agreement 2022). Questions and discussion ensued.

Motion to approve by CM Kolisetty and seconded by CM Bishop.

Vote by roll call:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None

b. Ordinance No. 2023-11-042R: An Ordinance Approving a License Agreement (East Half of Urbana Parking Lot #1 – 123 W. Water Street) – CD

Presented by Kimberly Smith the Community Development Director and Stephany McMahon the Economic Development Coordinator. Item renews the license agreement with Rose Bowl tavern for utilization of the east half of City of Urbana parking lot #1. Questions and discussion ensued.

Motion to approve by CM Kolisetty and seconded by CM Bishop.

Vote by roll call:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None

c. Resolution No. 2023-11-093R: A Resolution Approving a Right-of-Way License Agreement with SMC-RE, LLC (The Rose Bowl Tavern) (106 North Race Street) – PW

Presented by CM Kolisetty. Item authorizes a right-of-way agreement with Rose Bowl tavern for utilization of the right-of-way along the side of the Rose Bowl Tavern for patio tables. Questions and discussion ensued.

Motion to approve by CM Kolisetty and seconded by CM Wu.

Vote by roll call:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None

d. Ordinance No. 2023-11-043: An Ordinance Imposing a Tax Upon the Use and Privilege of Renting a Boutique Hotel Room – HRF

Presented by CM Kolisetty. Item imposes a boutique hotel room tax as per the development agreement with the Hotel Royer. Questions and discussion ensued.

Motion to approve by CM Kolisetty and seconded by CM Wu.

Vote by roll call:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None

e. Ordinance No. 2023-11-044: An Ordinance Revising the Annual Budget Ordinance (Budget Amendment #4 - Omnibus) – HRF

Presented by CM Kolisetty. Item would amend the FY2024 annual budget to add \$24,000 in the Executive Department related to legal costs in the ongoing hospital property tax litigation. In the

Public Works Department, \$210,000 would be reallocated to the Stormwater Management Planning project in the Stormwater Utility Fund. In addition, \$1,166,000 in the Sanitary Sewer Lateral Lining Pilot program, which is funded using ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funds, in the Sanitary Sewer Fund would be shifted from FY2025 to FY2024. Questions and discussion ensued.

Motion to approve by CM Kolisetty and seconded by CM Hursey.

Vote by roll call:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry, Mayor Marlin

NAY: None

f. Resolution No. 2023-11-094R: A Resolution Directing the Zoning Administrator to File a Rezoning Application for 205 North High Cross Road – Exec

Presented by CM Kolisetty. Item directs the Zoning Administrator to file a rezoning application for 205 North High Cross Road from B-3 to B-1. Questions and discussion ensued.

Motion to approve by CM Kolisetty and seconded by CM Wilken.

Vote by roll call:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: Hursey

9. Reports of Special Committees

None.

10. Reports of Officers

Carol Mitten reminded the public about the Stuff the Squad food bank food drive with the Urbana Police Department. Mayor Marlin thanked Urbana businesses for holding collection boxes.

11. New Business

a. Mayoral Appointments

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Commission

– Richard “Tommy” Griscom (Term ending 06/30/2026)

– Qiushi Huang (Term ending 06/30/2026)

Tree Commission

– Paul D’Agostino (Term ending 06/30/2026)

Mayor Marlin read a brief biography for each of the appointees. Motion to approve the appointments by CM Wu and seconded by CM Bishop.

Vote by roll call:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken, Quisenberry

NAY: None

12. Discussion

1. Facilitated Discussion - Mayor & Council Strategic Goals Update

Clerk Sandefur provided housekeeping information about the facilitated discussion. Staff is to sit at four tables in separate corners of the room organized by strategic category and no more than two council members shall join them at a time to have discussions about the previous set of Mayor/ Council strategic goals. Council members are to remain with their paired elected official so that the groups of two do not change as they rotate to have conversations with each of the staff tables. There is

to be no cross talk between tables or between groups of elected officials. All that is discussed in the breakout deliberative sessions will be discussed in open session and approved via a resolution at a future meeting. Kevin James the facilitator explained the process will take one hour with 15 minutes spent with each staff group to discuss each strategic area: Public Safety and Wellbeing, Housing, Infrastructure, Economic Wellbeing.

Motion to recess for small group deliberative discussions by CM Wu and seconded by CM Kolisetty.

Voice vote:

AYE: Wu, Evans, Hursey, Kolisetty, Bishop, Wilken

NAY: None

60 minute recess began at 8:50 PM.

Mayor Marlin announced a return from recess at 9:52 PM.

Kevin James asked the council for feedback on their discussions. Council felt that they have accomplished many of their original goals but that more time was needed to further discuss and assess these goals. Council came to a consensus that they needed another facilitated goal setting session as a stand alone meeting to ensure adequate time could be devoted to discussion.

13. Adjournment

With no further business before the Urbana City Council Chair Marlin adjourned the meeting at 10:18 p.m.

Darcy Sandefur

City Clerk

This meeting was video recorded and is viewable [on-demand HERE](#).

Minutes approved: 02-12-2024

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Lockwood, Carol A. [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 2:13 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: PUBLIC INPUT - City Council Meeting November 27, 2023

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Members of the City Council,

I represent OSF Healthcare System in its real estate matters. Seven days ago, we were made aware of the proposed Resolution No. 2023-11-094R: A Resolution Directing the Zoning Administrator to File a Rezoning Application for the property owned by OSF located at 205 North High Cross Road and situated in Ward 6 of the City. OSF, the owner of the property, has not been contacted by anyone at the City of Urbana, nor by the Council Member for Ward 6, with regard to concerns about the underlying zoning of the property, and has been taken by surprise that this item has been placed on the Agenda without any explanation or notice from the City.

As you are aware, the current zoning of the property has been B3 since 2020. The Resolution provides no reason as to *why* the current Ordinance 2020-04-023 providing for B3 zoning should be changed to a different classification. Although OSF's plans to operate a medical facility at the site have changed and other uses need to be found for the property, that does not necessarily trigger the need for a zoning change.

We ask that the City Council deny approval of the Resolution to initiate a rezone of the property for the following reasons:

1. OSF, as owner of the property, should be able to rely on the current B3 zoning of the property. There is caselaw to support this position. OSF applied for the B3 zoning in 2020, prior to its acquisition of the property in 2021, and would not have purchased the property but for the approval of the B3 zoning. The City Council approved B3 zoning for this property on April 27, 2020, and OSF completed its purchase of the property with the recording of a deed on January 8, 2021.

We are not aware of any change in the general character of the neighborhood since that time that would relate to a need to rezone the property now.

2. The B3 General Business District is an appropriate zoning district for the property. Map #7 of the Comprehensive Plan adopted by the City on April 11, 2005 shows the High Cross Road corridor, and both the northwest and northeast corners of the intersection of High Cross Road and University Avenue/Route 150, including OSF's property, are designated for Community Business uses. We see that the road and surrounding area contain a variety of business, office, and industrial uses, serving nearby residential areas. We have no indication from the Zoning Staff that B3 zoning is considered to be incompatible with the character of the surrounding land uses.

B3 District zoning is appropriate and compatible with the Community Business designation in the Comprehensive Plan. We do not believe that B3 zoning is an unreasonable classification for this property.

3. The B3 zoning classification on this site offers opportunities to generate tax revenue for the City. The parcel was created in 2004 in the B-1 zoning district, and while zoned as such, it did not attract any buyers, and provided no service to the community. It was not until B3 zoning was obtained, over fifteen years later, that OSF agreed to purchase the property. When OSF's medical use plans changed, it marketed the property to find a purchaser that could put the property to a tax-generating use, based upon its current B3 zoning classification. Upon sale and commencement of business operations on the property, it will contribute towards an increase in the tax base for

the City. If past history is a guide, if the property is rezoned to B1 there will be little opportunity to generate tax revenue with that zoning classification.

4. It appears that OSF's property is not being treated similarly with other B3 zoned properties that are adjacent to residentially zoned districts. If the City were proposing to rezone the district boundaries of the B3 district in a comprehensive manner, that might be more in keeping with the spirit of the wording of Section XI-7 of the City's Zoning Code which provides that "district boundaries" may be amended, not necessarily one single boundary. We note that there are other properties along High Cross Road and along Philo Road that are similarly designated in the Comprehensive Plan for Community Business uses, some of which currently hold B3 zoning classifications while abutting R4 zoning districts. We see no resolutions on the City Council agenda proposing to rezone those properties.

We would expect that the City would wish to treat similarly situated properties on a consistent basis.

Although OSF's initial plans changed with regard to this property, it has undertaken actions that were intended to build relationships with the community. For instance, it is perhaps unknown to many people that, immediately following the purchase of the property in 2021, OSF voluntarily entered into a recorded Easement and Restriction Agreement with the Aldi parcel, whereby OSF and future owners of the parcel agree not to use it for certain activities that might otherwise be permitted in the B3 district. For example, the Easement and Restriction Agreement does not allow adult entertainment uses on the property.

It is disappointing that the City was not more forthcoming with its proposed plans to initiate a rezone of OSF's property. Without seeing any clearly-stated reasons behind this Resolution to change the existing zoning Ordinance for this property, we believe that rezoning is unnecessary.

I conclude by again asking the City Council to decline to approve the Resolution to file a rezone application over OSF's property. Thank you.

Carol A. Lockwood
ARDC #6275381

Carol A. Lockwood
Partner

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

clockwood@hinshawlaw.com
My Bio | hinshawlaw.com

Follow us on



Hinshaw & Culbertson LLP is an Illinois registered limited liability partnership that has elected to be governed by the Illinois Uniform Partnership Act (1997).

The contents of this e-mail message and any attachments are intended solely for the addressee(s) named in this message. This communication is intended to be and to remain confidential and may be subject to applicable attorney/client and/or work product privileges. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, or if this message has been addressed to you in error, please immediately alert the sender by reply e-mail and then delete this message

and its attachments. Do not deliver, distribute or copy this message and/or any attachments and if you are not the intended recipient, do not disclose the contents or take any action in reliance upon the information contained in this communication or any attachments.

Sandefur, Darcy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 6:02 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public Input 11/27/23

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hi Urbana City Council,

I am here to tell you why I think a skatepark in Urbana is necessary!

Skating has always been a very influential part of my life. I've always admired those who have the dedication to get good at something that isn't exactly the easiest to achieve. Skateboarding teaches kids to set their mind on a goal of theirs and stick with it. You will certainly fail time and time again, but skateboarding requires you to get back up and keep trying. Skateboarding teaches kids motivation, focus, and grit. These are things that you can bring with you in all walks of life and will even lead you towards success!

Getting into skateboarding has taught me that I lack the focus required to accomplish certain projects. If I stick with skateboarding, obtaining such a characteristic is all apart of the process.

The C-U area really needs another skatepark. We really only have Spaulding, and many transitions make it difficult for beginners to skate. There isn't much variety in what's available to skate either. Additionally, all the kids who live in Urbana but don't have a reliable mode of transportation to get to Spaulding will now have a skatepark that is readily available to them within the neighborhood!

This November 27th, my vote is in favor of a skatepark!

Sincerely,
Sam T.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Jared Sinnes [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 2:26 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public Input 11/27/23

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

My name is Jared Sinnes and I'm a homeowner in Urbana. I was born and raised here in chambana and was fortunate enough to grow up within eyesight of the Spalding skatepark. I spent more time there as a child and young adult than anywhere else. It gave me a sense of community, structure, discipline, and exercise that I would not have gotten otherwise. A skatepark in Urbana would bring that to generations to come! I look forward to one day being able to let my children ride their boards down to the local skatepark!

Sandefur, Darcy

From: James Scherer [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 6:54 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public Comment 11/27/23

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Urbana City Council,

I am writing to express my support for the development of a skatepark in downtown Urbana. A skatepark would be a wonderful addition to the fabric of downtown Urbana that would be utilized by children, parents, teens, and adults of all ages, including myself.

Regards,
James Scherer

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Lauren Frank [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 11:01 AM
To: !City Council
Cc: leftwin1@gmail.com
Subject: Public Input 11/27/23
Attachments: ATT00001.htm

*** Email From An External Source ***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council,

I am writing to indicate that I support the move to build a new skatepark in downtown Urbana. Such a project would enrich the lives of many in our community and should be a priority and goal of the Urbana City Council.

Skateboarding as hobby is important to many people in our community.

However, many people do not have practical access to safe and high quality places to skate. A new, safe skatepark in our community would allow more people to participate, and allow existing enthusiasts to flourish.

Urbana residents have easy access to sports such as basketball and soccer, but not skateboarding. Skateboarding is an equally valid and beneficial sport -- the Olympics has recognized it for a reason. By granting Downtown Urbana its own skatepark, you provide a safe space for youth to channel their energy into something healthy. It provides community, a spot for safe physical activity, and keeps kids from resorting to activities that may harm them and the community around them. A designated skatepark benefits the whole community. Further, a skateboarding community without a park will inevitably result in street skating. This means waxed curbs and the loud sound of kickflips in undesirable places. There is no reason not to grant this space. If anything, it will bring more people to downtown Urbana and overall will benefit the population--especially the kids who may now be missing out on their true passion.

Thank you for your consideration,
Lauren Frank

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Meg McDonald [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, November 27, 2023 7:25 AM
To: !City Council
Subject: Re: Public Input 11/27/2023

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Council People of Urbana,

I also meant to note in my email the parking garages* in Urbana..... The very, very ample parking garages and lots that fill our city.... More than real community spaces.....

These parking garages and lots are already being used this way (skating). Kids and adults alike being criminalized just because they don't have a space designated to them.

Hope you fix this quickly and do something meaningful with your time on council by making a skatepark a priority and seeing it through (without damaging any prairie.... Again..... ample parking spaces/lots/garages....)

Thanks,
Meg McDonald

On Sun, Nov 26, 2023 at 4:02 PM Meg McDonald <[REDACTED]> wrote:

Dear Council People of Urbana,

My name is Meg McDonald, I am a resident of Urbana. I hope you have taken notice of the uptick of interest in your meeting, jobs this week. That's because the topic of a skatepark is very important to the citizens of Urbana and beyond. Whether that be an outdoor or indoor skatepark, or both, you would see the impact of the effects of any skatepark immediately.

The positive impact on the health and sense of community people feel at a skatepark can already be seen at Spalding Park in Champaign and at the downtown skateboard shop Skeuwep, connected to another community small business See You CD and Vinyl. I find it a little disappointing that this has not been a priority already and hope you all know that the feeling of community and physical and mental health of Urbana citizens can be improved by spaces like this and that there are very few free, all ages space in this town..... Cops get involved chasing skaters out of parking lots on campus or other spaces because there is no designated space for skaters in Urbana and it's not right. It was the number one voted need, desire from the survey Urbana Parks took a while back, if I can remember correctly. I will link Urbana Park District's survey results/presentation if need be.

I don't even skate much myself anymore, but I read somewhere recently that Community means I want you to have all the things you want and need to survive and thrive.

A skatepark or two or three! would all be used in an instant and improve a variety of peoples' well-being who live here. Approve this as a priority and listen to skaters' input about the design and get to construction (not in a prairie) immediately!

Thank you,

Meg McDonald

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Jordan Hall <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Sunday, November 26, 2023 7:53 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public Input 11/27/23

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Good evening,

Writing a few thoughts in support of developing a skatepark in Urbana Illinois. The skate community is super supportive. Consider the community impact that skate days have at the Spalding Skate park have on the community Northwest of West Side Park.

NoBoardLeftBehind is up-cycling used skate equipment to provide free skate equipment to local youth, who may otherwise lack the resources to get involved. And once they do have a “set-up” they can scoot around the park, and meet and greet all kinds of inclusive people.

I’ve seen Girls skate Day, Queer Skate Day.

Post pandemic, there is a boom in skateboarding and similar sports, and as a result, skateboarding is becoming even more inclusive.

There’s a saying “idle hands are the devils playground”. I say - give those idle hands a board, and they have a place and a community to spend after-school hours.

Skateboarding is about discipline, dedication, hard work. It is about getting back up when you fall, and these are types of values that I think translate to work ethic. Consider the employee that learns from her mistakes and tries harder next time.

I have no doubt that skateboarding and skate parks can build community, and they can build character.

Writing highly in support of establish this type of establishment in Urbana.

Jordan Hall
Social Worker

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Tim Edwards [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 26, 2023 7:39 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Urbana Skate Park

*** Email From An External Source ***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council,

I'm writing today to ask you to consider using some of our city's hard earned resources to build a public skate park.

As a 47yr old father and business owner, I have a love for skating that has stayed with me since high school. Skating is something that helps to push me, and all skaters, in ways that nothing else does. But it also has a side that is often overlooked. The community that skaters create is an example that I wish other communities could learn from. Skaters all come from different backgrounds and lifestyles, but once we get together all that matters is fun. All that matters is building up the person next to you. Seeing others push themselves and be successful. It's awesome. If you don't believe me come to one of Skeuwep's events at Spalding park. A couple weeks ago he had an event that had easily 100 people in attendance. People skating, people watching, people grilling. It was an awesome event. One of my favorite parts was that there were skaters, and observers, from grade school age up to old dudes like me. And everyone was happy and supportive. That's exactly the kind of things we want to promote in Urbana. To provide spaces for people of all walks of life to come together and celebrate life in their own way. A new skate park in Urbana would bring together the already large and motivated group of skaters in town, and bring in people from all over the state. Skaters will travel to skate, and do. That means business and tax money. We're super lucky to have a local business like Skeuwep's shop and I'm sure a new skate park would only bolster his business, and others. That's good for all Urbana.

For these reasons, and about a million more, please consider the construction of a new skate park in Urbana. Let's start turning Urbana back into a cool place to be.

Thank you for your time,

Tim Edwards
Perkins Home Improvement, Inc.

Sent from my iPhone

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Steve Miller [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 26, 2023 7:07 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Urbana Skatepark

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Steve Miller
[REDACTED]

Dear Members of the Urbana City Council,

I am writing to express my strong support for establishing a skatepark in our downtown area. This initiative is not merely about providing a recreational space; it's about enriching our community in diverse and meaningful ways. Let me elaborate on how a downtown skatepark can significantly benefit Urbana.

[Safety, Public Health, Legal Compliance, and Public Safety Enhancement:](#)

A skatepark in the downtown area addresses critical safety concerns by providing a designated area for skateboarding, reducing the risks associated with street skateboarding. This proactive measure aligns with the city's commitment to public safety and legal compliance.

It promotes public health by encouraging an active lifestyle. Studies show that regular physical activity, like skateboarding, significantly enhances cardiovascular health and well-being.

Notably, a designated skateboarding area has been proven to reduce property damage and trespassing, enhancing public safety. Cities with similar facilities have reported decreases in youth-related disturbances, underlining the effectiveness of such spaces. "If your city doesn't have a skate park, it becomes a skate park."

[Physical, Mental, and Emotional Well-being:](#)

According to a survey by the Tony Hawk Foundation, regular skateboarding enhances physical fitness and mental health, making it a practical and enjoyable stress-relief activity. The survey highlighted that skateboarders engage in the sport an average of 4.2 days a week, illustrating its role in maintaining regular physical activity.

The challenge of mastering skateboarding skills through trial and error cultivates resilience and persistence. This process is not only about physical skills but also about developing healthy emotional coping strategies.

Personal Development and Positive Risk-Taking:

Skateboarding offers a constructive outlet for positive risk-taking, vital during adolescence. It provides a healthy alternative to negative behaviors, contributing to personal development. The skateboarding community is known for its emphasis on self-discipline, patience, and creativity, which are invaluable life skills.

Community Engagement and Inclusivity:

A downtown skatepark will act as a vibrant hub for our diverse community. It will foster inclusivity and a sense of belonging among residents. The social aspect of skateboarding, where individuals of all ages and backgrounds converge, reinforces community bonds and encourages mentorship and peer learning.

Economic, Cultural, and Educational Contributions:

The presence of a skatepark can stimulate local economic growth by attracting visitors and supporting local businesses. Cities with similar facilities have seen an uptick in tourism and local commerce.

The skatepark will also serve as a cultural and educational hub. With 68% of skaters believing in the educational benefits of the sport, it's clear that a skatepark can be more than just a place for physical activity. It can also be a dynamic outdoor classroom for physics, mathematics, and physical education, contributing significantly to youth development.

In conclusion, a downtown skatepark in Urbana would be a multifaceted asset, bringing substantial benefits across safety, health, personal development, community cohesion, and economic growth. Such a project aligns with the city's vision for a vibrant, inclusive, and forward-thinking community. I urge the City Council to consider this proposal seriously, and we look forward to its positive impact on our city.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Steve Miller

(Community Group Organizer)

CU-Skateboarding

Corwin, Z. B., Maruco, T., Williams, N., Reichardt, R., Romero-Morales, M., Rocha, C., & Astiazaran, C. (2020). Beyond the board: Skateboarding, schools, and Society. <https://skate.pullias.usc.edu/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/beyond-the-board-FINAL-1.pdf>

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Janice Weldon [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 26, 2023 4:42 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public Input 11/27/23

*** Email From An External Source ***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Attn: Urbana City Council

The city of Urbana would greatly benefit from the establishment of its first skate park. I've been a resident of the Champaign/Urbana area for almost 30 years and was beyond excited to learn of the city's interest in providing an accessible facility to accommodate the needs of skaters and other creatives in our community. I started rollerskating 3 years ago and was so grateful to have the 2 skate parks in Champaign where I continue to learn and practice the sport and also meet other skaters in the community, which have been one of the most supportive, diverse and inclusive group of people I've ever met. Building a skate facility doesn't mean you're only giving a space for people to create with their skateboards, roller skates, rollerblades, scooters, and bikes, you can also provide a potential multimedia outlet for other creatives such as photographers, videographers, video editors, graffiti artists, muralists, and musicians as these disciplines have a natural symbiosis. Having a multidisciplinary facility such a skate park would provide opportunities for people in our community to express themselves so they can grow and thrive.

Best Regards,

Janice Weldon

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Misty Robinson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 26, 2023 2:19 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public Input 11/27/23

*** Email From An External Source ***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Skate culture has two sides, a street side and a park side. The skate park is a safe place for skaters to practice their tricks. Skate parks bring people actually together unlike our phones and computers. I myself have witnessed a huge growing skate community in our town with many people who would be so thankful for a fun and clean place to skate. Maybe it would be a good place to plant native flowers as it would make it a beautiful space for our community. I feel Downtown Urbana would benefit greatly from a skatepark.

Sent from Misty Rae

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Marcus Rosales [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 26, 2023 1:44 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Skatepark

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

Just another email explaining why Urbana could use a skatepark. Sorry if I got carried away...

For one, the existing skateparks in Champaign have a lot of flaws. This includes layout of obstacles as well as the obstacles themselves. I will not go into all those details, but will say these issues can make it hard for beginners.

There are many simple alternatives one can take to make a better skatepark as a plus. Building on what the community wants/knows a better park can attract more people to areas in Urbana.

The ramps at Spalding were also not laid by professionals. They are way too steep for a beginner and seasoned skaters also avoid them. A nice wide and fairly short quater pipe (3-4 ft high by 8-10 ft wide) would benefit beginners and more experienced skaters alike. This is a basic obstacle with no need for digging big holes, which you'd need to for pools. Having an attraction like a properly designed bowl will pull more people in from the surroundings area, but these are expensive.

Having things for kids to do is always good and having a well designed park with more beginner obstacles will help retain more kids. There should be an advanced feature, but every park has dropped the ball on the begineer aspects, to reiterate. I'm from a different state originally and the kids have these smaller obstacles so the get MUCH better. Better skaters like being "playful" with these less dangerous obstacles too.

I could go on other issues. I'll just say skateboarding has grown a lot, surpassing many traditional sport. Being a person who plays Soccer and does gymnastics, yoga and calisthenics skateboarding takes a lot of hard work and technique. I believe this is good for anyone. I'm getting my PhD in Condensed matter physics right now, and I honestly can say the decipline involved in skating helped me out in this other seemingly unrelated realm of life. The sense of community among the locals is also amazing! They deserve a skate park.

Best regards,
Marc

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Max Dankowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 26, 2023 1:20 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public Input 11/27/2023 Skate Park

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hi, I own a skateshop in Normal Illinois called Shockwaves. I make very frequent visits to CU to visit the other closest skateshop Skeuwep, and often hit the skatepark in Champaign too. Spaulding is good, but having a skatepark in Downtown Urbana would be hugely popular! We are on ISU campus and I can state for a fact that having the amenities makes the city much more attractive to potential students and is a good way of keeping them! If you build a good one it can even be a major deterrent of street skateboarding! Thanks for considering!

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Amber Schnepf [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 26, 2023 8:00 AM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public Input 11/27/23

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

It is abundantly clear that this community could benefit from more outdoor activity spaces such as a skatepark. A place for youth to stay active, practice their skills and perfect their hobbies and work on athleticism in a safe space. Something Urbana absolutely needs! We have seen crime in youths come up over the years, and if the community can give them a healthy outlet and space to work on these skills it could very well help.

Team skatepark!

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Ryan Bosley [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, November 26, 2023 12:32 AM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public input 11/27/2033

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Urbana City Council,

I am writing to you today to urge you to consider building a skatepark in the downtown Urbana area. As a lifelong resident of Urbana, I have witnessed firsthand the growing popularity of skateboarding among our youth. Unfortunately, there is currently no safe or designated space for skateboarders to practice their skills in Urbana. This lack of a skatepark is a significant oversight, given the many benefits that a skatepark would bring to our community.

Urbana is one of the largest cities in Illinois without a skatepark. This is a surprising statistic, given the large number of skateboarders who live and work in our city. According to a recent survey, there are over 500 skateboarders in Urbana, and this number is only growing. The lack of a skatepark means that these skateboarders are forced to practice their skills on public streets and sidewalks, which is dangerous for both the skateboarders and the pedestrians.

Urbana is also home to a thriving college community. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has over 44,000 students, many of whom are skateboarders. The lack of a skatepark is a major inconvenience for these students, as they are forced to travel to other cities to find a place to practice. A skatepark in Urbana would provide a much-needed recreational space for our college students.

In addition to the large number of skateboarders in Urbana, there is also a strong skate culture in our community. Skateboarding is more than just a sport; it is a way of life for many people. A skatepark would provide a place for skateboarders to gather, socialize, and express themselves. It would also help to promote a positive image of skateboarding and reduce the stigma that is often associated with the sport.

Finally, a skatepark would help to keep our youth off drugs and out of trouble. Skateboarding is a healthy and drug-free activity that can help to keep kids active and engaged. A skatepark would provide a safe and supervised environment for our youth to spend their time.

I urge you to take the necessary steps to build a skatepark in the downtown Urbana area. A skatepark would be a valuable asset to our community, and it would be used by people of all ages.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely, Ryan Bosley

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Juli Sherry [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 23, 2023 9:17 AM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public input 11/27/23

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello!

Please prioritize a skatepark in Urbana! We have a large, diverse and supportive skate community here and nowhere to skate. Skating is a great activity for all ages and not just kids. It brings people of all ages and backgrounds together to form bonds and learn from each other in a positive and fun way. This makes the local community and the world a better place! It's also a low cost outdoor activity that is good for mental and physical health.

If the park could also be lit and have well designed ramps it would get the most use. Many people who skate here work during the day and can only skate after work but that makes their time limited by sunlight hours. We light all other sports fields for safe nighttime use, why not skateparks!

Thank you
Juli Sherry

Sent from Phone. Beware of typos!

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Adi Kapoor [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 23, 2023 1:35 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: [*** SPAM ***] PUBLIC INPUT

Importance: Low

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

I'm a UIUC student and a part of a skating club. I'd like to state why skate park development priorities are worth considering

Sandefur, Darcy

From: isabel skidmore [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, November 23, 2023 3:26 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: [*** SPAM ***] PUBLIC INPUT 11/27/2023

Importance: Low

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hi all,

I'm emailing to voice my support for skateboarding and skate parks as valuable and essential aspects of the Urbana, IL community. Gatherings centered around skateboarding are open to all ages of the community and allow people from all walks to life to meet and share in an active, social, and fun outdoor activity. Skateboarding is a great venue for Urbana IL community members to set goals and challenge themselves, dedicate themselves to an art and a sport, create long-lasting relationships, and build resilience. I urge the city council to invest in the large local Champaign-Urbana skateboarding community by creating skate parks and skate resources for the citizens.

Thanks,

Isabel Skidmore

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Andrew Valentine [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 24, 2023 3:23 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Fwd: Public Input 11/27/23

*** Email From An External Source ***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Andrew Valentine [REDACTED]
Date: Fri, Nov 24, 2023 at 3:22 PM
Subject: Public Input 11/27/23
To: <citycouncil@urbanail.us>

A Skatepark downtown Urbana would be monumental for the community. People will travel just to skate the park. Urbana doesn't have any official place for skaters of any kind to be and feel welcome. Skateparks are great places to bring people together.

Thank you,
Andrew

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Frank Perez [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 24, 2023 3:33 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: public input 11/27/23

*** Email From An External Source ***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Downtown Urbana needs a skatepark because the only current skatepark around, is poorly built and mostly not skateable. The transition wasn't made correctly. A new park would be a place for skaters from UIUC to meet and practice their tricks safely, without the threat of being arrested. Street skateboarding is looked down upon by authorities, and partaking in such endeavors could lead to a ticket or an arrest. A new skatepark in Urbana's downtown would give skaters a good place to do what they do best.

Frank Perez
[REDACTED]

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Jacob Sigmon [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 24, 2023 3:50 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public input 11/27/23

*** Email From An External Source ***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

I am just sharing some input on why downtown Urbana needs a skate park. First off skateboarding changes lives. It is a physical activity for all ages. I started skateboarding in 2000 and still do it to this day. There is so much diversity in skateboarding. The friendships and relationships that I have personally made from skateboarding over the years is incredible. A skate park in downtown Urbana would be great. Not only is it close to the University of Illinois campus, but there's also Skeuwep Shopshop is right there in Urbana as well! I believe having a skate park in downtown Urbana would be extremely popular by all ages. Skateboarding has taught myself so many lessons. The main one is to never give up! Skateboarding you continuously try and try and try to land a trick. So it teaches you to never give up and to keep pushing until you accomplish your goals. Having a skate park in downtown Urbana, which spread those life lessons amongst so many people! Thank you for your time!

Sent from my iPhone

Sandefur, Darcy

From: izzy gallagher [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 24, 2023 3:56 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public input 11/27/2023

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

I am Writing to the city council of the city of Urbana. I am I am writing to you in the concern about the decision about the skatepark being built-in Urbana. I can understand why you guys might have some misgivings are worries, but I am here to list a few positives that would come from having this place. It would give people that don't have a place to go right aboard or roller skates. Or anything like that a place to do it. It would teach them hard work and perseverance. It would help them stay in shape and it could possibly lower the crime rate. And personally I know for me. Having that, skateboard was a way to escape and not deal with a troubled childhood. So it would help out many young kids. So I am hoping you. I am hoping you guys considered to move forward on the skatemark. And in skate park in Urbana sincerely izzy Gallagher.

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Ryan Durst [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 24, 2023 3:57 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public input 11/27/23

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hi, downtown urbana could benefit from a skatepark in alot of ways. It would give kids a safe place to go during after school hours, give local skaters a safe and controlled environment to skateboard and would also be a great tourist attraction to bring in skaters from all around Central Illinois.

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Mark Maidens [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 24, 2023 5:06 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: 11/27/23

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

I apologize for the bad grammar, I have a broken arm, I'm doing my best to type this one handed. For many years I grew up wishing we had a skate park. A skate park is a wonderful microcosm of all ages of people who all get together to do something active that they love. Skateboarding. Parks like those you've no doubt seen elsewhere provide something very valuable, they provide a safe place to skate. I have lived in the area for 19 years and i can say that a safe place for people to skate is sorely lacking in an area with so many campus students riding boards. This is a service that helps a lot of people stay safe, among friends, and further helps kids, teens, and adults hone their skills at the hobby. At the skatepark, everyone is an equal. Your age does not bar you from being welcome and having fun at your own pace. from my experience, having a skatepark around that is well kept can be massively beneficial to a person. Urbana and Champaign just are not towns with almost any safe places to skate that also stray from being private property. A designated place to skate helps a skater to feel at home and take pride in their area in a positive way. For those who consider my words, thank you and God Bless.

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Dicky Nilles [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 24, 2023 5:24 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public Input

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

re: Why Urbana needs a public skatepark in downtown Urbana

I've lived in Champaign IL since 2005, am a 59 yr. old skateboarder who works for the UIUC. Skateparks are being constructed all over the US in truly amazing numbers by a number of amazing dedicated skatepark building companies for the amazing draw to a progressive urban culture that they can and do provide.

Having relatives in CO has allowed me to ride several modern top-shelf skateparks there from builders such as Evergreen Skateparks, Grindline Skateparks, and Team Pain Skateparks.

The positive creative/recreational outlet these parks provide for citizens of all ages is phenomenal and subsequently these towns and villages are noticed by people all over the country and the world for what they have been able to create.

They are a great long-term investment in a city's draw to not only tourism but also residency, as they can represent and embody so many positive qualities on many levels, all while requiring almost zero long term maintenance requirements. When constructed by any of the real top tier builder companies with progressive design approaches, they can embody several elements into one design, providing a park that can excite and challenge all skill levels, from beginner to expert. They can accommodate not only skateboards but roller skaters, inline skaters, and more, as evidenced by what is in my opinion the best current example of amazing skateparks...the Evergreen Skateparks company that i have had the pleasure to skate in Frisco, CO. and Boulder, CO., and Oconomowoc WI, for example.

Excuse my likely overlong email, as it is a subject that I find extremely interesting/amazing/exciting and 1000% support the City of Urbana pursuing in all its best capacities.

my best regards, Richard Nilles

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Justin & Brandy Marshall [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 24, 2023 5:36 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public input 11/27/23

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Please consider the skatepark

The Urbana skatepark is needed because our kids need a place to congregate with others that support them. It's a free activity that many can benefit from. I take my 3 boys 4, 7 and 9 to the Champaign skatepark and would love to see one here in Urbana. Thank you for considering this opportunity for our children and young adults.

Sincerely,
Justin Marshall

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Jesse Grubbs [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 24, 2023 5:40 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Fwd: Public Input 11/27/23

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

From: Jesse Grubbs [REDACTED]
Date: November 24, 2023 at 5:38:58 PM CST
To: citycouncil@urbanaininois.us
Subject: Public Input 11/27/23

To whom it may concern:

As a business owner in Downtown Urbana for the better part of the last decade, I've first hand watched the skate community in our city grow every year.

That group of people is often portrayed in a negative light. Like any group that is unfamiliar to yourself, there is an inherent hesitancy that comes from nothing more than a lack of interaction.

Once you get to know what skateboard culture is about, it's mainly comes down to one central theme:

Support

The community supports each other, whether it be physically or emotionally. It's a group that has the same goal and goes at it with a sense of drive and determination that you'll be hard pressed to find elsewhere.

But they are scattered and forced in Urbana to travel to an objectively unsafe part of Champaign to skate an ill-designed park (Spalding Skate Park). Or they are forced to skate on city or private property here on our side of town.

Having a skatepark for the large (and ever growing) community of skaters is not just a want, I believe it to be a need. Giving them a safe and constructive place to be will only allow for the community who is already self sustaining, the resources to continue to grow into something that will help themselves and area small businesses.

There are also many resources available to the city in the form of non-profit organizations that can make sure that the cost and planning is not entirely on the back of the city and tax payers.

If the city were to do nothing but use its organization and time to communicate with something like Tony Hawk's The Skatepark Project, (which has helped plan and build over 660 skateparks in cities exactly like our own) I believe we have a strong case for aid.

I'd ask that you take these requests seriously

- Jesse Grubbs

See You CD & Vinyl



Sandefur, Darcy

From: Jonathan Robinson's [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 24, 2023 5:42 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: public input 11/27/23

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hey my name is Jonathan Robinson. I've been a resident in Urbana for about 3 years. I stay in the Crystal lake park area of town. The skateboarding scene in this town is main reason why I don't see myself living anywhere else. The community within this scene is so nurturing to anyone in need of a friend. As a community i think its important to make skateparks more easily accessible for everyone, no matter what side of town you live on. Its awesome that we have spalding park skatepark, but its a 25 min walk from urbana. There is alot of people who cant make that walk all the time . When you go to the Spalding Park skatepark you see anyone from 5 Years old to 60 years old on a skateboard/bike/scooter. You see people of all backgrounds utilizing that park for there exercise/enjoyment. I feel as if it would be extremely beneficial to the community as a whole to have a park like this in Urbana. Urbana needs somewhere for people to go express themselves freely on skateboards/bikes/scooters. It would be awesome to allow any artists to able to paint the walls and ground at this park. Due go the fact that we no longer have the sip yard. The sip yard was the only place in town for people to paint on a wall freely. The artists of this town need something of that nature in this town desperately. Thank you for reading this .

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Matthew Novelli [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 24, 2023 5:54 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public input 11/27/23

*** Email From An External Source ***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Urbana's roads are not safe for skateboarding; many roads are bumpy, dimly lit or busy with traffic. Building a skatepark means building a haven for skaters, BMXers and rollerbladers away from cars, which are becoming bigger and less pedestrian/skater friendly by the year.

A skatepark would also create a new community hub for young skaters to learn from more experienced skaters in a safe, well-lit environment.

A pump track for rollerblading would be very nice, there aren't many in the area and rollerblades have made a comeback.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Kenna Reiss [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 24, 2023 6:38 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public input 11/27/23

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

I believe down town Urbana would be greatly benefited by a Skate Park. As a long time resident of Champaign Urbana , I have witnessed the skating community come together in solidarity with one another , and celebrate one another , accept and protect one another and always always always... are welcoming in new folks from every walk of life. If the entire downtown was a skate park , we'd be a lot better off, mentally, physically, maybe even spiritually!

In many ways the addition of a skate park to Urbanas downtown exemplifies who we claim to be as a city : a place of healthy inclusion, a celebration of diversity, and a springboard for growth and community betterment Ever been to a skate park around here ?? There's a lot more than tricks and wheelies going on . Please consider improving the lives of your community by adding a skate park to our downtown!!

Sincerely,
Kenna

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Pavan Yekbote [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 24, 2023 7:53 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public input 11/27/23 [Urbana Skatepark]

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Dear Council,

I am writing to express my support for the construction of a skatepark in Urbana downtown. It would provide recreational opportunities for the youth and foster a sense of community.

Best,
Pavan Yekbote

Sandefur, Darcy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 24, 2023 9:39 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public input 11/27/2023

*** Email From An External Source ***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

I am a father and skater. Having come from a background that was low income, I found community, acceptance, camaraderie and genuine respect within our local skating community. Skating serves as a connection and bond between all of us. And so far has allowed me to heal from many things in my life and that of my children's lives.

To me,

Having an updated park added to the Urbana area would not only help to provide a place for fun and exercise for a wider variety of individuals, but also increase the possibility of local citizens finding that same connection and growth along with expanding the local outreach for less fortunate people to have a place to gather.

We watch out for each other, and if I can somehow reach someone involved with this decision, I'd tell them that giving us an opportunity to be able to grow as a close knit community should be a no brainer.

Our beloved Spalding Skatepark has seen much better days, although it is still a viable alternative, the locals including myself, doing all of the patching of concrete and light maintenance, it has now become almost unmanageable.

Urbana deserves a good skatepark, one that accommodates all wheels! Go big because it will be soooo worth it! Builder choice is of absolute importance to the success of this potential project and our safety!

Thank you for your consideration!

Sent from my iPhone

Sandefur, Darcy

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 24, 2023 10:43 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: public input 11/27/23

*** Email From An External Source ***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hi, I am Allen Massey from Decatur Illinois and I have been skateboarding 20 years! If Urbana gets a skatepark it will bring more kids outside, and big kids like me. Skateboarding teaches determination, perspective, socialization, strength, endurance, stress, and perseverance. It does so much for me, I will definitely be using the skatepark and helping Urbanas future skaters!

Sent from my iPhone

Sandefur, Darcy

From: SoggyKimchi [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, November 24, 2023 11:57 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: [*** SPAM ***] PUBLIC INPUT 11/27/2023

Importance: Low

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

I'm writing in support of a skatepark built in the city of Illinois. The skatepark would allow for a safe community hub that is necessary for the hundreds of skaters that come from the University of Illinois and for other citizens of Urbana. It would keep people away from the street and other areas that could be freed up with an investment that would immediately benefit the community.

Thank you for your time.

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Melissa Lyke [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 25, 2023 9:11 AM
To: !City Council
Subject: [*** SPAM ***] PUBLIC INPUT 11/27/23

Importance: Low

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

My name is Melissa Lyke. I am a local skateboarder and community member. I am writing to encourage the Urbana city council to prioritize skateboarding in upcoming council goals. Skateboarding is not just a sport but a community building activity. Skeuwep the local skate shop in Urbana promotes events at skateparks that brings people of all ages together. I think Urbana could benefit from having a skatepark as a place for kids and adults to go to and have a healthy outlet. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Melissa Lyke

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Carly Gehm [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 25, 2023 10:38 AM
To: !City Council
Subject: [*** SPAM ***] PUBLIC INPUT 11/27/2023

Importance: Low

*** Email From An External Source ***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Greetings!

My name is Carly Gehm, I have been a resident of the lovely CU for nearly 3 years now. I have not had access to an accessible and quality skatepark since moving down here unfortunately. Prioritizing a skatepark would be great for skateboarders like myself as well as many kids who are learning to skateboard, scooter, bike and even roller blade. Building a skatepark in Urbana would create a designated space for this community to practice and encourage those interested in these rapidly expanding sports to become involved. Thank you for your time and consideration!

Sincerely,
Carly Gehm

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Lisa Olshansky [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 25, 2023 11:09 AM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public Input 11/27/23

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Attn: City Council

I am writing to convey my strongest support for the construction of a skatepark in downtown Urbana.

The CU skate community is an intergenerational inclusive and diverse group of sports enthusiasts. We bring together all ages and demographics to support each other in advancing skate athletics (including both roller skate and skateboard riders) and simply put, we need more safe spaces to gather!

In-line with this need, the city of Urbana also needs more spaces in which open access to free outdoor activities provides opportunities for recreation across all socioeconomic sectors of our community. The construction of a skatepark provides a long term and inexpensive opportunity to meet this need.

Thank you for your consideration,
Dr. Lisa Olshansky

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Mark Stamps [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 25, 2023 12:42 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public Input 11/27/23

*** Email From An External Source ***

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello!

I am a local skateboarder, and I have a large family, 6 kids! We love to get out and skate! Skating streets isn't safe for kids, sometimes it's iffy for adults too :) and the trails around here switch from paved to gravel which is not shareable.

A skatepark in Urbana would be amazing because it allows us to skate in an environment built for skating. It gives skaters a place where we can gather and learn from each other. And it is a healthy activity that develops balance and teaches kids not to give up.

That's my two cents about why Urbana needs a skatepark!

Blessings
Mark Stamps

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Olly Greer [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 25, 2023 1:01 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public input 11/27/23

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

I am a Urbana resident, my name is olly Greer, and I am writing on behalf of my family to urge the city to invest in a public skate park for all to enjoy. This space of gathering and art making would be a vital heart beat to this side of town.

Also who ever funded those horrible signs in front the city building, on every corner, pointing out the absolutely obviousness of the building...should be ashamed of wasting our tax dollars. Putting a sign directly in front of a public art space on the corner is vile and if the city can fund these redundant, elementary signs pointing to a building then the city should think about creating more spaces for its community to have fun and make art, like a skate park.

Thank you for your time,
Olly Greer

Sandefur, Darcy

From: DeAngelo Brown [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 25, 2023 1:36 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public Input 11/27/23

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Downtown needs a skatepark in the worst way. Beside the fact that Champaign and even Villa Grove got a park before us, it could help revitalize the environment in a # of ways including bringing traffic back to Lincoln Square and keeping the surrounding areas less cluttered with kids just looking for a place to practice their favorite hobbies. A # of places have already been refitted and, I believe, that shows that there is not only a demand but an active effort. We've asked for this for years. In fact, now 35, and a friend brought this to you when we were 14 and the city was making skateboards illegal everywhere. Crippling us as it was a mode of transportation for us. To the point where we couldn't carry them in Lincoln Square but places wouldn't provide safe places to stow them like bike racks for bikers. If small towns can have skatepark, Urbana should be able to pull this off fairly easily and with the right placement it can be a great boon to our city.

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Evan Bergeron [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 25, 2023 1:42 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public Input 11/27/23

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Creating a new skatepark in Urbana could have a significant positive impact on the community, particularly among the youth. Skateboarding can help keep young people active and physically fit, and it also provides a fulfilling way to pass the time, whether alone or with fellow skaters. Skating can provide a sense of community unlike anything else, or a constructive and enjoyable way to stay active by one's self.

Improving at skating helps to instill a sense of confidence and can prove to people that they are capable of doing things they might have never thought possible! This confidence can allow young people to strive for greater heights in all aspects of life.

Further, for every moment people spend skating, that is a moment that they are spending *not* getting into trouble. However, that is only the case if they are able to skate in safe and legal spaces, particularly, at skate parks. With skateboarding increasing in popularity and even becoming an Olympic sport recently, providing plenty of appropriate spaces for young people to skate is crucial for this sport to expand safely and sustainably.

I respectfully and humbly urge you to consider the immense benefits that could arise as a result of a new skatepark in Urbana, and I thank you for your time and consideration.

Have a great day!

Sincerely, Evan Bergeron, local resident

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Erin Bergeron [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 25, 2023 2:42 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public input 11/27/23

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing in support of building a new skatepark in Urbana. Skaters will come from miles around to access a new park.

Providing a safe, legal environment for skaters to practice their sport would give them a sense of community and belonging. Skating is a healthy way to spend their time , and promotes good habits such as perseverance while building confidence. This park could provide many people an outlet and an opportunity to connect with like minded individuals.

Sincerely ,
Erin Bergeron

Sandefur, Darcy

From: 胡钦华 [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 25, 2023 3:20 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public Input 11/27/23

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hey, I'm Ark living on Urbana, Illinois. I've been skating around as a college kid and I really enjoyed the connection with people. Skating is such an exciting culture as it brings us together regardless of anything else other than joy and passion. I really wish that we can get more skate parks around so students of u of I and downtown people can build this connection.

Sincerely,

Ark Hu

Sandefur, Darcy

From: LuxyMother <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, November 25, 2023 3:56 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: public Input 11/27/23

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

my dad and i have been skating since i was two. i was born and raised in Urbana. i still live here. my whole family would love a skatepark in urbana causing less travel time for parents
-Tanner

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Ben Tschetter <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Saturday, November 25, 2023 4:00 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public Input 11/27/23

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Hello,

Regarding the upcoming city meeting, I, alongside many others in Champaign-Urbana, would love to voice my **STRONG SUPPORT** for a skatepark in Urbana.

There is a strong and growing skate community in the local community, that myself and hundreds of others are apart of, and we want a **PROPER** skatepark to build the community further.

There are only two skateparks locally, both of which are in Champaign. One skatepark is far out of the way in west champaign, and barely has any good ramps or obstacles to use for skating. The other, Spaulding, was improperly built and for the mostpart only caters to the most advanced skaters. There are hardly any slopes, bowls, or obstacles that beginners can feel comfortable and safe skating.

I, personally, would love a good sized, open skatepark with lots of smooth surface, lots of quarter pipes and mini ramps that are good for just cruising around the park for hours. Currently, the main park locally only has mostly intimidating and steep ramps and pipes used for doing tricks. To be able to cruise and pump around a park would be a lot of fun and good for most skating experience levels.

Skating is surprisingly great for your physical health, and having a new skatepark in town would be great for skaters, young and old, encouraging them to spend more time skating and getting in shape physically and mentally (both of which skating can help with).

Skating since the 80s and 90s has been associated with punks getting into trouble and being where they aren't supposed to, even though that's almost always not the case. However, this idea has helped many places become off-limits to skaters, and many local skaters simply having some **HARMLESS FUN**, have been punished (banned from property, fined, kicked out) of campus, parking garages, etc. This is for doing things as simple as skating across concrete benches, skating down parking garages at night when nobody was out driving, etc.

Bringing a skatepark to urbana would be an amazing thing for the city. It would create a canvas for the artist's of skating to create. It would give skaters a place to have fun and be more out of the way of those harmless places that others have deemed off-limits (parking garages, public sidewalks, etc). It would help bring the community together, from teaching kids and aspiring skateboarders to skate, to community events where everyone can have fun and be included in the joys of skateboarding.

We would like to ask for approval to build a skatepark in Urbana.

Thank you,
Ben Tschetter

Sandefur, Darcy

From: Nicholas Rice [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, November 25, 2023 8:09 PM
To: !City Council
Subject: Public input 11/27/2023

***** Email From An External Source *****

Use caution when clicking on links or opening attachments.

Downtown Urbana is in need of a skate park for many reasons. Skateboarding promotes a healthy community and gathering of people from all walks of life, young or old, different races, backgrounds and religions. It gives kids a sense of comfortability with themselves and helps them grow in many ways. It shows them perseverance, getting back up when they fail and gives them life lessons as well.

It is important that downtown Urbana builds a park for incoming kids who may feel at a loss in their own community it gives people a place to go, also encourages an active lifestyle. Downtown Urbana can achieve this by building a skatepark and giving kids and adults a place to go.