



# FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE STUDY SESSION

## RE: American Rescue Act Funding

County of Champaign, Urbana, Illinois

**Monday, July 19, 2021 – \*6:00 P.M. \*PLEASE NOTE TIME**

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Shields-Carter Meeting Room

Brookens Administrative Center

1776 East Washington Street, Urbana, Illinois

### Agenda Items

### Page #

- I. Call to Order
- II. \*Roll Call
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Public Participation
- V. Communications
  - A. Additional community suggestions
    - 1. Urbana Park District 1-2
    - 2. Stephens Family YMCA 3
    - 3. Village of Rantoul 4-5
- VI. Discussion
  - A. Conversation with immigrants and immigrant rights groups about critical issues in Champaign County
    - 1. The New American Welcome Center, University YMCA - Gloria Yen
    - 2. Pixan Konob' Q'anjob'al Interpreters Collective - Kora Maldonado
    - 3. The Refugee Center - Lisa Wilson
    - 4. Urbana School District - Lucia Maldonado
    - 5. Immigrant Services of Champaign Urbana – Amanda Gray, Ben Mueller, Luis Cuza, Nils Jacobsen and invited immigrant representatives: Susan Ogwal, Lina Ntambwe, Waheedullah Asmati, Mateo Sebastian, Susana Simon Pedro, Tony Mahe, Juan Cruz
- VII. Adjournment



June 28, 2021

Darlene Kloepfel, County Executive  
Champaign County  
1776 East Washington Street  
Urbana, IL 61801

Dear Executive Kloepfel,

I wanted to reach out to you directly to update you on some of the immediate needs of the Urbana Park District. As you know, there has been information circulated that indicates proposed federal/state/county funding support to help improve the recovery of Urbana from the negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Further, special districts – like the Urbana Park District – have not been included in receiving any direct funding support as part of the national recovery plan. Rather, we have been encouraged to contact our local school district and county and state government units to request any shared funding support to provide positive outcomes to our park district’s recovery measures.

The Urbana Park District respectfully requests that the Champaign County staff meet with our key leadership team in the near future to provide any known information, time schedules, and/or processes that might lead to funding support from Champaign County government for selected critical needs at the park district. I have included below a few projects that the Urbana Park District believes would meet the federal guidelines for achieving pandemic recovery outcomes for our residents in Urbana:

- **Urbana Park District – Health & Wellness Facility**  
The UPD is in the process of fundraising for the proposed multi-million dollar UPD Health & Wellness Facility. The new Health & Wellness Facility will be constructed at Prairie Park adjacent to Washington Street – next door to the Brookens Administrative Center. This new Health & Wellness Facility will directly improve the negative impacts of the pandemic – anxiety, depression, increases in suicide, poor health, and community violence. Further, the new facility is intentionally located in a “neighborhood of need” – low income, lack of community infrastructure, high percentage of non-white residents, and an opportunity for new growth. These equity-based outcomes provided by the UPD Health & Wellness Facility will directly combat the negative impacts of the pandemic by promoting healthy children/family environments, providing safe and attractive spaces for community recreation, and improving the overall physical and mental health of Urbana. Shared funding support from Champaign County would significantly enhance

the quality of life for many county residents. The new Health & Wellness Facility could provide many county residents the opportunity to access a comprehensive wellness program geared toward positive health outcomes. Our indoor and outdoor amenities will provide the necessary programs and facilities to help improve the county's health and wellbeing after the impacts of COVID-19.

- **Weaver Park – Kickapoo Rail Trail (KRT) Trailhead Facility**

Weaver Park is the location of Champaign County's primary trailhead facility. The Weaver Park master plan is included in our local and county greenways and trails plans and is the urban connection to the KRT. The primary trailhead facility includes a large community pavilion, restrooms, connecting trails, parking for cars and bicycles, space for large community events, destination playground, bike repair station, native trees/landscaping, signage/interpretive information, and wayfinding to downtown Urbana. Connecting trails to the Brookens Administrative Center would connect a large number of folks that work in that area of Urbana. The Urbana Park District continues to receive more and more requests to expand our trail network to accommodate the growing number of people that seek outdoor recreational pursuits. Our parks and natural areas are brimming with residents and visitors seeking safe and healthy ways to improve their own health. The development of the Weaver Park Trailhead Facility would provide expanded and improved access to outdoor recreational amenities intended to reduce anxiety, stress, and community violence brought on by the pandemic for all Champaign County residents.

Thank you for considering any opportunities for funding support to help the Urbana Park District meet our mission of serving Urbana. As you know, the motto of the UPD is "You Belong Here". Therefore, we believe any investment in the UPD would further this goal and help bring multiple levels of healing and positive outcomes for Urbana. Please let me know if you have time to discuss the merits and outcomes of these high-priority projects, so that we can work together to hasten Urbana's recovery from the pandemic.

Sincerely,



Timothy A. Bartlett  
Executive Director



STEPHENS FAMILY YMCA WITH LARKIN'S PLACE  
2501 Fields S. Dr.  
Champaign, IL 61822  
July 13, 2021

The Office of the Champaign County Board Executive  
1776 E. Washington St.  
Urbana, IL 61802

Dear Ms. Darlene Kloeppel and Champaign County Board Members:

As you consider the priorities for Champaign County's allocation of the ARPA funds, I want to draw your attention to the valuable role of the STEPHENS FAMILY YMCA WITH LARKIN'S PLACE in this community. As our mission states, we are a "Y for all" in Champaign County.

With over 360 employees, nearly 8,000 current active members and hundreds of youth involved in our daily and weekly programming, we are addressing the vital wellness needs of our community through a robust array of programs and services, including nutrition counseling, mental health counseling, speech therapy, aquatics therapy, physical therapy, personal training, summer and after-school youth development camps, and our newest initiative – Y ON THE FLY. This most recent addition is a "Y without walls" whereby we are addressing the nutritional, social, educational and physical fitness needs for communities which may not otherwise have access to the wellness services of the Y. Currently we are partnering with the Country Brook Apartments (Champaign), Town Center Apartments (Champaign), Mount Calvary Baptist (Champaign), and Silverwood neighborhood (Urbana).

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic were felt at the Y as we lost half of our membership. However, we are enthusiastically re-engaging our community and seeking to rebuild our financial foundations and programming so that we can serve the ever-growing wellness needs of even more in our county. We believe our Y is—and will be—an important part of the post-pandemic recovery for Champaign County.

Sincerely,

Jonathan D. King  
Director of Development



Scott Eisenhauer  
Village Administrator

333 S. Tanner Street  
Rantoul, IL 61866  
Phone 217.892.6801

10 July 2021

Mrs. Darlene Kloeppel  
County Executive  
Champaign County Administrative Services  
1776 East Washington Street  
Urbana, IL 61802-4581

Dear Executive Kloeppel,

I am writing to you in regards to the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding provided to Champaign County, and the submittal of an educational and wellness project for you and the Board to consider.

The Village of Rantoul is embarking on a revitalization of our downtown, and in doing so, have discussed the importance of developing public space which attracts families participating in unified activities. We also believe it would be extremely vital to include educational components as well, so the experience not only promotes health and wellness, active outdoor environments, but also creates a learning environment. The lessons learned could be ever-life changing when done in a fun environment with family. The revitalization of the downtown will have many advantages to drawing both residents and tourists to the area, shopping in our stores and eating in our restaurants, but the chance to learn and grow as a family with interactive outdoor spaces makes our county unique. While the exact activity platforms have not yet been chosen, and therefore no costs associated with the project defined, I wanted to submit our interest so as you and the Board begin discussing ways to use the federal funding to implement programs designed to lift up the youth of our county, you will see this as an opportunity to build the important growth between children and their support system.

Again, thank you for your consideration of this request, and I know if granted the chance to build the educational development of our youth through interactive activities with their support system, the long term benefits are not just good for Rantoul, but for Champaign County.

Sincerely,

Scott Eisenhauer  
Village Administrator  
Village of Rantoul



Scott Eisenhauer  
Village Administrator

333 S. Tanner Street  
Rantoul, IL 61866  
Phone 217.892.6801

10 July 2021

Mrs. Darlene Kloeppel  
County Executive  
Champaign County Administrative Services  
1776 East Washington Street  
Urbana, IL 61802-4581

Dear Executive Kloeppel,

I am writing to you in regards to the American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding provided to Champaign County, and the submittal of an infrastructure project for you and the Board to consider.

I recognize Champaign County, and the ARP program, have a strong emphasis on infrastructure, and the construction and utilization of infrastructure in a way which helps rebuild communities following the tragic pandemic. We believe our "Broadmeadow Extension" project meets the goals and mission of this funding, and request your strong consideration. The "Broadmeadow Extension" takes a current street which runs from South Murray Road to the west and connects at Stonebridge. Currently this road lies adjacent to the Holiday Inn and Suites, and will also serve the recently-announced Hampton Inn by Hilton. By extending this road to the south, we open significant acreage for economic development running parallel to our Rantoul Family Sports Complex. Most importantly, the construction of this extension would open additional land for the building of hotels, restaurants, and retail opportunities. That would serve to bring additional traffic into Champaign County, would generate additional sales tax for the community and the county, and provide employment opportunities in the growing hospitality industry. By extending this road and opening additional land for future development, an additional 400 direct and indirect jobs can be created. For an underserved community like Rantoul, the ability to develop infrastructure which will lead to economic development providing significant job creation, opens our residents up to new possibilities. The total cost of the project is approximately \$1.225 million.

Again, thank you for your consideration of this request, and I know if granted the employment and tax opportunities created will be beneficial, not just for Rantoul, but for Champaign County.

Sincerely,

Scott Eisenhauer  
Village Administrator  
Village of Rantoul