

**Foss Park District  
Committee Meeting Minutes  
August 23, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER** Commissioner Wyatt called the meeting to order at 6:01pm.

**ROLL CALL**

Board members present: Commissioner Carmecia Hawthorn, Commissioner Kingston Neal, and Commissioner Vance Wyatt.

Board members absent: Commissioner Johnny Johnson and Commissioner Donna King.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

1. Yamaha golf cart: Jim Gaugert, Yamaha Representative. Mr. Gaugert stated the carts are on schedule to arrive in late September or early October and with the late delivery the carts will be 2024 models, with a slight discount on 2024 pricing.

Commissioner Donna King enters the room at 6:05 pm.

Mr. Gaugert stated the trade value has increased.

2. Flames funding/reduced fee request: submitted by Cassius Callahan (email July 21). Commissioner Neal stated that the football program should have a parent booster club and fundraisers to help raise money for the program. Commissioner Wyatt stated this reduction would be for one year. Commissioner King stated the program needs to be built up after negative actions taken last year by another organization.

3. 2023 Annual Legislative Conference September 20-24, 2023 in Washington DC (email July 19)

4. Andrew Gadsden funding request (\$5,500.00-\$6,500.00) "Big Drew's Experience" (verbal request July 19). Commissioner Hawthorn asked how much the request was for and there are many organizations requesting funding. Commissioner Wyatt stated the attorney is drafting a memo regarding donations.

5. All monetary donations approved by Board of Commissioners with donations for each year to be limited to certain amount to be determined (Commissioner Johnson and Commissioner Hawthorn)

6. Full Page Ad in Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church 119th Anniversary Commemorative Book (Commissioner Wyatt): removed per Commissioner Wyatt.

7. Latino Fest: Ms. Gamboa stated she would like to host a Hispanic Festival in Foss Park on September 30. Commissioner King stated the Foss Park District has the sale of all liquids during events and Ms. Gamboa agreed.

8. Turf Tank (Commissioner Wyatt). Commissioner Wyatt stated last year's pricing would be honored.

9. Bluff Clearing. Commissioner Neal stated he looked at the area that needs to be cleared and it is approximately 40 feet from the bluff line on the beach.

10. Donation request from Heart of the City

**COMMITTEE/STAFF REPORTS**

**PARKS REPORT FIRST**

1. *Business Office*

a. Director report: Ms. Cowart report: submitted written report with updates through emails.

b. Business Manager report: Mr. Skof report: summary of submitted written report. Mr. Skof stated insurance information will be available at the September meeting. Commissioner Neal stated clear planning needs to happen and Commissioner King stated the Board needs to come to a consensus.

## 2. *Parks*

a. Superintendent of Grounds: Mr. Winter report: Mr. Winter reported the parks are still open and being used frequently and the Golf Course is holding its own considering the weather. Commissioner Neal spoke about Caribbean Fest and that the Foss Park District should not be paying for someone else's event. Commissioner King stated Ms. Hayes said she had everything covered. Commissioner Wyatt stated future events will require a detailed contract.

## 2. *Golf*

a. Manager/Golf Pro report: Mr. Monroe report: Mr. Monroe stated he will get the total spent on cart repair. Commissioner Johnson enters the room at 6:59 pm. Commissioner Wyatt asked if there were no carts by October and Mr. Monroe stated the EZ Go has carts ready.

## 3. *Recreation*

a. Superintendent of Recreation report: summary of submitted written report. Commissioner Hawthorn inquired about the carnival. Commissioner King stated Leapin Lizards can provide the items for \$15,000 for the two days and that includes four additional pieces for the stage.

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

None.

## **Executive Session**

5 ILCS 120/2 (c)(1) The appointment, employment, compensation, discipline performance, or dismissal of specific employees, specific individuals who serve as independent contractors in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or specific volunteers of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee, a specific individual who serves as an independent contractor in a park, recreational, or educational setting, or a volunteer of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity. However, a meeting to consider an increase in compensation to a specific employee of a public body that is subject to the Local Government Wage Increase Transparency Act may not be closed and shall be open to the public and posted and held in accordance with this Act.

Commissioner Hawthorn motions to move to Executive Session. Second by Commissioner King.

Aye: Commissioner Hawthorn, Commissioner Johnson, Commissioner King, Commissioner Neal and Commissioner Wyatt.

Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: None.

MOTION CARRIES at 7:10 pm

Commissioner Neal motions to move to Executive Session. Second by Commissioner King at 7:54 pm.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Wyatt stands the meeting adjourned with no objections at 7:54 pm.

This record is not verbatim.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kari Cowart, Board Secretary

**Foss Park District  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
August 23, 2023**

**CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Wyatt called the meeting to order at 7:55 pm.

**ROLL CALL:**

Board members present: Commissioner Carmecia Hawthorn, Commissioner Donna King, Commissioner Kingston Neal and Commissioner Vance Wyatt.

Board members absent: Commissioner Johnny Johnson.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** waived as recited in the Committee Meeting.

**1. MINUTES:** Commissioner King motions to approve Committee Meeting and Regular Meeting (07/19/2023).  
Second by Commissioner Neal.

Aye: Commissioner Hawthorn, Commissioner King, Commissioner Neal and Commissioner Wyatt.

Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Commissioner Johnson.

MOTION CARRIES

**2. BILLS:** Commissioner King motions to approve monthly bills: invoices paid (07/13/2023-08/10/2023): \$143,133.22, invoices due \$54,420.94, invoices to be paid by credit card at approximate \$7,522.00 and first of the month bills (September) – approximate: \$11,000.00 as presented. Second by Commissioner Hawthorn.

Aye: Commissioner Hawthorn, Commissioner King, Commissioner Neal and Commissioner Wyatt.

Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Commissioner Johnson.

MOTION CARRIES

**3. PAYROLL:** Commissioner King motions to approve monthly payroll of \$117,970.30 as presented. Second by Commissioner Hawthorn.

Aye: Commissioner Hawthorn, Commissioner King, Commissioner Neal and Commissioner Wyatt.

Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Commissioner Johnson.

MOTION CARRIES

**4. PETTY CASH REPORTS:** Commissioner King motions to approve \$26.10 (Business Office) as presented. Second by Commissioner Hawthorn.

Aye: Commissioner Hawthorn, Commissioner King, Commissioner Neal and Commissioner Wyatt.

Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Commissioner Johnson.

MOTION CARRIES

**5. FINANCE REPORTS:** Commissioner King motions to approve finance reports and Commissioner Reports as present. Second by Commissioner Hawthron.

Aye: Commissioner Hawthorn, Commissioner King, Commissioner Neal and Commissioner Wyatt.

Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Commissioner Johnson.

MOTION CARRIES

**6. COMMISSIONER REPORTS:**

*FINANCE:* COMMISSIONER WYATT: as presented in the Committee Meeting.

*GOLF:* COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: as presented in the Committee Meeting.

*PARKS:* COMMISSIONER LITTLE: as presented in Committee Meeting.

*RECREATION:* COMMISSIONER KING: as presented in the Committee Meeting.

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**8. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Approval: Golf cart proposal as discussed in Committee Meeting

Commissioner Hawthorn motions to postpone Golf cart proposal as discussed in Committee Meeting. Second by Commissioner King.

Aye: Commissioner Hawthorn, Commissioner King, Commissioner Neal and Commissioner Wyatt.

Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Commissioner Johnson.

MOTION CARRIES

2. Approval: Flames funding or reduced fee request

Commissioner King motions to approve Flames reduced fee request. Second by Commissioner Hawthorn.

Aye: Commissioner Hawthorn, Commissioner King, and Commissioner Wyatt.

Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Present: Commissioner Neal.

Absent: Commissioner Johnson.

MOTION CARRIES

3. Approval: 2023 Annual Legislative Conference September 20-24, 2023 in Washington DC for Commissioners at an approximate cost of \$4,000.00 per attendee

Commissioner King motions to approve 2023 Annual Legislative Conference September 20-24, 2023 in Washington DC for Commissioners at an approximate cost of \$4,000.00 per attendee. Second by Commissioner Hawthorn.

Aye: Commissioner Hawthorn, Commissioner King, Commissioner Neal and Commissioner Wyatt.

Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Commissioner Johnson.

MOTION CARRIES

4. Approval: Andrew Gadsden funding request (\$5,500.00-\$6,500.00) "Big Drew's Experience"  
Commissioner Hawthorn motions to postpone Andrew Gadsden funding request (\$5,500.00-\$6,500.00) "Big Drew's Experience". Second by Commissioner King.  
Aye: Commissioner Hawthorn, Commissioner King, Commissioner Neal and Commissioner Wyatt.  
Nay: None.  
Abstain: None.  
Absent: Commissioner Johnson. MOTION CARRIES
5. Approval: All monetary donations approved by Board of Commissioners with total donations for each year to be limited to amount discussed in Committee Meeting  
Commissioner King motions to postpone all monetary donations approved by Board of Commissioners with total donations for each year to be limited to amount discussed in Committee Meeting .  
Second by Commissioner Hawthorn.  
Aye: Commissioner Hawthorn, Commissioner King, Commissioner Neal and Commissioner Wyatt.  
Nay: None.  
Abstain: None.  
Absent: Commissioner Johnson. MOTION CARRIES
6. Approval: Full Page Ad in Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church 119<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Book  
Commissioner King motions to postpone indefinitely full page Ad in Trinity African Methodist Episcopal Church 119<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Book. Second by Commissioner Hawthorn.  
Aye: Commissioner Hawthorn, Commissioner King, Commissioner Neal and Commissioner Wyatt.  
Nay: None.  
Abstain: None.  
Absent: Commissioner Johnson. MOTION CARRIES
7. Approval: Latino Fest  
Commissioner King motions to approve Latino Fest with necessary documentation presented. Second by Commissioner Hawthorn.  
Aye: Commissioner Hawthorn, Commissioner King, Commissioner Neal and Commissioner Wyatt.  
Nay: None.  
Abstain: None.  
Absent: Commissioner Johnson. MOTION CARRIES
8. Approval: Turf Tank  
Commissioner King motions to approve Turf Tank. Second by Commissioner Hawthorn.  
Aye: Commissioner Hawthorn, Commissioner King, Commissioner Neal and Commissioner Wyatt.  
Nay: None.  
Abstain: None.  
Absent: Commissioner Johnson. MOTION CARRIES

9. Approval: Bluff Clearing at Foss Park

Commissioner King motions to approve RFP for bluff clearing at Foss Park. Second by Commissioner Hawthorn.

Aye: Commissioner Hawthorn, Commissioner King, Commissioner Neal and Commissioner Wyatt.

Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Commissioner Johnson.

MOTION CARRIES

10. Approval: Donation request from Heart of the City.

Commissioner King motions to approve \$1,000.00 donation request from Heart of the City. Second by Commissioner Neal.

Aye: Commissioner Hawthorn, Commissioner King, Commissioner Neal and Commissioner Wyatt.

Nay: None.

Abstain: None.

Absent: Commissioner Johnson.

MOTION CARRIES

**9. CITIZEN COMMENTS:**

None.

**10. ADJOURNMENT:**

Commissioner Wyatt stands the meeting adjourned with no objections at 8:06 pm.

This record is not verbatim.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kari Cowart, Board Secretary