

**Foss Park District
Committee Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER Commissioner Wyatt called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

COMMITTEE/STAFF REPORTS

1. Business Office

a. Director report: Ms. Cowart report: Ms. Cowart reviewed submitted written report.

b. Business Manager report: Mr. Haqq report: Mr. Haqq reported on Art's Landscaping beginning work at Community Recreation Center, background checks being completed and new Assistant Business Manager began.

2. Parks

a. Superintendent of Grounds: Mr. Winter report: Mr. Winter stated the washrooms at Foss Park are done, the tree crew is completing work, the last big chair is assembled, new doors for the Foss Park washrooms are ordered and grass cutting continues at the golf course.

3. Golf

a. Manager/Golf Pro report: Mr. Monroe report: Mr. Monroe reported the golf course is open, information regarding the EV chargers is waiting on information from ComEd, Freedom Forever (solar panel Installation Company) is getting information together and Foss Park District would have to pay for the panels or rent the panels from them.

Commissioner Johnson enters the room at 6:09 pm.

Commissioner Wyatt asked to explain rent and Mr. Monroe stated Foss Park District pays a lower electric bill.

4. Recreation

a. Superintendent of Recreation: Ms. Hall report: Ms. Hall presented updated fliers, discussed Recreation Department golf outing, Caribbean Fest, U of I Extension provided suggestions for more healthy vending items, Angel Park equipment is being installed with Twin City Park to follow.

Commissioner Hawthorn asked if the group for the Central American fest is coming to present and Ms. Hall stated next month.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mr. Rayon Edwards: Mr. Edwards stated he Commissioners should recuse themselves from vote if there is a conflict, Commissioners are missing meetings and the only time Commissioners are seen is during voting. He continued that Commissioners need to take care of the citizens.

Executive Session

5 ILCS 120/2(c)(1) the appointment, employment, compensation, discipline, performance, or dismissal of specific employees of the public body or legal counsel for the public body, including hearing testimony on a complaint lodged against an employee of the public body or against legal counsel for the public body to determine its validity.

Commissioner King moves to go into Executive Session. Second by Commissioner Neal.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

MOTION PASSES at 6:19 pm

Commissioner Wyatt resumes Committee Meeting at 7:01 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Wyatt stands the meeting adjourned with no objections at 7:02 pm.

This record is not verbatim.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kari Cowart, Board Secretary

**Foss Park District
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 21, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Wyatt called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

ROLL CALL:

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

Board members absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE waived as recited in the Committee Meeting

1. MINUTES: Commissioner King motions to approve Committee Meeting and Regular Meeting (04/16/2025).
Second by Commissioner Neal.

Voice vote - Aye: all Nay: None Abstain: None Absent: None MOTION CARRIES

2. COMMISSIONER REPORTS:

FINANCE COMMISSIONER NEAL: Commissioner Neal stated the Finance Committee will begin monthly meetings.

GOLF COMMISSIONER JOHNSON: Commissioner Johnson stated the north culvert is the next one in need of repair.

PARKS COMMISSIONER HAWTHORN: Commissioner Hawthorn stated the new playgrounds are being installed at Angel Park and Twin City Park and she is excited for the community to be engaged.

RECREATION COMMISSIONER KING: Commissioner King is excited for the new recreational programs.

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. Approval: internet provider upgrade as presented (November 2024)

Commissioner King motions to postpone internet provider upgrade as presented (November 2024). Second by Commissioner Hawthorn.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None MOTION CARRIES

4. SWEARING IN OF COMMISSIONERS: Dr. Donna E King and Vance D. Wyatt

5. APPOINTMENT OF ACTING CHAIRPERSON: Commissioner Wyatt appoints Ms. Cowart as acting chairperson.

6. ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS:

Ms. Cowart called for nominations for Board President.

Election of President: Commissioner Johnson nominates Commissioner Neal. Commissioner King nominates Commissioner Wyatt. Roll call:

Commissioner Hawthorn – Commissioner Wyatt

Commissioner Johnson – Commissioner Neal

Commissioner King – Commissioner Wyatt

Commissioner Neal – Commissioner Neal

Commissioner Wyatt – Commissioner Wyatt

Votes: Commissioner Wyatt – 3, Commissioner Neal – 2

Commissioner Wyatt thanked the Board for electing him as President.

Appointment of Secretary: Commissioner Wyatt appoints Ms. Cowart as Secretary.

Commissioner Wyatt called for nominations for Board Vice President.

Election of Vice President: Commissioner Wyatt nominates Commissioner King. Commissioner Johnson nominates Commissioner Neal. Roll call:

Commissioner Hawthorn – Commissioner King

Commissioner Johnson – Commissioner Neal

Commissioner King – Commissioner King

Commissioner Neal – Commissioner Neal

Commissioner Wyatt – Commissioner King

Votes: Commissioner King – 3, Commissioner Neal – 2

Appointment of Treasurer: Commissioner Wyatt appoints Commissioner Neal.

Appointment of Assistant Secretary/Assistant Treasurer: Commissioner Wyatt appoints Mr. Haqq.

Appointment of Attorney: Commissioner Wyatt appoints Ancel Glink.

Commissioner King motions to approve all appointments. Second by Commissioner Hawthorn.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: Commissioner Johnson

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

7. ADOPTION OF RULES, REGULATIONS, POLICIES AND BINDING AGREEMENTS OF PRECEDING BOARD

Commissioner King motions to approve. Second by Commissioner Hawthorn.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

8. ESTABLISH REGULAR MEETING PLACE, DATE AND TIME: 1730 Lewis Avenue, North Chicago, IL 60064. Third Wednesday of month at 7:00 pm, with the exception of September 17, 2025 with date to be determined.

Commissioner King motions to approve. Second by Commissioner Hawthorn.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

9. APPOINTMENT OF COMMITTEES

Commissioner Wyatt appoints:

Finance Committee: Chair Commissioner Neal, Co-chair Commissioner Hawthorn

Golf Committee: Chair Commissioner Johnson, Co-chair Commissioner King

Parks Committee: Chair Commissioner Hawthorn, Co-chair Commissioner Johnson

Recreation Committee: Chair Commissioner King, Co-chair Commissioner Neal

10. BILLS: Commissioner King motions to approve monthly bills: invoices paid (04/11/2025-05/14/2025): \$345,807.67, invoices due \$31,793.44, invoices to be paid by credit card at approximate \$9,768.74 and first of the month bills (June) – approximate: \$30,379.00 as presented. Second by Commissioner Hawthorn.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

11. PAYROLL: Commissioner King motions to approve monthly payroll of \$78,058.13 as presented. Second by Commissioner Hawthorn.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

12. PETTY CASH REPORTS: None.

13. FINANCE REPORTS: Commissioner King motions to approve finance reports and Commissioner reports as presented. Second by Commissioner Hawthorn.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

14. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Approval: payment of interest on Bond Series 2021B in amount of \$59,050.00 due June 15, 2025 to The Bank of New York Mellon

Meeting Commissioner King motions to approve payment of interest on Bond Series 2021B in amount of \$59,050.00 due June 15, 2025 to The Bank of New York Mellon. Second by Commissioner Hawthorn.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: Commissioner Johnson

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

2. Approval: attendance for Commissioners and Staff at NRPA Conference in Orlando, Florida, September 15-19, 2025 (conference dates September 16-18, optional pre conference class September 15) at approximately \$3,000.00 per attendee

Commissioner King motions to approve attendance for Commissioners and Staff at NRPA Conference in Orlando, Florida, September 15-19, 2025 (conference dates September 16-18, optional pre conference class September 15) at approximately \$3,000.00 per attendee and attendance for Commissioners for ASBPA Conference in Long Beach, California, October 6-11, 2025 (conference dates October 7-10) at approximately \$3,000.00 per attendee. Second by Commissioner Hawthorn.

Commissioner Johnson stated that the number of days attending and number of people attending need to be kept in mind.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: Commissioner Johnson

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

3. Approval: attendance for Commissioners for ASBPA Conference in Long Beach, California, October 6-11, 2025 (conference dates October 7-10) at approximately \$3,000.00 per attendee

*see above

4. Approval: Resolution #05212025: Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund Appoint of Authorized Agent – David Haqq

Commissioner King motions to approve Resolution #05212025: Illinois Municipal Retirement Fund Appoint of Authorized Agent – David Haqq. Second by Commissioner Hawthorn.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

15. CITIZEN COMMENTS:

Rayon Edwards: Mr. Edwards asked if the Foss Park District would host a town hall meeting and would like an explanation on what things money is being spent on and activities need to be affordable and accessible.

Kenneth Smith: Mr. Smith stated he is excited for Angel Park and is happy the tree was removed.

Commissioner Wyatt stated that playground purchased at NRPA was at a deep discounted price.

Commissioner Hawthorn stated the conferences give educational opportunities and she is becoming a Master Board Member through the trainings.

Commissioner King thanked the citizens for reelecting her and is excited for what is coming.

16. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Wyatt stands the meeting adjourned with no objections at 7:27 pm.

This record is not verbatim.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kari Cowart, Board Secretary