

**Foss Park District**  
**Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**July 16, 2025**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Board members present: Commissioner Carmecia Hawthorn (via telephone), Commissioner Johnny Johnson, Commissioner Donna King and Commissioner Vance Wyatt

Board members absent: Commissioner Kingston Neal

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

1. City of North Chicago – outside vendor to sell alcohol on Foss Park District property for Community Days (August 1-3, 2025) – June 2025: none.

2. RFP fence and utility vehicles: discussion included the extremely high bid submitted for fence and Mr. Monroe discussed bids submitted for utility vehicles.

6:04 pm Commissioner Kingston Neal enters the room.

Commissioner Wyatt stated two should be purchased outright with 2021 bond proceeds.

3. IT service provider: Mr. Haqq provided summary of IT service providers and recommends L6 Technology. Commissioner Neal confirmed new software and hardware will be installed.

4. License plate reader at beach: Ms. Cowart reviewed license plate reader request from City of North Chicago at Foss Park. Commissioner Wyatt suggested the installation of cameras. Commissioner Johnson stated it would help deter bad behavior. Commissioner Neal stated the City needs the readers more than the District and the District would have no access to them. Commissioner Hawthorn stated the entities need to work together. Commissioner Wyatt agrees with Commissioner Neal.

**COMMITTEE/STAFF REPORTS**

1. *Business Office*

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

b. Business Manager report: Mr. Haqq report: Mr. Haqq reported the Budget and Appropriations Hearing is scheduled for August 20 at 5:45 pm and the one day liquor license for Caribbean Fest has been secured.

2. *Parks*

a. Superintendent of Grounds: Mr. Winter report: Mr. Winter stated recent rain has helped at the Golf Course, normal park operations and recommends installation of electric hand dryers in bathrooms at Foss Park due to constant vandalism and theft. Commissioner Hawthorn thanked the Park Foreman for his work in the parks and would like the split rail fence looked at.

3. *Golf*

a. Manager/Golf Pro report: Mr. Monroe report: Mr. Monroe reported the multiple upcoming outings, NCCHS multi year reunion, the District is on the books for the EV chargers installation.

4. *Recreation*

a. Superintendent of Recreation: Ms. Hall report: Ms. Hall reported on Bingocize and playground equipment at Hamlet Park. Commissioner Hawthorn asked if senior participation increased, how many attend classes and if they are happy. Ms. Hall said it has increased, approximately 9-12 participants and they seemed happy. Commissioner Hawthorn stated the rumors in community need to be addressed and asked Commissioner Wyatt to explain the District's tax rate.

## **CITIZEN COMMENTS**

-Mr. Rayon Edwards: Mr. Edwards spoke about a Commissioner resignation, attorney fees and conference attendance.

-Ms. Bryan Oglesby: Mr. Oglesby stressed using local vendors for purchases.

Commissioner Hawthorn stated issues needed to be addressed and citizens should not be allowed to use this forum to promote slander.

-Ms. Andrea Loftis: Ms. Loftis spoke of a disconnect and that everyone needed to work together.

-Ms. Chloe Moore: Ms. Moore spoke about lack of flyers in senior housing and a former employee's dismissal.

Commissioner Wyatt stated that all personnel matters are addressed in Executive Session and the Board is not involved in employment matters.

-Mr. Kenny Smith: Mr. Smith stated he wants to work together for the kids and the seniors and there needs to be better communication.

Commissioner Hawthorn stated there needs to be hospitality and everyone can work as a team and asked Commissioner King to read the IAPD verbiage regarding conferences.

Commissioner King stated she has been to Kukla and Thompson to promote District events.

7:14 pm Commissioner Johnson leaves the room.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Wyatt stands the meeting adjourned with no objections at 7:14 pm.

This record is not verbatim.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kari Cowart, Board Secretary

**CALL TO ORDER:** Commissioner Wyatt called the meeting to order at 7:15 pm.

**ROLL CALL:**

Board members present: Commissioner Carmecia Hawthorn (via telephone), 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 Finance Committee Meeting, Committee Meeting, and Regular Meeting (06/18/2025), Special Meeting and Executive Session (07/03/2025). 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 (06/14/2025-07/11/2025): \$207,436.88, invoices due \$146,511.83, invoices to be paid by credit card at approximate \$11,000.11 and first of the month bills (July) – approximate: \$30,376.74 as presented. Second by Commissioner Neal.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Commissioner Johnson

MOTION CARRIES

7:17 pm Commissioner Johnson enters the room

**3. PAYROLL:** Commissioner King motions to approve monthly payroll of \$118,858.40 as presented. Second by Commissioner Neal.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

**4. PETTY CASH REPORTS:** None.

**5. FINANCE REPORTS:** Commissioner King motions to approve finance reports and Commissioner reports as presented. Second by Commissioner Neal.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

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 HAWTHORN: as presented in Committee Meeting.

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

\*see above

## **7. 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 Neal.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

2. Approval: Community Days – Waiver authorizing outside vendor to sell alcohol on Foss Park District grounds (June 2025)

Commissioner King motions to postpone Community Days – Waiver authorizing outside vendor to sell alcohol on Foss Park District grounds. Second by Commissioner Neal.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: Commissioner Johnson

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

3. Approval: IT service provider (June 2025)

Commissioner King motions to approve L6 Technologies as IT service provider. Second by Commissioner Neal.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

## **8. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Approval: RFP fence

Commissioner King motions to reject RFP fence. Second by Commissioner Johnson.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

2. Approval: RFP utility vehicles

Commissioner Johnson motions to approve RFP utility vehicles through Yamaha. Second by Commissioner King.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

3. Approval: application OSLAD 2026 grant (through GHA)

Commissioner Johnson motions to approve application OSLAD 2026 grant (through GHA). Second by Commissioner King.

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

MOTION CARRIES

4. Approval: Commissioners attendance Annual Legislative Conference (CBCF) September 23-29, 2025 in Washington DC at an approximate cost of \$4,000 per person

Commissioner King motions to approve Commissioners attendance Annual Legislative Conference (CBCF) September 23-29, 2025 in Washington DC at an approximate cost of \$4,000 per person. Second by Commissioner Hawthorn.

Commissioner Johnson stated a Commissioner has already registered for this conference before Board approved.

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

Nay: Commissioner Johnson

Abstain: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

5. Approval: National Night Out donation - \$500

Commissioner King motions to approve National Night Out donation - \$500. 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. CITIZEN COMMENTS:

-Mr. Rayon Edwards: Mr. Edwards stated he has always been respectful and trusted Commissioners. He has been to conferences in Springfield and Chicago to help the community because he cares.

Commissioner Hawthorn stated the Commissioners attend conferences to learn.

7:29 pm Commissioner Johnson leaves the room.

Commissioner Hawthorn stated everyone needs to be open to listen and keep personal feelings out of it.

-Ms. Chloe Moore: Ms. Moore stated a male staff is needed to be a mentor to the children and she is concerned with the ratio of children to staff.

## 10. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Wyatt stands the meeting adjourned with no objections at 7:36 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kari Cowart, Board Secretary