

**Foss Park District
Committee Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER Commissioner Neal called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

ROLL CALL

Board members present: Commissioner Carmecia Hawthorn, Commissioner Johnny Johnson, and Commissioner Kingston Neal

Board members absent: Commissioner Donna King and Commissioner Vance Wyatt

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Commissioner King and Commissioner Wyatt joined meeting via telephone at 6:05 pm

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

1. E'zyrah's Gift Inc. and North Chicago Police Department Shop with a Cop donation requests: Commissioner Neal stated Shop with a Cop is the annual donation request. Ms. Ellisstata Stallworth presented request on behalf of E'zyrah's Gift Inc. that serves Lake County and especially North Chicago underserved community with gifts, food, coats, etc.
2. Bond information: Speer Financial: Ms. Raphaliata McKenzie summarized the bond sale and results. Ms. McKenzie stated the sale was successful in yielding a low interest rate with multiple bidders with the winning bid coming from Republic Bank of Chicago.
3. Resolution authorizing the accumulation of funds: Commissioner Neal stated this is in reference to emails from Attorney Krafthefer. Commissioner Wyatt asked to postpone the item for more information from attorney.
4. Holiday appreciation event: Commissioner discussion included an event off site or at the Pavilion catered by an outside organization.
5. Foss Park fences: Commissioner discussion included removal of split rail fence and replacement with stones. Commissioner Hawthorn verified it was for the fence in Foss Park, not the main gate.
6. PADS food dinner sponsorship: Commissioner Wyatt clarified this request is the waiving of the rental fee of the pavilion for the event this Saturday.

COMMITTEE/STAFF REPORTS

1. *Business Office*

a. Director report: Ms. Cowart report: Ms. Cowart reviewed submitted written report and reviewed. Representatives from the Flames Football and Cheer programs presented the championship trophies. All Commissioners gave their congratulations and thanks with a reminder City Council will be honoring the Flames at council meeting on December 1.

b. Business Manager report: Mr. Haqq report: Mr. Haqq reviewed the gas proposals, bond payments were made for November and December and the copier lease at the Community Recreation Center was renewed.

2. *Parks*

a. Superintendent of Grounds: Mr. Winter report: Mr. Winter stated the golf season is in final days and the water lines at the Golf Course and Foss Park have been winterized, parks have been winterized and the Parks Foreman will be taking his playground inspection test the next day.

3. *Golf*

a. Manager/Golf Pro report: Mr. Monroe report: Mr. Monroe stated the course will close on November 26, office renovations will happen over the winter that will including remodeling and painting, carts will be picked up the first week of December and returned in the spring.

4. Recreation

a. Superintendent of Recreation: Recreation report: Ms. Cowart submitted recreation program flyers.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Brittany Hicks: Ms. Hicks asked the Board to help fund a trip to Detroit for the Flames Football champions to play in a tournament the weekend of December 19-21, 2025 at an approximate cost of \$2,500 per team (two teams). Board discussion included approving the request.

Greg Lewis: Mr. Lewis thanked the Board for the support during the football season and requested Board to review the email he sent out.

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

5 ILCS 120/2(c)(11)

Litigation, when an action against, affecting or on behalf of the particular body has been filed and is pending before a court or administrative tribunal, or when the body finds that an action is probable or imminent, in which case the basis for the finding shall be recorded and entered into the minutes of the closed meeting

Commissioner Hawthorn motions to move to 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 CARRIES at 7:04 pm

Committee Meeting resumes at 7:20 pm.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Neal stands the meeting adjourned with no objections at 7:20 pm.

This record is not verbatim.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kari Cowart, Board Secretary

**Foss Park District
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 19, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER: Commissioner Neal called the meeting to order at 7:20 pm.

ROLL CALL:

Board members present: Commissioner Carmecia Hawthorn, Commissioner Johnny Johnson, Commissioner Donna King (via telephone), Commissioner Kingston Neal, and Commissioner Vance Wyatt (via telephone)
Board members absent: none

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE waived as recited in the Committee Meeting

1. MINUTES: Commissioner Hawthorn motions to approve Committee Meeting, Executive and Regular Meeting (10/15/2025), Special Meeting and Executive Session (11/04/2025). Second by Commissioner Wyatt.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

2. BILLS: Commissioner King motions to approve monthly bills: invoices paid (10/10/2025-11/12/2025): \$334,462.47, invoices due \$276,216.30, invoices to be paid by credit card at approximate \$5,110.13 and first of the month bills (December) – approximate: \$31,415.12 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

3. PAYROLL: Commissioner Hawthorn motions to approve monthly payroll of \$138,124.66 as presented. Second by Commissioner Wyatt.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

4. PETTY CASH REPORTS: Commissioner Hawthorn motions to approve Business Office petty cash \$4.32 as presented. Second by Commissioner King.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

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

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: National Fitness Program – grant BlueCross Blue Shield (October 2025)

Commissioner Hawthorn motions to postpone National Fitness Program – grant BlueCross Blue Shield (October 2025). 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: Seven Utility Management Consultants – gas: through November 2029 (October 2025)

Commissioner Wyatt motions to approve Seven Utility Management Consultants – gas: through November 2026 – 12 month contract (October 2025). Second by Commissioner King.

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: An Ordinance providing for the issue of approximately \$443,860 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2025, for the payment of land condemned or purchased for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and the existing land and facilities of the Park District, to provide the revenue source for the payment of certain outstanding alternate bonds of the Park District and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof.

Commissioner Hawthorn motions approve An Ordinance providing for the issue of approximately \$443,860 General Obligation Limited Tax Park Bonds, Series 2025, for the payment of land condemned or purchased for parks, for the building, maintaining, improving and protecting of the same and the existing land and facilities of the Park District, to provide the revenue source for the payment of certain outstanding alternate bonds of the Park District and for the payment of the expenses incident thereto, providing for the levy of a direct annual tax to pay the principal and interest on said bonds, and authorizing the sale of said bonds to the purchaser thereof (Republic Bank of Chicago). Second by Commissioner Wyatt.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

2. Approval: possible action taken in Executive Session – personnel

3. Approval: resolution authorizing the accumulation of funds #111925

Commissioner Wyatt motions to postpone resolution authorizing the accumulation of funds #111925. Second by Commissioner King.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

4. Approval: E'zyrah's Gift Inc. donation request

Commissioner Hawthorn motions to postpone E'zyrah's Gift Inc. donation request. No second.

Discussion: Commissioner Hawthorn stated should be postponed and it's not personal, Commissioner King stated worthy cause and legitimate organization, Commissioner Wyatt stated that the District's non for profit may request funds in the future, Commissioner Johnson stated worthy cause, however, Board voted not to donate to all requests and the matter should be voted on, not postponed.

Commissioner Wyatt motions to approve E'zyrah's Gift Inc. donation request. Second by Commissioner Neal.

Aye: Commissioner King, and Commissioner Wyatt

Nay: Commissioner Hawthorn, Commissioner Johnson and Commissioner Neal

Abstain: None

Absent: None

MOTION FAILS

5. Approval: Foss Park District holiday appreciation event

Commissioner Wyatt motions to approve Foss Park District holiday appreciation event contracted out. Second by Commissioner Hawthorn.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

6. Approval: Foss Park fences

Commissioner Hawthorn motions to approve Foss Park fences stone provided by Lester's Materials. Second by Commissioner Wyatt.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

7. Approval: North Chicago Police Department Shop with a Cop donation

Commissioner Wyatt motions to approve North Chicago Police Department Shop with a Cop donation. Second by Commissioner Johnson.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: Commissioner Hawthorn

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

8. Approval: appointment of delegate(s) to Annual Business Meeting of Illinois Association of Park Districts to be held January 31, 2026 at 3:30 pm in Chicago, IL per the Foss Park District Board of Commissioners Handbook

Commissioner Wyatt motions to approve appointment of delegate(s) to Annual Business Meeting of Illinois Association of Park Districts to be held January 31, 2026 at 3:30 pm in Chicago, IL per the Foss Park District Board of Commissioners Handbook. Second by Commissioner Hawthorn.

Commissioner King asked who the delegates were. Ms. Cowart stated the President, Vice President, Treasurer and two other Commissioners as alternates.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

9. Approval: Commissioners and delegated staff attendance at American Shore & Beach Preservation Association 2025 Coastal Summit March 23-27, 2026 in Washington DC at an approximate cost of \$4,000.00 each

Commissioner Wyatt motions to approve Commissioners and delegated staff attendance at American Shore & Beach Preservation Association 2026 Coastal Summit March 23-27, 2026 in Washington DC at an approximate cost of \$4,000.00 each. Second by Commissioner Johnson.

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

Nay: Commissioner Johnson

Abstain: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

10. Approval: IPARKS liability insurance approval effective 11/17/2025-12/31/2025 at \$9,255.00

Commissioner Wyatt motions to approve IPARKS liability insurance approval effective 11/17/2025-12/31/2025 at \$9,255.00. Second by Commissioner Johnson.

Commissioner Hawthorn asked for clarification of the insurance. Commissioner Wyatt stated it is the District's liability insurance that included buildings, vehicles, etc.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

11. Approval: PADS food dinner sponsorship

Commissioner King motions to approve PADS food dinner sponsorship – waiving of rental fee. Second by Commissioner Hawthorn.

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

Nay: None

Abstain: Commissioner Hawthorn

Absent: None

MOTION CARRIES

9. CITIZEN COMMENTS:

None

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Commissioner Neal stands the meeting adjourned with no objections at 7:46 pm.

This record is not verbatim.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kari Cowart, Board Secretary