

**OLYMPIA FIELDS EAST HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION**  
**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 1, 2025**  
**Meeting Held at Olympia Field Park District Sargent Means Park, Cull House**

The meeting was called to order by President Carlando Owens at 10:00 am.

**Board Members In attendance:** Carlando Owens, Arthur Byrd, Beverly Sanders, Thomas McNeal, Sam Cosentino, and Patricia Hopkins. Absent: Deborah Hopkins and Steven Jackson.

**President's report:** The report was presented by Carlando Owens.

- President Owens acknowledged the concern of residents regarding the limited number of annual beautification projects within OFEHA. The budget is strained by the cost of maintaining the common areas. Additional revenues must be identified to provide for the beautification of the area by collection of additional dues, fundraising, and/or identification of additional sources of grant funding.

**Finance Report:** The report was presented by Treasurer Arthur Byrd.

- In 2024, \$6,500 was expended on beautification. All other expenditures were minimal. OFEHA supplements the beautification of the Oakwood Terrace cul-de-sac, which is currently maintained by a resident.
- No newsletters were mailed in 2024. The annual cost of newsletters can exceed \$2,500. Byrd recommended no more than one mailing in 2025.
- Only 40 percent of OFEHA residents pay the annual due of \$50. Payment of dues is not mandatory.
- Fund balance at December 31, 2024: \$6,889.15
  - Total funds collected in 2024: \$7,844.74, including a \$3,000 beautification grant from the Village.

**Communications:** The report was presented by Committee Chair Sam Cosentino.

- The newsletter has a lot of redundancies. The Village has improved its website and sends out newsletters. What would residents like to see in the newsletter? Comments can be emailed to ofeha.news@gmail.com.

**Membership:** No report was presented due to the absence of Committee Chair Deborah Hampton.

The meeting was then opened for comments and discussion.

President Owens informed attendees that OFEHA will apply for grants to fund spring and summer projects. As OFEHA does not have funding to replace the sign at Brookwood and Lincoln Highway, a resident suggested that the discussion be tabled until funding sources of \$25,000 are identified.

Trustee Oliver would like the option to pay additional dues. Sam Cosentino will provide for that option in the future.

It was suggested that a door-to-door campaign be organized through the Membership Committee to increase dues collection and provide information regarding OFEHA.

HALO Officer Pennington reported that Village President Burke and Police Chief Blasingame are aware of the issues with the Code Alert system and are working to resolve the notification issues. Pennington also reported there has been positive feedback on the recently installed additional stop signs.

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Trustee Oliver suggested that residents contact Art Jones of Public Works at 708-503-8000 to schedule an inspection of their home's water pipes. So far, no lead pipes have been found in any homes. A standard communication was mailed to select areas in the Village and the information regarding the possible existence of lead pipes is available on the Village website,

The lights installed by the HOAs in Maynegaite and Vienna Woods were discussed along with the possibility of adding lights to the common areas in OFEHA. Electricity could be provided by ComEd or through the cooperation of residents.

Resident Larry Mullins volunteered to coordinate a fundraiser, and other residents volunteered to assist. A date should be set for the fundraiser and a marketing campaign developed.

A resident suggested soliciting assistance from residents to purchase flats of flowers and provide other assistance by utilizing the newsletter. Residents need to be informed of what OFEHA is trying to accomplish. Inserting messages in the water bill was also suggested.

Trustee Oliver announced that he is chairing the Olympia Fields Centennial Committee. He suggested that OFEHA give thought to what we want our area to look like when the celebration occurs two years from now.

It was strongly recommended that issues that have been tabled are not brought up at subsequent meetings. The same resident inquired if board roles and responsibilities have been established. President Owens responded in the affirmative. This information will be made available to residents prior to the next election, so they can identify the board positions they may wish to hold.

Trustee Matz stated that the culvert project was initially scheduled with a duration of 55 days, and that updates should have been provided as the project changed to include replacement by Nicor of their infrastructure. Olympia Fields can be restored to the position of the crown jewel of the Southland.

It was confirmed by multiple attendees that flooding is a concern throughout the Village.

ComEd is also performing upgrades. Most service is underground, and residents should have been informed.

**Adjournment:** The motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Thomas McNeal and seconded by Carlando Owens. The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.