

OLYMPIA FIELDS EAST HOMEOWNERS' ASSOCIATION
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES OF July 11, 2026
Meeting Held at Olympia Fields Conference Center, 20701 Governors Hwy., Olympia Fields, IL 60461

The meeting was called to order by President Carlando Owens at 9:07 AM.

Attendance

The following Board members were present: Carlando Owens, Thomas McNeal, Sam Cosentino, Monica Plaid, Arthur Bryd, Steven Jackson, Larry Mullins and Beverly Sanders. Board Members absent: Meli Marquez and Patricia Hopkins.

Approval of Previous Minutes

The minutes from the Board meeting of May 9, 2026, were distributed to all Board members prior to the meeting. Thomas McNeal moved to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of May 9, 2026, Steven Jackson seconded, and the motion was unanimously carried by the Board.

President's Report

President Carlando Owens provided a Public Works update. Owens met with Jessica Washington and Art Jones, Public Works Director, regarding storm water remediation and the swales within OFEHA. The Village is communicating with NICOR on issues related to their work in the area. The Village will make corrections and charge-back costs to NICOR for issues not resolved in a timely manner. Public Works will handle some of the work rather than relying on contractors.

The six large rocks have been returned to 207th and Corinth.

OFEHA must submit a proposed monument and lighting plan to the Village prior to the Village addressing the monument replacement on state property. Both Western Avenue and Lincoln Highway are state roads. The monument signage and lighting projects remain tabled.

During discussions with Park District Administrator Jesus Vargas regarding the possibility of adding lighting to the Sargent Means Park 207th Street entrance Vargas shared that the electrical grid does not run to that point. Vargas was asked to investigate solar lighting. Vargas will need to address the lighting request with the Park District Board. He also relayed that some of the residents along 207th Street are not in favor of adding receptacle and dog stations along 207th Street. Jamie Foley suggested no parking be allowed after the park closes.

The OFEHA Secretary position remains vacant, and residents are encouraged to volunteer for the opening.

Finance Report

The Finance Report was presented by Treasurer Arthur Byrd. The bank is in the process of changing systems, therefore while the report is titled "Banking Summary – Year To Date 1/1/2026 through 7/10/2026", the most recent bank statement is only through June 5, 2026. Total income of \$10,260.57 is at a high level for this point in the year due in great part to the efforts of Membership Chair Monica Plaid and the membership committee's efforts in membership renewals and soliciting new members. The largest expenditures YTD, as is typical, is for beautification. YTD beautification expenditures total \$4,439.76. the over. Net Income YTD is \$3,863.70. In response to the request from residents to have access to the finance report, it will be posted to the OFEHA website monthly or as available.

Social Committee/Fundraising Report

The report was provided by Chairman Larry Mullins. The Spring Steppin', held on Friday, May 29, 2026 from 7:00 pm – 11:00 pm., at the Sargeant Means Park Bradford Barn was a success both in

terms of participation and a modest positive financial outcome of \$76.62. The purpose of the event was to build community, not to realize a profit. The next event scheduled is a family game party night on November 7th at the Barn at Sargent Means Park. The event will be priced to be affordable for families.

Beautification Committee Report

Committee Vice-Chair Jamie Foley presented the report. The committee is working on a landscape design for the west end of 207th Street. In Brookwood Terrace 5 cul de sac, metal edges were installed, buckthorn plants were removed, and trees will be planted. Plans to remove trees might result in complaints from nearby residents.

Discussion continued as follows on other matters:

- People continue to drive on the grass. Washington stated the Village is looking into it.
- The Village Beautification Committee added 3 – 4 trees on 207th Street. Foley requested notification in advance of future plantings.
- Washington will investigate a tree that was removed at 20841 Brookwood.
- Per Plaid, Public Works is looking into recurring standing water at 207th and Western. A change in topography is under investigation. Foley suggested a rain garden.
- The Village communicates with the County on Vollmer Road and Kedzie Avenue maintenance issues and with the state on Western Avenue maintenance issues, but the Village will remediate hazards when necessary. The Building Commissioner handles utility company issues
- There are large holes between Western Avenue and Country Club Drive.
- Plaid continued the discussion of installation of a dedication plaque in the memory of Steve Altman, who looked after his neighbors for more than 25 years. Washington stated not to put anything into the ground but doesn't believe there is an issue with hanging something on a tree.

Communications Committee Report

Committee Chair Sam Cosentino reported the following:

- Printing costs are too high; therefore, the newsletter is now distributed exclusively in digital format. Spam filters are causing some residents not to receive mass mailings. Instructions to eliminate this problem will be posted to the website. There is a 40% open rate, with the remaining 60% possibly going to the spam folder. It was recommended to include a note regarding how to resolve this issue on a postcard mailer. The association needs to increase the number of email addresses from the current 115.
- Discussion then moved to residents wanting to see increased communications for resources after a severe storm or other emergency related event on the Village and OFEHA websites. The Village sent an email blast and posted information on its Facebook page with contact information for ComEd and branch collection. The Village also reached out to Red Cross, which was offering assistance, but the deadline was yesterday. There is no FEMA assistance available since a disaster was not declared. The Village has a list of approved tree removal service contractors. The Village removes downed trees in its right of way.
- Attendees were encouraged to inform Plaid of new residents on their block. Welcome baskets are provided to owners that live in a residence, not to renters. Let President Owens and the Village know about rentals. Air B&Bs are not allowed. Every new rental agreement requires an inspection.

- It was suggested that that emails be reformatted from newsletter style and/or articles are emailed one at a time to increase communication frequency and keep people engaged. Washington suggested using the free or paid version of the design tool Canva. Canva contains many design template options.

Membership Committee Report

Committee Chair Monica Plaid reported as follows:

- Cookout / Community Event
 - Save the date: Saturday, August 29, 2026. Families are encouraged to attend. Email announcements will be sent by the Communications Committee.
 - Requested volunteers for games and food preparation — see Plaid.
 - The next picnic planning meeting is scheduled for July 29, 2026, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.
 - Tom McNeal will contact Larry Mullins regarding providing DJ services
- Oliver provided an update on the Village-wide centennial celebration and the Village new resident event at Ventrindi (May 30). Five – six new residents attended.

Village Liaison

Liaison Arthur Byrd had nothing new to report.

Old Business/Tabled Topics

- Dedication plaque for past OFEHA President Pat Collier.
- A series of calendar events and an event logo for the Village's centennial celebration are under development

General Discussion

- National Night Out is August 4, 2026, at Bicentennial Park.
- The Halo Officer is available for OFEHA meetings.
- The Village Chip discount program is ongoing with three businesses currently participating: Batters and Berries, Fisherman's Island, and Lawrence's Fish and Shrimp. The discount chips are available at Village Hall. Scan the QR code for a list of current vendors and other information.

New Business

There was no new business.

Adjournment

Thomas McNeal moved to adjourn the meeting, Steven Jackson seconded, and the motion was unanimously carried. The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 AM.

Next Meeting Date

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 8, 2026, at 9:00 AM at the Olympia Fields Conference Center.