
January

PRAIRIE WOODS

2024

HOA Quarterly Newsletter

President's Message

Deena Krieger

A new year always brings hope for fresh starts, new experiences and wishes for a year filled with health, prosperity, and happiness. The Prairie Woods HOA Board wishes you all that and everything wonderful this year will bring.

As has occurred every winter prior in our community, we are fully prepared for winter weather, including snow, should it rear its ugly head. We would like to remind all residents that cars should not be in the snow removal areas in the community. Please do not park in front of your driveway so that our snowplows may remove the snow from the streets. Thank you!



In the coming months, you will receive notification about elections for the HOA. Please follow the instructions and read the documents received carefully. The elections for 2024 will be towards the end of April with the location TBD. We hope that you will all participate in our elections because if more get involved, our community will become that much better. There will be 3 positions up for election this year. If you are interested in volunteering your time with the board, please email the board at: board@prairiewoodshoa.com. Feel free to contact any board member for questions. If you're interested in running for the board, please email the board by February 15, 2024 so that your bio can be included in the April letter.

I am thrilled to say that over the course of the last couple years the HOA Board has cohesively worked together to accomplish many projects which include: Digital Transformation, pond assessment with recommendations, installation of new mailbox posts on the meadow side, repairs and staining of the fence along Dowell Road, and repairs and power washing of the masonry at the Dowell Road entrance.

The Association's governing documents allow for the use of proxies in connection with matters to be voted upon by the owners including, but not limited to, voting for candidates to serve on the Board of Directors. Any owner that elects to sign a proxy form legally grants the holder of such proxy form the right to vote on such owners' behalf.

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If you have unintentionally signed a proxy form or later changed your mind, you should prepare, sign and submit a written statement to the Board and the proxy holder indicating that you are revoking the previously signed proxy form. Alternatively, signing a later-dated proxy form and/or showing up at a meeting and casting a voting ballot in-person will automatically void any previously signed proxy form and the holder of such proxy form will not be entitled to vote on your behalf under such conditions.

If a proxy form is properly executed and the proxy holder uses their power under the proxy form to cast a vote on behalf of the owner that signed the proxy, there is no legal means to later retract the proxy or the vote cast by the proxy holder. Once a proxy holder casts a vote by means of a properly executed proxy form, the vote cast is final.

To follow best practices, you should not sign a proxy form unless you do not intend to participate in a meeting in-person. In the event that you initially sign a proxy form and later decide to sign a subsequent proxy form or attend a meeting in person, you should submit a signed and dated statement to the Board and the initial proxy holder indicating that the previously signed proxy form is revoked.

In connection with each annual election and other matters to be voted upon by the owners, the Association will prepare and distribute the Association's Official Proxy Form. The Board recommends that owners solely utilize the Official Proxy Form prepared and distributed by the Association and refrain from using self-created proxy forms or forms prepared by others. The Association's Official Proxy Form has been reviewed and approved by the Association's legal counsel and will withstand any legal challenges. Self-created forms have the potential of being incomplete or non-compliant with applicable laws which may result in the proxy form being determined to be null and void.

Whenever a proxy form is determined to be null and void, no vote can be cast using such proxy form and therefore an owner who intended to vote by proxy may not have the opportunity to vote. In the weeks leading up to annual elections, it is common for certain candidates to go door to door soliciting proxies from other owners in an effort to be elected to the Board. Please be mindful of this practice and ensure that you entirely understand what it is you are signing prior to signing anything. If you have any questions, the Board recommends pausing and not signing anything until the matter can be reviewed and addressed by the Board or the Association's legal counsel. Owners who sign proxy forms based on solicitation may unknowingly grant someone the power to vote for Board candidates the owner does not support.

Reminders:

A friendly reminder to keep your garbage cans within your garages or directly behind your home. Please keep our grounds tidy and pick up after your pets.

Absentee Ballot or Proxy Ballot – Pros and Cons

Any resident who is unable or unwilling to attend the annual election meeting still has the ability to vote by submitting an Absentee Ballot or a Proxy Ballot. Each option has advantages and disadvantages.

Voting by Absentee Ballot ensures that you are voting for the candidate(s) of **YOUR** choice. Absentee Ballots will be available on the HOA website prior to the election. **YOUR** voice will be heard.

You should exercise caution when allowing another resident to submit a Proxy Ballot. You are effectively surrendering your right to vote for the candidate(s) of your choice and are allowing someone else to vote for the candidate(s) of **THEIR** choice when signing a proxy ballot. **THEIR** voice will be heard.

HOA Board Members

President	Deena Krieger
Vice President	Sam Duggan
Treasurer	Scott Kochaney
Secretary	Rich Aguilar
Projects/At Large	Jason Geist

Upcoming HOA Meetings

February 13, 2024 @ 6:30 pm (Virtual)
ELECTION April 2024 TBD
May 14, 2024 @ 6:30 pm (Virtual)

Links will be posted on the HOA Website.
