
July

PRAIRIE WOODS

2025

HOA Quarterly Newsletter

President's Message

Rich Aguilar

The June 17th Board Meeting was originally scheduled to address two straightforward topics: the detention pond on Fen View Circle and plans for the PWHOA Annual Picnic. We anticipated a brief, uneventful discussion. Wow—were we wrong!

Let's begin with the pond. Before diving into the details, I want to make one thing absolutely clear to all HOA members: at no point did any Board member intend to prohibit fishing at the pond.

Many residents have enjoyed moments of peace and connection at the pond over the years. Whether fishing, walking, or simply enjoying the view, this shared space holds fond memories for many. It's one of the things that makes our community feel like home.

You may or may not be aware that a few residents have recreationally fished in that pond for years. I, myself, have fished there with my grandchildren. It was never an issue until a resident made an innocent inquiry to the Board asking whether an area of the pond could be mowed to make the pond available for fishing through the Fall season.

While the request was simple, it prompted a deeper look at our covenants and potential implications. The pond, while familiar and scenic, is technically a drainage basin, not a recreational feature. It includes an easement area for essential maintenance—primarily to address invasive species and safety hazards—but not for public access or landscaping beyond that scope.

While we were already of the opinion that the Board could not accommodate this request, as part of our due diligence, the Board first consulted our legal counsel and then our insurance provider. The guidance we received from both was clear: fishing should not be permitted at the pond due to liability concerns. Further, we were advised to post signage indicating that fishing is prohibited.

This recommendation was not the answer we had sought or had hoped for. It came as a surprise as we had only inquired about our ability to remove vegetation to make the pond more accessible.

The guidance we received placed us in the difficult position of weighing long-standing traditions against legal and financial responsibilities. As HOA President, I want to acknowledge that the



'resident me" understands the frustration this causes, while the "Board leader me" must act in the best interest of the community as a whole. I was obliged to make the Board aware of the professionals' recommendations. The Board believed it would be irresponsible to ignore the recommendations from our attorney and insurance agent. The No Fishing signage was approved.

I can assure you that if our intention from the start was to prohibit fishing we would have presented information to the community with residents having an opportunity to vote on the issue just as we did with the short-term rental proposal.

I hope this explanation provides the context needed to better understand the Board's actions. If nothing else, it may serve as a reminder that small requests can sometimes carry large consequences—and that transparency, even when the message is tough, matters deeply.

With all that being said, we want you to know—we've heard you. Following the feedback from our community, a Special Board Meeting was held on July 2nd, during which the Board voted to rescind the "No Fishing" signage at the detention pond. That said, we do want to emphasize that anyone choosing to fish does so at their own risk. The PWHOA Board does not encourage fishing in the pond and cannot be held liable for any injuries that may occur. We appreciate your engagement and look forward to continuing open, respectful conversations that keep our neighborhood thriving.

PWHOA Annual Picnic

Mark your calendars! The Board has scheduled our annual Prairie Woods Picnic for **Saturday, September 6th**, with **Saturday, September 13th** set as a backup date in case of inclement weather.

Currently, we're still in need of a chairperson to help plan and organize the event. If you have a flair for community fun and would like to lead the picnic committee, we'd love to hear from you! Please reach out to treasurer@prairiewoodshoa.com or vicepresident@prairiewoodshoa.com to express your interest. Let's make this year's picnic a celebration to remember!

Friendly Reminder

Your Board certainly appreciates the care and passion our neighbors show for our shared spaces. However, some of the comments shared on social media are disheartening. While it's natural to have differing opinions on Board decisions, we hope everyone will remember that those serving on the Board are also your neighbors—volunteers doing their best to support our community. Please treat us as such. Respectful dialogue helps us all move forward together. This Board remains committed to making decisions with the wellbeing of the entire neighborhood in mind.

HOA Board Members

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

Upcoming HOA Meetings

August 12, 2025 @ 6:30 pm
Location or Google Meet link will be posted on the HOA website and Facebook page
www.prairiewoodshoa.com