

Board of Directors:

President: Danny Murphy
Vice President: Andrea Lindemann
Treasurer: Shane Abell
Secretary: Christy Allen
North Side Rep: Natalie McIntyre
South Side Rep: Brian Snyder
At-Large Rep: Jill Doczi
At-Large Rep: Kristie Weaver



Ocean Park Civic League

P.O. Box 55385

Virginia Beach VA 23471

www.opcl.org

**Ocean Park Civic League
General Membership Meeting Minutes**

August 6, 2026

7:00pm

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Special Guest: Joshua Goyet, Virginia Beach Fire Department (VBFD)

Joshua Goyet joined us to discuss fire safety in the Ocean Park neighborhood and review the response to the June 17 fire in Aeries on the Bay. He emphasized the Fire Department's commitment to providing residents with fire-safety information.

Goyet showed a video illustrating the response to the June 17 fire.

VBFD's goal is to have the first unit on scene within 6 minutes, 20 seconds. The 90th-percentile response time is 7 minutes, 46 seconds. For the June 17 incident, the first unit arrived in 5 minutes, 36 seconds, and water was on the fire within 3 minutes, 14 seconds of the truck's arrival.

There was no problem with the fire hydrant during this incident.

The department's goal for an effective response force - the necessary personnel and crews on scene to prevent the fire from spreading - is 10 minutes. For this fire, the effective response force was in place in approximately 9 minutes, 33 seconds, ahead of the department's goal.

The fire was under control in approximately 1 hour and 7 minutes. The first 911 caller reported that two units were already on fire. Investigators determined that the fire originated outside, although the specific cause was not determined.

Goyet discussed several factors related to fire response and prevention:

- Mulch: Mulch can ignite and burn quickly, particularly when located close to vinyl siding. A rock bed for the first several feet adjacent to a building, followed by mulch farther away, is a safer landscaping option.
- Water supply: Fire trucks carry approximately 500 gallons of water.
- Emergency vehicle positioning: An ambulance did get in the way during the June 17 response. Firefighters do not put hoses on the ground until the necessary trucks are in position because emergency vehicles cannot drive over the hoses.
- Response procedures: Firefighters are accustomed to working in chaotic situations. Crews predetermine their responsibilities and tasks based on their order of arrival.

Questions and Discussion

Residents commended VBFD for its response time.

There was discussion regarding the neighborhood's narrow roads and the difficulty emergency vehicles can encounter when cars are parked close to intersections.

The Fire Department has requested that No Parking signs be moved farther from street corners.

The Police Department has also been made aware of the issue, and additional patrol attention has been requested. An upcoming traffic study will examine the situation.

Fire hydrants are on a three-year inspection rotation at minimum, with Utilities conducting water-flow checks more frequently.

General Fire Safety:

Residents were reminded of several common fire hazards:

- Properly extinguish and dispose of smoking materials.
- Make certain grills and fire pits are completely extinguished and embers are out.
- Use caution with lithium-ion batteries. Avoid generic or questionable batteries and chargers, and do not leave batteries continuously charging.
- Smoke alarms have an approximately 10-year lifespan. The Fire Department can assist residents with replacing smoke alarms.

Danny Murphy introduced School Board Candidate Suzanne Behrman, who attended the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

There was no quorum, so no formal vote was taken on the previous meeting minutes.

Treasurer's Report

The Civic League continues to be in good financial standing. (see Treasurer's Report)

It was noted that Brock is charging OPCL for use of the facility this year.

Spring Fling, Fall Fest, and the fireworks event were identified as excellent opportunities to recruit new OPCL members. The new Membership Committee will assist with membership outreach and recruitment.

Marlin Bay Update

An update was provided on the Marlin Bay project. The Virginia Beach City Council voted 10-1 in favor of the project, allowing it to move forward.

OPCL will continue to work with those involved and share updates with the neighborhood as information becomes available. The project is expected to be several years from completion.

Boat Ramp Update

The boat ramp text-notification system is working. It is still too soon to determine whether the full text notifications are discouraging boaters from driving through the neighborhood when the ramp is full.

It was noted that Owl Creek is experiencing similar issues.

Sandra Dawe asked whether neighborhood updates could also be shared through the text system.

There was discussion about recognizing or thanking boat ramp employees. Because the City has a policy regarding employees accepting gifts, OPCL may not be able to provide gifts as an

organization. Individual residents may choose to express their appreciation independently, subject to applicable City policy.

Membership Committee

OPCL will host a Fall Potluck and School Supply Drive.

Date: Thursday, August 20, 2026

Time: 5:30-8:00 p.m.

Location: Ocean Park Volunteer Rescue Squad picnic area

Government Affairs

Danny reviewed upcoming meetings and several neighborhood and City projects.

Government Affairs

A meeting regarding the proposed kayak launch was held. Danny has invited representatives to speak at a future OPCL meeting. The project will include a public-engagement process, followed by presentation of a final design. Completion is currently anticipated in 2028.

Sidewalks: Sidewalk installation continues in the area.

Shore Drive Power Lines: Work involving power lines along Shore Drive is expected to begin in September 2026.

Western Bayfront Parking Study: The City is currently determining the scope of the Western Bayfront parking study.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Coastal Storm Risk Management Study

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study is examining long-term solutions to address storm-surge flooding, sea-level rise, waves, and coastal erosion over a 50-year period.

Among the alternatives being evaluated is a Lynnhaven Inlet surge barrier/storm-surge gate system located north of the Lesner Bridge.

2026 Elections

Members discussed how OPCL should introduce and engage with candidates during the 2026 election season.

Discussion included whether candidate appearances should take place during a regular OPCL meeting or through a separate format.

Suggestions included:

- Soliciting written questions from residents and asking each candidate to answer the same questions.
- Hosting a candidate meet-and-greet to give residents an opportunity to speak with candidates directly.

No final format was determined.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.