

Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission Meeting Minutes

September 12 | 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm (Virtual)

Secretary: Rebecca Hirsch

Meeting called to order: 6:34 pm

Present: Jon Gromek, Jason Frederick, Melissa Garrett, Rebecca Hirsch, Dawn Ellis, Stacy Loejos, Tracy Greenberg, Camille Bragg, Mary Brown, Marla Samko
Absent: Lise Stevens, Aidan Lawrence

Approving March minutes as amended

Motion: Jon Gromek, Second: Marla Samko

Approving April minutes

Motion: Mary Brown, Second: Stacy Loejos

Minutes Corrections:

- March: amendments made

Old Business:

- *Community Updates:*
 - New ward 2 councilperson starting on Monday. Jason Shachner resigned; Brian Evans will be sworn in on 9/16/2024.
 - Rebecca (Becky) Hirsch will be resigning from LCRAC as a member and as secretary at the end of the month (September 2024) as she will be moving out of Lakewood.
- *Task Force:*
 - Tracy wants to continue the conversation of ADA accessibility/transition plan in Lakewood. Desire to push for the recommendation of an accessibility commission.
 - No task force updates from Melissa.
- *Review of Mission:* reviewed

Diversity Potluck Debrief:

- For next year, focus more on making the community aware and promoting the event. Starting a bit earlier.
- Good amount of food and turn out from the community. Plenty of food.
- Consider a different location, potentially the women's pavilion. Cove is a nice facility, but doesn't have as much parking.
- Wipe away recipe signs were a huge hit.
- Thank you to all who organized and helped arrange the event.

Community Survey:

- Goal is to get the results of this survey in front of the city officials by the end of the year.
- Mary is skilled at creating slideshows and has the ability to create a presentation of the results.

Welcome to Lakewood:

- Planning
 - Jon volunteered to lead planning for event.
 - City coordinates the setup of the event and LCRAC takes care of refreshments, coffee, snacks, pizza, etc.
 - Discussion on the name of the event. “Welcome to Lakewood” sounds like it is only for newcomers to Lakewood. We may need to target promotion to make it clear that everyone is welcome to this event no matter how long they have lived in Lakewood.
 - “Get to know Lakewood”
- Date
 - The 12th of November is set as the potential date for the event.
 - Garfield’s gym as potential location

Announcements:

- Jason attended ward 4 meeting. Heard discussion on topics: new initiatives like public art projects, community bike paths, emergency response sirens.
- Marla: Division of aging is planning a 2nd annual photo scavenger hunt in Lakewood. Will take place in October.
- Stacy: At the end of the year, Stacy will end her time as a member on LCRAC.
- Kate from Healthy Lakewood Association invited LCRAC to annual meeting on September 18th, 7:00 pm at Cove Community Center.
- Mary: Tree planting in Lakewood, yard tree project. Effort to increase Lakewood’s tree canopy.
- Tracy: Cleveland is placing a bid to host the Special Olympics. Tracy is assisting with a letter of recommendation on why Northeast Ohio should host the Special Olympics. Inquiring if Lakewood could participate in writing a letter.

Motion to adjourn:

Motion: Marla Samko, Second: Tracy Greenberg

Adjourned: 7:47 pm

Next meeting date: October 10

- Add ADA Accessibility Taskforce/Commission to October agenda.