

## Mid-Lakewood Association

### Meeting Minutes

September 17, 2022

Held in-person at the Gibbons residence

#### Attending

- Chris Gibbons
- Cassie Vogel Kotter
- JoeDan Hite
- Ed Black
- Carol Cook

#### Regrets

- Eugene Rooks
- John Hunter
- Matt Teeuwen
- Tina Klismith

#### Items to address:

##### **1. Noise from CCU**

- Many neighbors are concerned about noise levels from CCU events. We discussed how CCU events are within the city ordinance noise limits and concerned residents will need to take their concerns directly to the university.
- We are willing to find the contact at CCU and assist in organizing a meeting between concerned citizens and CCU. At the moment, our stance is that we can't take much action when CCU is operating within in the laws but if enough citizens are concerned, in the future we may revisit it.
  - **Action items:** We need a volunteer to locate the contact information for CCU and identify citizens who might need this information. Request a meeting with CCU if concerned citizens are interested.

##### **2. Neighborhood Get Togethers Grant**

- There is a grant given by the city that can help fund neighborhood gatherings. This is given once a year for an amount up to \$500. <https://www.lakewood.org/City-News-Media-Contacts/Neighborhood-group-grants>
  - **Action items:** Ed has volunteered to apply for this grant for the Tree Lighting ceremony

##### **3. Tree Lighting Ceremony**

- We have put down a deposit for a company (name?) to hang/remove/store lights. This is a cost of approximately \$650
- We pay for an electrical box in Meadowlark Park throughout the year. Perhaps the city can pay for this?
  - **Action items:** We need a volunteer to contact the city or the parks department and ask if they might be willing to take over the payments of this electrical box since it is only used for community/park electricity.
- Santa.
  - **Action items:** On Nov 2 we should discuss if we're doing Santa, if Eugene will be Santa or if we can find another community member to be Santa.
- Hot Chocolate and cookies
  - **Action items:**
    - Carol will provide hot chocolate and cookies. Cassie will provide allergy-friendly cookies. Eugene offered to help with hot chocolate.
    - Folding tables will be needed as well as disposable cups/plates/napkins we need to specify who will bring these at Nov 2 meeting
    - JoeDan might be able to provide a propane heater/light
- Music: Mallory Connors who is a musician and music teacher at the United Church of Christ (not affiliated with the church but uses the space like we did for the annual meeting) has volunteered to perform a piece (possibly with some of her students, not sure on details yet) and will also lead the community in a few holiday carols (non-religious winter variety). While she plays many instruments, she felt guitar might be easiest in case it snows.
  - **Action items:**
    - JoeDan, do you think you can provide a microphone(s) and speakers? Will our one little outlet be enough to support that and the tree lights?
    - As the time gets nearer, we may need to print song handouts for the community.
- Can food drive: We discussed collecting cans at this event to donate to the Jeffco Action Center. We mentioned providing "prizes" for a certain amount of cans but didn't specify the details yet. Things discussed were: glow bracelets for every x amount of cans donated, perhaps a prize (tickets to Camp Christmas or the Nutcracker) for the most cans donated.
  - **Action items:**
    - Cassie will reach out to Camp Christmas and the Nutcracker to see if tickets are a possible prize.
    - At the Nov 2 meeting, we will need to specify the # of cans required for a bracelet (I am thinking 3 cans – 1 bracelet). We will need a volunteer to purchase the bracelets.
    - We need a volunteer to collect the cans and deliver them to the Action Center.
- Raffle: To encourage participation at the event we mentioned maybe holding a raffle for Camp Christmas tickets or the Nutcracker. Or, perhaps every can of food donated could be a raffle ticket?

- **Action items:** Cassie is reaching out for tickets (see above). IF we get tickets, we'll need a volunteer to print and oversee raffle entries.
- Kids crafts/activities: It was mentioned that it might be fun to have some kids crafts/activities. I had an idea for a very cheap craft that is easily packaged in bags if it's too cold to do the craft there. The craft is using pipe-cleaners to make a snowflake shape and then decorating the shape with beads to make a snowflake ornament. Maybe we could even have people hang them on the tree (or not as someone would have to clean it up after Christmas).
  - **Action items:** IF everyone approves of this idea, Cassie will purchase supplies and assemble the kits.

#### 4. Neighborhood Watch

- We on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave would like to set up a neighborhood watch. As we go through the process, we can obtain the resources and information to help others in the area set up a watch on their block. I have attached several documents provided by Tracey at the Lakewood Police department on this issue.
  - **Action items:** Get the neighborhood on board!
    - Attached is a flyer from NNW of why we should join neighborhood watch. We need a volunteer to print and pass this out to residents in the area. **Maybe this can be done in conjunction with the newsletter.** I can edit it if we want to add our specific contact information, etc...
    - Attached is a contact sheet where neighbors can add their contact information.
    - After obtaining contact information, we add it to a map and then send it out to all the residents who agreed to participate.
    - Finally, we set up a meeting with ourselves and the police department to discuss strategies for reducing crime.

#### 5. Speed bump on 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave

- **Action items:** JoeDan is going to look into the city process for obtaining a speed bump. It will likely require obtaining resident signatures and perhaps even a monetary investment by the residents. I'm not sure this is a cost the MLCA would cover since it only benefits a small number of the area residents.

#### 6. Newsletter will be going in a couple weeks.

- Chris will be writing the newsletter
  - Will try to encourage residents to become members! Perhaps include a blurb about anonymously sponsoring membership for other residents who are struggling financially.
  - It would be nice to add a blurb about the Buy Nothing Group in the newsletter. It's an amazing hyper-local group on Facebook (and I think there's an app too) that provides a platform to give and receive gifts, either physical or a gift of service (help mowing lawn, shoveling snow, and so much more). Everything is 100% FREE. It's an incredible way to build community and get to know your neighbors while giving away items you

don't need or receiving things you do need. I've attached a QR code to the email that people can scan to join.

- JoeDan offered to help distribute. Tina? has a list of the other volunteers that distribute the letters.

7. Other grants available to our organization? We briefly discussed looking into other grants that we might be able to apply for.

**The following items were not discussed at the meeting but have been brought up in previous emails and are things to keep on the back burner.**

8. Monthly gatherings in the park

9. Other fundraising ideas

10. I'd like to start a local seed bank. Initially I was going to do this on my own in my front yard but am wondering if it could be expanded as a local effort. It's essentially a "little library" of seeds. Often times people buy a pack of seeds and only use a few and can put the rest in this seed bank. Or, at the end of the growing season, many people harvest seeds from their gardens and can include these too. Just an idea for spring. I'd love to also discuss a community garden at some point.

11. We owe money to Dennis for a broken truck window from transporting items for the annual picnic. It sounds like Carol has been working on this?

12. Harvest Festival at CCU. Maybe a mention of this in the newsletter:

<https://25livepub.collegenet.com/calendars/calendar-my-ccu?eventid=652288298>