

Mid-Lakewood Civic Association

Meeting Minutes for Open Board Meeting, April 24, 2025

Meeting held at Lakewood United Church of Christ, 7:00pm

Board Members In Attendance:

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| 1. Ed Black | 6. Becky Rinehart |
| 2. Chris Gibbons, President | 7. Bobby Rinehart, Secretary |
| 3. Joedan Hite | 8. Cassie Vogel Kotter, Vice President |
| 4. John Hunter, Civic Committee Chair | 9. Jasmine West |
| 5. Geneva Locke, Treasurer | |

Meeting called to order by Chris Gibbons at 7:10pm. Agenda distributed. In addition to Board Members noted above, 15 neighbors were in attendance.

MLCA Financial Review & 2024 Report

- Treasurer Geneva Locke reported that Budget to Actuals were very accurate in 2024.
 - Additional revenue was acquired through applying for a second City of Lakewood grant.
 - Garage sale sponsorship greatly appreciated.
 - Summer picnic came in on budget; picnic budget for 2025 was increased to cover additional events and food.
 - Tree lighting was slightly over overbudget; President Chris Gibbons was able to negotiate a lower price
 - Net gain of \$550 for 2024; 2024 ending cash on hand of \$1,508
- See attached Financial Report

Summer Events Planning

- Summer Garage Sale planned for June 6th-8th
 - Bike Ride, Saturday June 7, starting from Meadowlark park at 9am
 - Route of bike ride likely to follow garage sale map
 - Board to coordinate with Saturday morning Garage sale participants to hand out Spokey Dokey's if they are willing
 - Suggestion by meeting attendee to discuss sponsorship with carpet cleaning business at 1st and Flower
 - Karin Kallander to make map again
 - Board to find all the garage sale signs and coordinate getting them put up; Bobby offered to store for next year
- Coffee with a Cop, June 28th, 9:30am
 - Meadowlark Park, back-up plan is Cottage Park if construction is active at Meadowlark
- Summer Food Trucks, 2nd Tuesday of June, July, August
 - Cassie has one lead (Hot dog, Hamburgers, Slushies)
 - Need more leads

- Need to collect sales data this summer to use for marketing purposes next year
 - Is permitting something we need to look into?
- Annual Picnic
 - August 24, 2025
 - Will need to keep an eye on Meadowlark Park construction
 - Volunteer sign-up sheet available at the meeting
 - Could promote local artists to bring and display their art
 - Any thought of bringing back live music?
 - Budget issues
 - Could look into sponsorships
 - Could recruit musicians in the neighborhood – put out a call
 - Reminder that part of the reason to close the road is for senior/handicap parking
 - Need to pass out fliers to neighbors on that street so they know it will be closed
 - Lots of advertising/promo/etc. to be done by the board this year
- New Event: Halloween Block Party
 - Block party on W 2nd

Board Organization

- VP to take over newsletter coordination
- Treasurer to take over tracking membership

Balsam Pond Project

- Potential new project being pursued by South of 6th with support by MLCA
- Native planting and xeriscaping to eliminate the invasive species that are currently thriving, and to encourage native insect/pollinator habitat
- Land is deeded to the City with the condition that no substantial development would occur
 - No playground
 - Planting and additional seating allowed
- South of 6th Will be applying for a neighborhood grant, need to collect neighborhood input as part of that process
 - Pre-app deadline is May 1, Application deadline is June 1
 - info@southof6th.org
 - www.southof6th.org
- Potentially consulting with Butterfly Pavilion on design
 - Got quote for \$900 for the design
 - Suggestion to consult with Denver Master Gardeners as well
- City is supportive and can help get the project started/plants established but not willing to inherit long term maintenance
 - Would need to be volunteer supported
- Have had conversations with Denver Urban Gardens
 - Issue is access to water supply

- Question as to who has the water right for the water in the pond
 - Might need to consider/determine if the design includes using any of that water
- Interest expressed in incorporating a labyrinth
- Suggestion to connect with Wild Ones

Civic Committee Report [15 min]

- Had first Civic Committee meeting on Thursday April 3
 - Several attendees of that meeting also in attendance at the Open Board Meeting
 - Floor given over to those individuals
 - Discussed development at Belmar Park
 - Attention called to the website www.savebelmarpark.com
 - Discussion of the citizen lead initiative to put discernment back into the “fee in lieu” process
 - Lawsuit against City of Lakewood by developer is still underway
 - Glenda Sinks, Ward 1 City Counselor, present at the meeting and acknowledged that the situation is a very complicated and difficult
 - Urged citizens to keep to the issue and not vilify any individual or side
 - Acknowledgement that there are multiple valid sides to the issue; discussion about the housing shortage and the need for affordable housing
 - Attention called to the Planning Commission Meeting on May 7 related to this issue
- Ward 1 meeting on Saturday, April 12

Open Forum [15 min]

- Got over 100 signatures on the petition to get the therapeutic pool at Whitloc Rec Center reopened
 - City does have a need for lifeguards
- City of Lakewood is revisiting the Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinances
 - Concern that language limiting College/University use is being modified/removed
 - Concerns expressed about encroachment by the college, damages the neighborhood dynamic and quality of life
 - Submit comments on LakewoodSpeaks.org
 - Per Glenda Sinks, voting won’t be happening until July time frame
- Concerns expressed about the gap in the sound wall at Carr – sound seems to be worse than before as it is funneled through this gap
- Concerns about speeding and running stop signs on the stretch of Carr between 1st and 6th Ave
 - Recommendation is to keep reporting this via the non-emergency line

- Concerns about the inefficacy of the Request Lakewood service website
 - Recommendation to email Glenda Sinks directly about this issue
- Concerns about the ongoing Google Fiber construction
 - Quality of work, invasiveness