

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:

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

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