

APPROVED BY
Erin MacDonald



Lakewood Animal Safety & Welfare Advisory Board
January 15th, 2025 Meeting
Location: East Conference Room

Present: Board Members: Erin MacDonald, Emily Christescu, Scott MacDonald, Emily Petro, Juleen Russell, Nancy Binder, Kate Coghlan, ACO Gary Crumley

Not present: Nancy McDonnell, Phyllis Dykes, Councilperson Marx

Lakewood Animal Safety and Welfare Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes Wednesday January 15, 2025

- I. Welcome and roll call conducted by Board chair MacDonald. 7 voting members present.
- II. Officer Elections
 - a. Chair - Nancy Binder nominates Erin MacDonald for the chair position; Emily Petro seconds the nomination. Mrs. MacDonald accepts the nomination. Motion passes.
 - b. Secretary - Erin MacDonald nominates Emily Christescu for the secretary position; Scott MacDonald seconds the nomination. Ms. Christescu accepts the nomination. Motion passes.
- III. Approval of November Meeting Minutes - Board
 - a. Unanimous verbal vote in favor of motion to waive formal reading of the minutes. No discussion on minutes as presented. Motion passes to approve the minutes.
- IV. Lakewood Animal Control Update
 - a. ACO Crumley provides a printed report. He reports impounding a lot of dogs recently. At this time, they have 2 dogs available for adoption (Cheese and Noel pit mixes) and 1 recently impounded cat that should be available for adoption Friday. He explains that the new shelter will have its interior painted this week and that the roof was just installed. He reports no new update on the shelter's opening timeline. He tells the board that ACO Kirsten Mazor will be leaving her position. She will work part time with Animal Control until a full-time officer is hired.
 - b. ACO Crumley discusses his 2024 goals and accomplishments for the shelter and animal control: TNR was temporarily approved, the shelter was fully staffed, began adopting out dogs, started a Facebook page to promote adoptable animals and share information, received permission from the Veterinary Board/ Pharmacy Board/ Board of Health to allow administration of rabies vaccines,

began offering microchipping service, raised the impound/daily fees, started selling dog licenses, helped improve relationship between the shelter, LASWAB and CCLAS, involved in new shelter build, ensured employees received ACO 1 and ACO 2 trainings and received certifications in euthanasia, updated ACO uniforms, and opened the shelter hours 7 days a week.

- c. He is looking towards goals and accomplishments for 2025: moving into the new shelter, obtaining a new animal control officer vehicle towards the end of February, hiring another full time ACO, requesting chemical immobilization training, monitoring Davis Court, working on shelter policies, and thinking of new training opportunities for animal control officers.
- d. Board Member Russell asks what the board can do to support the shelter and ACO Crumley's goals. Board Member MacDonald asks how the board can support the chemical immobilization equipment and training process and if we should recommend Lakewood invest in this process and equipment.

V. CCLAS Update

- a. CCLAS VP Christescu asks the LASWAB about the status of the 505 legislation recommendations in the Public Safety Committee; Board Chair MacDonald explains that the law department requested a word version of the document and Board Chair sent it to her.
- b. Ms. Christescu explains that CCLAS President Kara Lasher is stepping down from her President position on the CCLAS board. Board Chair MacDonald asks who the liaison for CCLAS and the shelter will be, and Ms. Christescu explains that she will assist as the Vice President and that LASWAB member Dykes is also involved as the CCLAS Secretary and will keep the group updated as needed. Ms. Christescu explains the current protocol for pre-authorization and the costs for medical care and emergency care arrangement with the shelter and CCLAS and she will help be that contact along with CCLAS Treasurer Sue Speer.
- c. Ms. Christescu says CCLAS recently discussed their 2025 priorities and strategic plan compared to their 2024 priorities and strategic plan. She mentions fundraising and that they won't hold the Be My Valentine event (which earned about two thousand dollars last year) but plan to place raffle baskets at Lakewood Animal Hospital and Tremont Animal Clinic in March. LASWAB members offer other ideas for fundraisers such as rounding up your bill at retailers to benefit CCLAS, pet photos with Santa or other holiday themes, and they discuss plastic donation boxes for change at local retailers. ACO Crumley asks how the fundraising aids the shelter. Board Member Russell asks about the CCLAS budget for 2025 and how that assists the shelter. Ms. Christescu provides some numbers from 2024 that will be drastically different from previous years and 2025 because of the 25k ARPA funds used for wellness clinics. She mentions that the shelter receives foster supplies, grooming, and medical assistance above basic care when animals need amputations, enucleations, tooth extractions, etc. which can be very expensive. Board Member Coghlan mentions that the CCLAS mission and vision have changed in recent years to broaden the way they help animals and their owners in Lakewood and not just the shelter animals. She mentions previous incidents at the shelter like a pan leukemia outbreak that cost CCLAS nearly 10k and the beagle hoarding situation. She explains these events were unusual and costly but were within the scope of CCLAS' commitment to assisting the animal shelter. She explains that

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during her past tenure as CCLAS President, the billing agreement between CCLAS and the shelter was vastly different than it is today, where now the animal shelter has an updated budget and covers initial costs themselves and CCLAS assists as needed.

VI. Committees & Initiatives

- a. Wildlife
- b. Ordinances/Admin
- c. Community Events
 - i. LCSC Drives - the board will plan dates for future events at another meeting.
- d. Spay/Neuter
 - i. PetFix - Board Member Binder reports the city has enough for 1 van of cats but does not have a date set at this time. She asks to be updated on the CCLAS funding for spay/neuter so she can coordinate and not overlap events.

VII. Communications – Social Media Posts / Articles

VIII. Public Comment

Motion is made to adjourn; motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 7:17 pm.