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APPROVED BY



Lakewood Animal Safety & Welfare Advisory Board
September 17th, 2025 Meeting
Location: East Conference Room

Present: Board Members: Nancy McDonnell, Emily Christescu, Nancy Binder, Phyllis Dykes, Julia Garleb, Juleen Russell, ACO Gary Crumley, Councilperson Marx

Not present: Emily Petro, Stacey Zigman, Kate Coghlan

Lakewood Animal Safety and Welfare Advisory Board Meeting
Minutes Wednesday September 17th, 2025

- I. Welcome and roll call conducted by Board Chair Binder. 6 voting members present.
- II. Approval of July Meeting Minutes - Board
 - a. Unanimous verbal vote in favor of motion to waive formal reading of the minutes. No discussion on minutes as presented. Board Member Dykes asks to clarify a section in the July minutes regarding her resignation from CCLAS. Motion passes to approve the minutes with that edit.
- III. Board Appointments
 - a. Julia Garleb, appointed by Councilperson Hamilton Steiner, is introduced. Board Member McDonnell announces that she will not seek reappointment. Board Chair Binder explains that Board Member Coghlan will not seek reappointment. Board Members Emily Petro and Juleen Russell will seek reappointment.
- IV. Lakewood Animal Control Update - Supervisor Gary Crumley
 - a. ACO Crumley distributes a printed report. Animal Control does not have a move-in date for the new shelter; the original move-in date was August 20th. The city is planning an open house once the building is ready. ACO Crumley reports many calls about wasps and explains that if the nest is on the treelawn, the city's forestry department will take care of it. Raccoon numbers are high. There are 39 cats total and 9 in foster care. There are 2 nursing moms with kittens. The quarantine room is full. The board discusses the new shelter design which has less cages than the old shelter, but it is noted that the new cages are a larger size. ACO Crawford notes that some of the cages can be divided. A new full time officer (Jennifer Bartowski) starts on Monday the 22nd; she has vet tech and animal control experience and previously worked with the Humane Society.
- V. Committees & Initiatives
 - a. Wildlife -
 - b. Ordinances/Admin - Board Member Nancy McDonnell will create a post about fostering/adoption because the shelter is full.
 - c. Community Events - Board Member Russell - Lakewood Community Services Center Pet Food Drive - looking at Saturday November 15th from 10 am to 2 pm;

she will confirm with the city and the Community Center about the date and confirm using City Park. Board Member Russell asks the board to consider advertising.

d. Spay/Neuter -

VI. TNR Ordinance Update and Discussion

- a. The Public Safety Committee held a meeting on September 15th and invited LASWAB to discuss the TNR legislation; Board Chair Binder attended. Board Chair Binder reports the committee was very pro TNR and would like LASWAB to come up with recommendations and proposals. They would like to vote on it after the October LASWAB meeting. ACO Crumley is concerned the committee version wants Animal Control to manage the trapping. Board Member Christescu says simple legislation would allow residents to do the work without paperwork or hoops to jump through but if the city is going to micromanage the work and require forms, registration and training, then the city funding and managing the work makes sense. She also mentions mass trapping events that could help target problem areas on a larger scale. Board Chair Binder explains that she understood the committee suggested the city would get the paperwork taken care of and then volunteers could trap. She asks how many traps Animal Control has and ACO Crumley mentions four in each truck and maybe 8 they loan. ACO Crumley asked the committee to consider his request for residents to pay for vet bills along with impound fees if he impounds an animal that needs medical care during its stay. ACO Crawford also asked to have a county dog license if not microchipped. Board Member Dykes asks if funding or payment is mentioned in the ordinance. Board Chair Binder considers spay/neuter costs. For example, Petfix spay/neuter costs \$31, plus flea treatment and vaccines for \$27 (rabies vaccine required by state law). With \$20k funding, 571 community cats could be helped. Board Chair Binder will speak to Councilperson Strebog about the October deadline and ask to work with the law department. The board discusses which version of the ordinance is the correct version to be studying. Board Member Christescu offers to form a subcommittee for TNR; members Garleb and Dykes agree to join. Board Member Christescu mentions the original LASWAB recommendation and will email that to the group, along with whichever version of the TNR ordinance is most recent.

VII. Public Comment

- a. Megan Galaida, Director of Community Cats for CCLAS, addresses the board. She explains that she attended the Public Safety Committee meeting and understood that the law department/Jennifer Swallow version was approved by the full committee with a motion and a vote. She continues and explains that the October LASWAB recommendations will go back to the committee, then go to the full board. She mentions today's discussion about space at the shelter. Ms. Galaida explains that Public Safety Chair Strebog said it would be a city run program with help of volunteers, but she didn't get into the weeds on that topic. Ms. Galaida mentions mass trapping and TNR groups like Riggi Rescue; the clinic they use includes overnighting for recovery, but transport is required to Canton. Mass trapping means more than 20 cats at one time but is the best way to trap to make the most impact (by targeting 3 streets together and finding all of

the feeders). Rascal Unit is a Clinic run by Dr. Gonzalez out of Columbus. She notes another resource: the Together Initiative for Community Cats - Community Cat Summit held every year, which shares best practices for TNR. She mentions any mass events that would need overnighting could use a community space like Cove Center or some place to hold the cats safely. She mentions the basic math, and asks the board to remember that some cats will have wounds and need antibiotics (consider a fund for additional medical care). She is concerned that PetFix is not making appointments or allowing walk-ins for community cats, and not taking appointments for owned female cats. She asks ACO Crumley about considering socioeconomic status for those that cannot pay fees when discussing the updated ordinance lines that require residents to pay for medical care, microchipping and registration for impounded pets. This could be an impediment to get their animal back. She mentions some shelters microchip every animal that gets vetted out, and the shelter could consider putting that fee into the adopted out animal. Councilperson Marx asks about who pays for the spay/neuter. Ms. Galaida mentions a model that was used in the past at the APL where they had grant funding - anyone that came to the APL with the correct zip code had the expense covered. Board Member Russell asks if a lone trapper could help and get reimbursement.

Motion is made to adjourn; motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 8:01 pm.