

## Lakewood Animal Safety Welfare Advisory Board

November 15, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Location: City Council Conference Room at Lakewood City Hall

*Present:* Board Members: Kara Vlach-Lasher, Melissa Limkemann, Derek Maxfield, Nancy Patterson, Erin Shaughnessy, Susan Speer, ACO Jack Crawford, Councilperson Cindy Marx  
Guests: Mayor Summers, Christy Paxton

*Not Present:* Board Members: Dana Textoris, Juleen Russell, Dr. Bo Rog

---

## Animal Safety & Welfare Advisory Board Meeting

### MINUTES

**Wednesday, November 15, 2017**

- I. Welcome & Roll Call – Board member Limkemann conducted.
- II. Approval of October 18, 2017 Meeting Minutes – A motion was made by Board member Vlach-Lasher to approve, seconded by Board member Maxfield, approved by affirmative vote.
- III. Discussion of Lakewood’s Dog Ordinances with Mayor Summers
  - Mayor Summers had three questions that he wanted clarity on:
    - a) What is the practical reality of enforcing responsible dog ownership? The city of Lakewood has thirty thousand housing units and not everyone is responsible. It would be difficult to enforce responsible dog ownership. What recommendations do we have to enforce?
    - b) Effective legislation is necessary – what specifically do we suggest as a Board?
    - c) Community engagement is a key factor in enforcing and educating residents on responsible dog ownership. How can we engage the community?
  - Discussion of recommendations for effective legislation led by Board member Vlach-Lasher, included conversation on responsible dog guardianship (defined), enforcement of existing regulations, dog classifications (danger levels), local jurisdictional recording of dangerous dogs statistics, and how we can use that data. Discussed implementing stricter fines and mandatory training on responsible dog ownership when violations are incurred in order to improve overall safety. Group Training Classes were suggested as a means of keeping costs low.
  - Mayor Summers asked if there could be the possibility of partnering with the Cleveland City Kennel in some way, once they move to their new location at Detroit and West 93<sup>rd</sup>.
- IV. Dog Bite Prevention Education and Outreach
  - Board member Vlach-Lasher presented a power point presentation on dog bite prevention, highlighting dog body language/signals, what human controllable factors mitigate dog bite risk, including whether the dog is spayed/neutered and whether the dog has been treated humanely, explaining the difference between a “resident” dog vs. a “family” dog.
  - Discussed instituting a “Lakewood Community Dog Bite Prevention Program” which would seek to educate children and adults through workshops and/or school programs.
  - Guest Speaker Christy Paxton, Dog Life Skills Instructor, gave a presentation on “What Creates a Safe Dog?” -- 1) Training, 2) Communication, 3) Increased understanding of our dogs (i.e. body language), 4) Socialization or “proper” exposure to the world.
  - Mayor Summers agreed that we need to create low-cost or no-cost training/education opportunities for the community. Board member Maxfield suggested that we apply for grants to

help fund the initiative. Mayor Summers suggested a short-term goal of providing several of these training sessions in 2018 for “whole” households and less than an hour in duration.

- Mayor Summers stated that he will take responsibility for working on this with Board member Limkemann and her Rescue Group’s 501(c)3 status for grant applications for public education and the possibly a dedicated webpage with the new Public Information Officer, Katie Nix, early in 2018. Mayor Summers would like us to provide content for the site.

V. Coyote Task Group

- Board member Vlach-Lasher reported that the committee (Vlach-Lasher, Maxfield, Shaughnessy, Speer) met on 11/9/17 to coordinate the distribution of community education posters and flyers by LASWAB Board members. Board member Shaughnessy volunteered to set up a google doc with drop-off locations for LASWAB board members to sign up for dropping off and posting the flyers and posters. Also discussed plans to coordinate a “Community Education Workshop” in Feb/March 2018. Board member Maxfield offered to contact the Library to find out availability for holding the workshop there.

VI. Spay/Neuter

- Board member Vlach-Lasher reported that 21 cats were signed up for the spay/neuter day partnership with PetFix on Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>. Board member Vlach-Lasher provided a brief training to event volunteers.

VII. ACO Off-Hours Stray Animal Holding

- Board member Limkemann reported that Nancy Thompson at MedVet has agreed to take in Lakewood dogs on off days until a Lakewood ACO can pick up. ACO Crawford agreed to talk to and work with Nancy Thompson on firming up the details.
- Board member Limkemann will prepare a final report and submit to Councilperson Marx for the City’s consideration of these recommendations and this new protocol.

VIII. Lakewood Animal Shelter Report

- ACO Crawford reported that all is well.

IX. Monthly Print Articles

- Appropriate Bird Feeders (Board member Maxfield) is now on the Lakewood website.
- Raising Chickens in Lakewood (Board member Maxfield) was sent to Melissa to post to the cities website.
- What to do when you find a stray dog (Board member Limkemann) – will finalize by end of week (11/18/17).
- Target OCT-Deer (Board member Textoris) – no update.
- Target Nov/Dec- Winter Pet Safety (Board member Limkemann) – ?

X. Board Roster and Expiring Terms on Dec 31, 2017 (Limkemann, Russell, Textoris, Rog, Vlach-Lasher)

- Board member Limkemann reported that she will not be seeking renewal for another term.
- Board member Vlach-Lasher reported that she reached out to Board members Russell, Textoris and Rog for an update on whether or not they would be renewing their terms.
  - Board member Russell will be seeking to renew her term.
  - Board members Textoris and Rog did not yet reply.
- Board member Vlach-Lasher has not yet decided but will update us at the December meeting.

XI. Public Comment (sign in – 5 min speaking opportunity): No members of public were present.

**NEXT MONTHLY MEETING WILL BE December 13, 2017 - 6pm (Room TBD)**