

**Lakewood Community Relations Advisory Commission Minutes**  
**September 17, 2019; 6:30 p.m., Lakewood City Hall, 12600 Detroit Avenue, Lakewood, Ohio**

**Members Present:** Robin Beavers, Rachel Donaldson (Vice-Chair), Melissa Garrett (Community Relations Specialist), Jon Gomek, Tracy Greenberg, Gary Rick, Lise Stevens, Walter Wright (Chair)

**Members Absent:** Tariq Atta, Gwendolyn Holden-Seckers, Stacy Loejos, Chitra Walker

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**NEW BUSINESS**

**LCRAC Membership:** New members Tracy G. and Lise S. introduced themselves to the Commission; new member Jon Gromek introduced himself later in the meeting (he was running behind and arrived post-introductions).

Melissa G. commented that City Council President O'Leary and Councilman O'Malley are reviewing applicants and have yet to make their appointments to LCRAC; members currently total 11 (of 13).

**Senior Transportation in Lakewood.** Alex Ehrett from McCaulley and Company was ceded the floor before discussion of other LCRAC business. On topic of acquiring new van for Lakewood senior transport, Alex is working with the Northeast Ohio Coordinating Agency ([NOACA](#)). Melissa G. commented that Lakewood City Council had authorized the request for the new van and that letter for Ohio RTA must be acquired allowing Lakewood to compete for ridership.

Lyft and Lakewood Senior Transportation are in the loop regarding expanding senior transportation hours (currently Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. for local destinations and medical appointments). In terms of serving residents with disabilities, a pilot program that serves 18 to 59-year-olds and expands destinations for movies, shopping, etc. is in the works.

Tracy G. commented that Lyft vehicles would have to be properly outfitted with lifts and experienced staff to meet the needs of people with disabilities (as all the Lakewood vans are). There is also an issue with Lyft promptly meeting turnaround times.

There was discussion of reviving the Lakewood Circulator, which was eliminated in 2009 by RTA to cover senior transportation needs on weekends.

Alex confirmed that currently, Senior Transportation has six vans and 14 drivers; however, due to aging of the vehicles, several are not in service at any given time.

**Discussion of Racial Equality Workshop.** Melissa G. reported that Mayor Summers is interested in hosting such an event; Walter W. and Rachel D. will meet with him and Melissa G. said she will follow-up with him this week to discuss.

**Discussion of Welcome to Lakewood event.** Date of October 23, 2019 and time of 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. confirmed, plus location of Garfield Middle School also confirmed. Attending businesses tables will be in same configuration as last year's event. Invitees will be drawn from the 500+ new homeowners on record in Lakewood in 2019.

The event will be posted on the LCRAC Facebook page; last year 60+ responded via FB although not all attended. Discussion of obtaining photos/video for FB and also to create a Power Point presentation to run during event ensued. City Hall may have archived photos/videos for use.

Walter volunteered to write an article promoting the event for the Lakewood Observer. An article in school newsletters and letters in kids backpacks also discussed for promotional reasons. The Lakewood PTA and H2O will also promote the event.

Lise S. brought up issue of event being in schools pre-supposing that new residents are comprised of 2 parents and children. Discussion ensued regarding if this inherently biases who attends and excludes renters/single people/couples who don't have children. Maybe new "neutral" venue should be considered for next year. A list of apartment-building landlords may be sought so they might be contacted to promote the event and for permission to possibly drop postcard in mailboxes/building lobbies.

Tracy G. suggested that live music should be provided; members who have attended commented that acoustics in school make live music too loud and that easy-listening tunes are streamed instead.

Chitra and Rachel have the food vendors list; the Root Café will again provide coffee. Volunteers will be needed to pickup food/beverages on the day of event and transport to GMS. Lise S. volunteered to contact Chitra to help.

**Discussion of the Youth Advisory Council.** Lakewood students have been distributing flyers in classrooms and speaking in AP classes to recruit applicants for the YAC. Outreach to St. Joe's, Magnificat and St. Ed's is also being effected. The application date [deadline](#) is October 1<sup>st</sup>.

Applications are available online and at the Lakewood libraries and YMCA as well. The next meeting of YAC is September 18<sup>th</sup>; they will meet again on October 9<sup>th</sup> to review the applications and select potential candidates for the Council.

**Discussion of Next Lakewood Alive Community Forum.** The next event will launch at Harrison Elementary School at 7 p.m. on November 14, 2019 and will feature the topic "Transportation Solutions for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." Mayor O'Leary has been asked to moderate and is interested. **NOVEMBER LCRAC MEETING will also be held at Harrison on November 14 at 6 p.m. – half an hour early;** space will be requested for the 6 p.m. meeting. Due to shortened meeting time (until 7 p.m.), the agenda will be abbreviated. A notice regarding location/time change of meeting will be posted on the City website.

There was a brief discussion of some of the services that Lakewood Alive provides. Tracy G. commented that there is no assistance for people with disabilities who need to adapt their homes for access (ramps, chair lifts for stairs, etc.).

**Discussion of the [Healthy Lakewood Foundation](#).** Currently, \$38 million has been funded; goal is \$125 million.

**Discussion of [Meet the Candidates Night](#).** September 25, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m., at City Hall sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

Motion to Adjourn.