

APPROVED BY

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Lakewood Animal Safety & Welfare Advisory Board

February 18th, 2026 Meeting

Location: East Conference Room

Present: Board Members: Emily Christescu, Nancy Binder, Julia Garleb, Teresa Schleicher, Lise Stevens, Amanda McCready, Councilperson Angelina Hamilton Steiner; Juleen Russell via phone.

Not present: Phyllis Dykes, Stacey Zigman, ACO Gary Crumley.

Lakewood Animal Safety and Welfare Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes Wednesday February 18th, 2026

I. Welcome and roll call conducted by Board Chair Binder. 7 voting members present.

II. Approval of January 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.

III. Lakewood Animal Control Update

- a. ACO Crumley is not in attendance.

IV. Committees & Initiatives

- a. Community Events - LCSC Pet Food Drive: Guest Emmie Hutchinson from H2O
- b. Board Member Russell describes the Pet Food Drive and our work to support the Lakewood Community Services Center. Most events we raised a couple thousand pounds which only helps for a couple months. We host two events a year on a Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm at the Marc's Plaza. At this time 250 families receive pet food from LCSC. The number of families needing assistance continues to go up. LCSC will accept food all year round, but our Pet Food Drive helps promote the need. Ms. Hutchinson explains that the H2O students used to help the organization My Best Friend's Bowl and the LCSC by bagging the donated food into smaller portions. Board Member Russell notes that nowadays the LCSC staff does the food breakdown but we could certainly talk to LCSC about including the students if that is a good fit. She explains LASWAB has tried to work with other groups to help boost the donations and provide discounts on pet food during the drive (like Pet Supplies Plus). She explains that we'd like to boost awareness of the need while also gathering more pounds of pet food.
- c. Ms. Hutchinson has several ideas on how her group can be helpful. She explains that the high school program could have kids help on the day of the drive to move donations and promote the event in advance. She mentions an animal themed craft the students could make and sell at the event. She also mentions their

Penny War Fundraiser as a way to give some monetary value to raise some money and food over the summer.

- d. Chair Binder asks about student journalists; Ms. Hutchinson mentions the Lakewood Times and that they sometimes share events and writing with the Observer. The board mentions that LCSC services some cities outside of Lakewood and whether or not to branch outside of Lakewood. Board Member Russell mentions a past idea of donation boxes placed at various locations in town, but we haven't done that yet. We would like to host the spring drive in April or early May. Ms. Hutchinson asks about cash donations. Any cash gathered goes directly to LCSC. Board Member Russell mentions our flyers with the QR code for people to donate online. Board Member Christescu suggests having the students help distribute flyers or advertising by holding signs at the event. Ms. Hutchinson thinks they could have a tin can for donations to seek donations from pedestrians and shoppers around the perimeter of the event.
- e. Board Member Christescu asks if there is time for H2O to plan and be involved if we have an April/May time frame. Ms. Hutchinson notes that prom is May 2nd and there may be a conflict with a Keep Lakewood Beautiful event on April 25th; Board Member Russell will avoid those dates. Ms. Hutchinson mentions the Middle School summer camp sessions between June and August (192 total students). She may have availability for a guest speaker during the day time (around 1 pm). Board Member Christescu suggests Animal Control as a potential guest speaker and Board Chair Binder expresses interest in helping. Ms. Hutchinson asks if we ever collect testimonials. The board has not received any testimonials but thinks that is a nice idea. Ms. Hutchinson explains that the students help deliver LCSC food and sometimes pet food to residents at the Westerly. Board Member Russell will email Ms. Hutchinson to plan further.
- f. TNR Ordinance - The Public Safety Committee Meeting is scheduled March 9th at 6 pm to reintroduce the TNR Ordinance. Board Member Stevens mentions doing TNR in Brooklyn, NY and how educating the community helps. Board Member Christescu says the board or animal groups will be able to share resources and educate on TNR once the ordinance passes. Ms. Hutchinson mentions some residents write for The Land and may be a good resource for that sort of outreach. Board Member Christescu explains that DanaMarie Pannella, the animal welfare attorney that helped draft the legislation, looked at the most recent copy of the ordinance and was pleased with it. She also noted that she helped with a TNR event at AlterClinic and fixed 200 cats for about \$12,000.
- g. A motion is made to approve this version latest of the TNR ordinance; motion seconded. Motion passes. Councilperson Hamilton Steiner explains this version will be officially recommended for approval by the Public Safety Committee and then referred favorably back to council. Council meets then meets on March 16th.

V. Communications

- a. Social Media Posts/Articles - Board Member Christescu will send the new members examples of old posts. Board Member Stevens mentions using a space at the library for public outreach.

Motion is made to adjourn; motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 7:07 pm.