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Lakewood Animal Safety & Welfare Advisory Board

May 20th, 2026 Meeting

Location: East Conference Room

Present: Board Members: Nancy Binder, Amanda McCready, Phyllis Dykes, Teresa Schleicher, Julia Garleb, Lise Stevens, ACO Gary Crumley

Not present: Juleen Russell, Emily Christescu, Stacey Zigman, Councilperson Angelina Hamilton Steiner

**Lakewood Animal Safety and Welfare Advisory Board Meeting
Minutes Wednesday May 20th, 2026**

- I. Welcome and roll call conducted by Board Chair Binder. 6 voting members present.
- II. Approval of April Meeting Minutes
 - a. Motion to approve minutes. Motion seconded. Motion passed to approve the minutes.
- III. Committees & Initiatives
 - a. LCSC Pet Food Drive – The drive succeeded in raising 1,960 lbs of food (1,070 dog + 890 cat) and \$587 in cash donations. Board Chair Binder relays that the H2O volunteers from the high school were helpful during the event.
 - b. Wildlife – Board Member McCready provided proposed social media content for review and discussion. Board Chair Binder asks ACO Crumley if the city can post the information once prepared. ACO Crumley specifies the proposed information would need to be approved through the mayor's office prior to posting. Board Chair Nancy suggests that posting timelines could be discussed to ensure the information is targeted at the most opportune times. Board Member McCready agrees and mentions the timing for the proposed Backyard Bird Feeding post. Board Member McCready goes on to explain that a few million birds fly through the city during the spring and fall migrations with the main flight pattern being through the area. A lot of buildings participate in bird-safe glass, but there are still many who do not. Organization Lights Out works to reduce the number of collision-related deaths and rescues birds who have been impacted. Injured birds are taken to the Lake Erie Nature & Sciences Center for rehabilitation and release. Board agrees this information, as well as other educational posts, will be beneficial to the city. Board Member McCready will add graphics and text as necessary to the proposed social media content. Once completed, the information will be forwarded to ACO Crumley who will get approvals to add the posts to the city's social media. Board unanimously approves the proposed document, pending graphics.
- IV. Lakewood Animal Control Update
 - a. ACO Crumley distributes a spreadsheet with Animal Control/Shelter data and also provides the report that was generated from the newly launched animal control website.

He notes all dogs were adopted, one cat is in foster for socialization, and one cat is up for adoption. He also notes there is a mom and two kittens. The mom may be feral, but the shelter will keep working to help her acclimate. The two kittens are approximately 2-3 weeks old. The mom and two kittens were posted by animal control as being found, but they are not eligible for adoption yet. Board Member Stevens suggests if someone comes in to adopt a kitten, it could be recommended to consider adopting more than one to assist with socialization.

- b. Board Chair Binder asks ACO Crumley how many kittens get returned after being adopted. AOC Crumley does not recall any cats coming back in the past and noted it is also uncommon for dogs. He mentions Patches (previously adopted dog) did come back to the shelter once, but he has not come back since his most recent adoption.
- c. Board Chair Binder asks about the proportionally larger amount of opossum euthanasia in the documents. AOC Crumley specifies that if the mother is pregnant, the babies are also required to be euthanized, which increases the euthanasia numbers. When AOC Crumley gets calls from residents, he reminds the residents of ways to coexist with wildlife. Board Member McCready mentions the line for Humane Solutions to Wildlife Problems as one of the proposed social media posts. Board Chair Binder asks ACO Crumley if the links that Board Member McCready provided can be put on the shelter website. ACO Crumley says it will also need approval from the city. Board Member Stevens proposes additionally sending articles to the Lakewood Observer to further engage the public with information on animals.

V. Lakewood Animal Shelter Discussion

- a. Board Chair Binder asks about the visual layout of the new animal control website. Board Member McCready talks about accessibility for people with disabilities and mentions the colors may need to be improved. ACO Crumley acknowledges the concerns and says there will likely be changes. He is working with the mayor's office regarding the website and trying to get the city websites to be cohesive.
- b. Board Chair Binder mentions citizens have voiced concerns about Lakewood not having a true animal shelter. ACO Crumley confirms the shelter is not a true shelter, but rather a municipal animal control. He agrees the name of the shelter causes confusion and proposed that the board could come up with potential options for consideration to rename the shelter. The board determined the best name would likely be "Lakewood Animal Control" as this would align most closely with the purpose and services. The board will rediscuss this item at the next meeting.
- c. Board Chair Binder mentions a Comfort Zone Multi-Cat Calming Kit was donated. It was noted this may be helpful for the mom and two kittens who are currently in the shelter. Board Chair Binder also recommends trying music at the shelter that has been specifically designed to calm dogs or cats.
- d. AOC Crumley says there have been a few calls recently about wild rabbits and recommends to add rabbits to the list of social media posts. When citizens call regarding rabbits, AOC Crumley recommends leaving the rabbits alone as touching the babies may prevent the mom from returning. Board Member McCready recommends putting a laundry basket over the babies to keep larger animals out while the mom can still return.

VI. Board Chair Binder opens the floor to any new business.

- a. Board Member Dykes asks if anyone has ever brought up having a pet cemetery in Lakewood. Board members have not heard about this before, but agree it could be beneficial, if it would be possible to initiate.

Motion is made to adjourn; motion passes. Meeting adjourned at 7:11 pm.