

Lakewood Youth Council Meeting Agenda
Thursday February 26, 2026 6:00pm
Lakewood City Hall

Members in Attendance: Mel Diemert, Ceci Whiteamire, Alessio Matera, Sean Miller, Danica Herberger, Era Lulo, Caden Sandoval, Porter Gilliland, Landon Vincel, Archer Brandon, Maria Zajac, Cora Barcelona

Members Absent: Gian Frederick, Brad Krischbaum, Marin Petti

Meeting called to order by Mel Diemert at 6:26 pm.

Ceci Whiteamire moves to approve the minutes from January meeting with changes (added Landon Vincel, standardized font size). Landon Vincel seconds. Minutes approved.

Mel Diemert opened the discussion about campaigns to encourage youth to vote. Cora Barcelona said that she had some ideas, and Maria Zajac added that she could handle the research portion. April 6th is the registration deadline, which shall be kept in mind during their meet-ups.

Mel Diemert asked for updates from committee chairs. Maria Zajac said the bike survey will be sent out, but the Outreach committee will only meet as issues come up. Cora Barcelona introduced the idea that the poster for applications should be redesigned for more impact. Danica Herberger offered to help redesign the poster, and the council will review the design after. Era Lulo made a survey for the issue of promoting youth bands. Era Lulo also spoke about potentially getting colleges as sponsors and mentors for the bands. Alessio Matera added that the aforementioned survey would be good to collect information before presenting those results to music venues/other people in order to advocate for youth band inclusion at various organizations. It was decided for a survey to be put out asking if there was an interest in youth bands/youth art in order to have evidence to advocate for it (Art Advisory Board).

Mel Diemert asks for new business. Maria Zajac asked if since the council has reviewed her bike survey draft, it could go live. It can. Sean Miller asked what the process of getting posters approved and posted across the city (schools, businesses, etc.) in a timely manner before elections would be. Mel Diemert said to message everyone a pdf so everyone could remotely approve of the posters. Alessio Matera added to make sure that any LYC emails are sent to Ms. Chodzin's Lakewood Council email to be stored in public records. Danica Herberger introduced an idea for the Environmental Committee, with a carbon tax for people with treeless lawns (roughly \$75 a year or based on property taxes) as an incentive for people to plant trees and also generate money to put back into the environment. Cindy Strebig brought up that the city plants the trees in tree lawns (Tree Advisory Board). Alessio Matera modified this idea by saying that it might be better to voice support to Tree Advisory Board and work to educate people on why having a tree on a tree lawn is good or try to ask Tree Advisory Board if the fee to get a tree planted could be reduced. Cindy Strebig reminded the council to include the full names of committees on the agenda. Sean Miller updated that she was working on finalizing the final proposal for the Advocacy Committee. Maria Zajac brought up Flock Safety and the way Lakewood signed a five year contract for fifty license plate

readers, and how this is concerning, especially the way it has been weaponized by ICE and against people seeking abortions, and with the amount of leaks by the company. Maria Zajac advocated that people express to the mayor and city council to cancel this contract, and she offered to write a letter to council expressing concern and asking for this contract to be canceled. This issue has been tabled, with Maria Zajac drafting a letter before the next meeting for discussion.

Meeting adjourned by Mel Diemert at 7:16 pm.