



**Lakewood's Promise Advisory Board
Meeting Minutes**

MEETING PLACE/DATE:

Thursday, September 5, 2024

In-Person and Zoom Virtual Meeting

Lake Steilacoom Room, City Hall Lobby

6000 Main St SW Lakewood, WA 98499

7:30 am – 8:30 am

CALL TO ORDER:

Kerri Pedrick called the meeting to order at 7:30 am

ATTENDANCE:

Lakewood's Promise Advisory Board Members Present:

Kerri Pedrick, Ron Banner, Megan Dempsey, Alice Fong and Mary Dodsworth

Lakewood's Promise Advisory Board Members Excused:

Julie White and Dr. Joyce Loveday

Staff: Shannon Bennett provided staff support

Youth Council Liaison:

Alicia Stanford, Ava Qualls, Britany Robles, Elijah Sta Ana, Gabriel Flores, Jada Martin, Kasia King and Sophia Lana Castro

Council Liaison:

Mary Moss, Deputy Mayor

Guests:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The June 5th, 2024 minutes were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: Kerri invited all members to share their favorite summer memories

and what they're most looking forward to in the new school year.

Goal setting for the new year: What do we want to accomplish for the new year? Shannon asked that the Youth Council liaisons would like to see LPAB work on.

Elijah asked that we work on student planned events for Filipino Heritage month. Also wants to focus on self-discipline. He agrees safe spaces is something he'd be interested in investing in. If youth are given safe spaces, they will flourish. A chance to creatively express themselves will benefit the youth and make them feel engaged. Ezra suggests using something that pops and piques their interest when communicating to the youth. Nothing long.

Gabriel wants to focus on teaching youth leadership skills; maybe hosting some sort of leadership conference.

Alicia would like to have financial classes to help youth know how to do things like taxes and seeking college financial aid.

Mary D. suggests our community is constantly evolving so reminding everyone of the 5 Promises (Promises) is important. Partnership is the key to doing anything in our community and there are people within our community that, if they knew about the Promises can figure out how they have ways of contributing to them. We don't have to do them all, but let's submit one idea and go from there. How do we share this with the community that this even exists and how they can participate. What LPAB means and how we can benefit from their participation and vice versa. Suggests LPAB create a canned presentation for members to present to the service clubs on a regular basis and volunteered to put the clubs schedule together.

Ron likes the idea of communicating the general understanding of the language that we're using it and how it applies to this space, and cross walking it to what we decide to end up doing. The resources are here, and our community partners are begging to get involved. We begin with the definition of the Promise we decide to do and then we give the relevance to the youth and what they are asking for right now. When we make things relevant, we increase the will and the desire of the community to contribute to the value. It will produce be a symbiotic relationship. Suggests we can have a highlighted thing this year, but it does not mean other things (safe spaces) can't also be fulfilled. Let's decide on one thing and highlight other things happening in the community.

Megan asks that we decide on something and move forward with it and make it happen. We should decide on one thing so as not to lose track. Suggested putting an annual calendar of events and brief synopsis for each event together for distribution to the schools.

Alice reminded members that our youth have been asking for safe spaces for quite some time and thinks we can knock out several things and have it all interconnect with what

our youth are asking for. After listening to the youth express their needs, we need to find adults to get involved and funding to do what we need to do. Let's also team up with the service groups on finding safe spaces where youth can feel safe to gather and possibly interact with adults and create those safe relationships.

Shannon recommended having LPAB and Youth Council host an event at the Steilacoom Park Pavilion that highlights youth creativity and art.

Mary M. advised members of the Library ribbon cutting and that Barnes and Noble is currently looking for a new location in Lakewood. Also, Lakewood Multicultural Community Coalition used to provide a safe place for students to express their opinions and views of safety within their community and schools and it's something they want to bring back. It was an opportunity for the Police to listen.

Alice suggested we decide on our goals and take it back to the Youth Council for their input and buy-in prior to putting them into action. Announced Asia Pacific Cultural Center is hosting a nonpartisan Democracy summit at the Tacoma Dome at the end of this month, which might be a good opportunity for youth to involve themselves in civic engagement and financial workshops and something LPAB may be able to partner up with. Also suggested our youth involve themselves in

Kerri suggests our power of coming together is to express our wants and fulfilling them. Figure out what the old things and new things are and the outcomes. To do an inventory of what's out there now and where are the gaps and invite youth serving groups to present to LPAB to see how they can enrich any existing programs already occurring within the community. Kerri ended the meeting by suggesting we use the last 5 minutes to draft our SMART goals for distribution to the remaining LPAB members and the Youth Council. The agreed upon goals include: Goal 1: Get More Community Members Involved in Supporting Youth and the Five Promises through a communication campaign. Goal 2: Increase Youth Empowerment to Lead, Learn and Thrive through collaboration of youth-serving agencies.

BOARD MEMBER HIGHLIGHTS:

MEETING ADJOURN: Kerri Pedrick adjourned the meeting at 8:37 am.

NEXT MEETING:

October 3rd, 2024.



Kerri Pedrick, Chair



Shannon Bennett, Staff Person