



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

MEETING PLACE/DATE:

Thursday, February 6, 2025

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:

Megan Dempsey called the meeting to order at 7:32 am

ATTENDANCE:

Lakewood's Promise Advisory Board Members Present:

Megan Dempsey, Alice Fong, Mary Dodsworth, Julie White, Alice Fong and Ron Banner

Lakewood's Promise Advisory Board Members Excused:

Kerri Pedrick and 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:

January 3, 2025 minutes were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Election of 2025 Officers

Members unanimously elected Alice Fong as Chair and Megan Dempsey as Vice Chair for 2025.

2. Review of 2025 Workplan

Shannon reviewed the 2025 workplan with the members. The Board will continue focusing on the following areas:

- Youth mental health
- Safe spaces
- Genuine adult and peer relationships

Additionally, the Board plans to:

- Host two workshops in 2025
- Coordinate with the Youth Council for the Youth Empowerment Summit on April 12th

Mary M. advised that the Council aims to be more active in sharing updates during the Youth Council's monthly reports.

Alice recommended organizing an event for LBAP members and their families to engage in fun activities. Ron proposed using the existing time to host a breakfast, as other times might be challenging due to the number of Board members and their families' summer schedules. Mary D. suggested planning something fun on a non-workday, and Shannon suggested organizing a youth and adult bowling event with the Youth Council. Members agreed to continue the discussion at future meetings.

Shannon and Megan read Kerri's recommendations, which included the idea of creating a safe space to support youth and families, particularly considering recent federal executive orders.

- Mary D. suggested that LPAB might not be the appropriate forum for this but proposed that a public event be scheduled to allow participation.
- Alice suggested partnering with CPSD and local colleges to disseminate educational information about refugees' rights.
- Mary M. noted that while the state legislature wants to take action, they do not have a plan yet.
- Elijah shared concerns from his fellow students about the potential loss of rights.
- Mary D. emphasized that if an event were hosted, members should focus on the purpose and ensure experts are involved in the conversation. She reiterated that LPAB may not be the right forum.
- Ron agreed with Mary D., stressing the importance of providing information about available resources and solutions, not just creating a space to discuss problems. He mentioned that CPSD has a long-standing policy that does not

assist in immigrant enforcement without a court order, and they direct such matters to legal channels.

- Julie shared that colleges are doing similar things and offered her college's resources to youth who may want to discuss concerns. She suggested uniting all youth organizations for an event.
- Mary M. suggested encouraging youth to speak directly to the legislature, as legislators are eager to hear from them.
- Alice recommended that the Council and the City issue a statement ensuring support for the refugee and immigrant communities.

3. Discussion on Youth Summit Support Methods

Elijah shared the Youth Council's plans to host a secondary event called "Crafts and Cooking" on May 12th (tentatively) at the Boys and Girls Club. The cooking workshop will focus on cultural cooking, and Elijah is working with APCC to sponsor the event. Another member is coordinating the crafting portion. The final details will be confirmed after meetings with the Boys and Girls Club.

Mary suggested that LPAB host a job fair, inviting businesses that hire youth, including restaurants, construction companies, and the City. Shannon emphasized the need to focus on marketing and transportation for the event, while Megan proposed incorporating resume-building workshops for youth. Alice suggested helping youth connect their personal interests and skills to potential career opportunities.

Mary D. mentioned that local colleges could guide students toward career paths based on their interests. Members discussed existing resources:

- Pierce College offers a career center and financial aid resources.
- Local credit unions and the YMCA could host a financial stability event.

Shannon and Megan proposed moving forward with choosing a date and location for the event. Ron suggested collaborating with the YMCA to incorporate their current Late-Night programming. Mary D. recommended forming a subcommittee to take the idea to the Youth Council for further input and approval.

Members unanimously agreed to support the Youth Council with their April 12th cooking and craft event.

Board Member Highlights:

- **Mary M.** shared that the Lakewood Multicultural Center will be hosting their annual gala on March 8th.
- **Julie** announced that Pierce College will be holding a grand reopening of an existing building at their Fort Steilacoom campus in April. She will share more information with the group once invitations are ready. The new space will feature a venue for performing groups and an art gallery. Additionally, Julie mentioned that Pierce College has been actively supporting students in

advocating to the State and will be meeting with representatives in Washington, D.C. next week to discuss Pell Grants and workforce training.

- **Alice** provided an update on Pierce County's Refugee and Immigrant Affairs, which are distributing "little red cards" to help people understand their rights. She also shared that the APCC (Asian Pacific Cultural Center) will be hosting their Lunar New Year celebration on February 13th at the Tacoma Dome.

MEETING ADJOURN: Megan Dempsey adjourned the meeting at 8:31 am.

NEXT MEETING:

March 1, 2025.



Alice Fong, Chair

Shannon Bennett, Staff Person