



**Lakewood's Promise Advisory Board  
March 6, 2025 Meeting Minutes**

**MEETING PLACE/DATE:**

**Thursday, March 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:**

Alice Fong called the meeting to order at 7:43 am

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Lakewood's Promise Advisory Board Members Present:**

Megan Dempsey, Alice Fong, Mary Dodsworth, Kerri Pedrick and Joyce Loveday

**Lakewood's Promise Advisory Board Members Excused:**

Julie White and Ron Banner

**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:**

Mary D. motioned and Joyce L. seconded. February 6, 2025, minutes were unanimously approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### Youth Empowerment Summit Update

Shannon provided an update on the planning for the upcoming Youth Empowerment Summit on April 12th and sought input from members on transportation ideas.

#### Transportation Ideas:

- Kerri suggested reaching out to CPSD to provide bus transportation for middle school students, similar to the arrangement made for the 2022 Youth Empowerment Summit. She also offered to have her staff assist with marketing the event in the schools they serve.
- Mary D. proposed implementing a “walking bus” from Lochburn Middle School with 8-10 adult chaperones.

Beloved Community Art Piece: Shannon informed members about an art piece that students will complete during the event, asking for suggestions on where to display the completed piece.

- Mary M. mentioned that City Council has recently discussed housing original art and suggested hanging the completed piece in City Hall.
- Mary D. agreed with this suggestion.

### Cooking and Crafts Event Update

Shannon updated members on the Cooking and Crafts event. The event cannot take place at the Boys and Girls Club due to a lack of access to the stovetop (as per management). Shannon proposed two potential venues:

- Tillicum Community Center
- The Pavilion at Lake Steilacoom Park

#### Venue Discussion:

- Mary D. expressed support for using The Pavilion and suggested using hot plates for the cooking demonstration. She also supported Tillicum as a venue due to its potential to benefit underserved youth and foster relationship building between the City and the community. However, she emphasized the need to first confirm if the Tillicum Community Center is open to hosting the event, and to obtain final approval from the Youth Council.

- Elijah raised concerns about transportation to Tillicum but expressed openness to the idea. He recommended bringing up the topic at the next Youth Council meeting.

### Youth Financial Fitness Workshop

Members discussed the possibility of hosting a youth financial fitness workshop during the summer.

Suggestions:

- Kerri suggested supporting the Boys and Girls Club with their existing financial fitness courses or hosting a separate event in a different area within Lakewood.
- Elijah proposed making financial fitness more engaging by hosting a fun event such as a "Monopoly Night."
- Alice recommended partnering with Clinton Taylor from Your Money Matters.
- Mary D. suggested collaborating with Junior Achievement and offered to put Shannon in contact with decision-makers within the organization.

### **BOARD MEMBER UPDATES:**

Alice shared the Center for Ethical Leadership is recruiting for the next cohort for adult leadership flagship program and is currently seeking partnerships to bring the program to Lakewood.

Mary M. issued a reminder of the Saturday, March 8<sup>th</sup> Lakewood Multicultural Center's Claudia Thomas Legacy dinner.

Kerri reminded members of the Wednesday, April 16<sup>th</sup> Communities in Schools of Lakewood annual breakfast and invited them to become table hosts. Housing programs and CISL's expansion into Franklin Pierce will be highlighted at the event.

Mary D. announced City staff is gearing up for summer programming.

**MEETING ADJOURN:** Alice Fong adjourned the meeting at 8:32 am.

### **NEXT MEETING:**

April 3, 2025.

  
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Alice Fong, Chair  
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Shannon Bennett, Staff Person