

Lakeside Town Hall Meeting – September 25, 2023

Time and location: 4 p.m. EST, on Zoom

Notes taken by: Isabelle Chen

Attendance:

- **Committee members:**
 - Alina Thokkadam
 - Isabelle Chen
 - Allison Tang
 - Sophia Yoo
 - Amy Chan
 - Justin Sheen

 - **University:**
 - Michelle Ruggia
 - Amber Serrano

 - **ACC (American Campus Committees)**
 - Gloria Yuen

 - **Residents:**
 - Alana Bernys
 - Sneha Srinivasan
 - Christopher Catalano
 - Ishita Chaturvedi
 - Samuel Moore
 - Sophia Koval
 - Christian Kragh Jespersen
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Agenda

Lakeside Book Club

- Next book club on October 12th at 7 p.m., reading Interpreter of Maladies by Jhumpa Lahiri. If anyone is interested, please fill out the form in the email that was sent out last week.

Lakeside Garden update

- Saturday, 9/20: garden social event
- Last week: co-hosted a pesto-making event with Amber and Ellen Kellich!

- Allison is still helping people with onboarding and leaving the garden. We now have 79 total gardeners this year—a new record.
- We currently have two empty plots: if anyone is interested in joining for the remainder of the growing season, please reach out to Allison.

Upcoming social events

- N/A today

External relations

- Sophia has been working with Alana Bernys on the package delivery issues Lakeside residents have been having, particularly in terms of trying to improve signage. They met with Gloria and Michelle to see what is possible.
- Working on a few different things right now:
 - Temporary signage proposal, currently being reviewed by Gloria and Michelle: putting flyer-style posters on each mailroom, clearly labeling the building and number. We hope to have this up and running even by next week.
 - Longer-term signage, such as applying a permanent sign to label each mailroom. This will take longer, because it also requires approval by the Architects' office.
 - We could compile in one place (on our committee website, for instance) best practices for residents in having packages delivered, such as putting your unit number, rather than your mailbox number. We've sent an email with this before, but it would be good to have it in a more permanent location. Sophia will follow up with Shaowei about this, and Michelle will link to it on the Housing website.
- Update from Sophia: GSG no longer counts Lakeside and Lawrence Committee members as voting members, as a result of their trying to follow their constitution more closely, and in order to avoid potential double representation for certain students. Sophia is still attending GSG meetings, but will not have a vote.
 - Allison, who is on GSG, finds this very odd, especially as other student organizations are allowed a vote, though those students are also represented by their department reps.

Open forum

- Sophia Koval: is the grill going to be fixed anytime soon?
 - Gloria: we currently don't have an ETA. On Labor Day, there was a grease fire, so we're now trying to evaluate how to thoroughly clean it, and make sure it's working properly, after the fire extinguisher was used on it. If it turns out to be inoperable, it will be out of commission for a while; hopefully, it will still be in working order. We hope to have an answer by this week.
- Christopher Catalano: question about how electric bills are handled. Is it possible for us to access the raw electricity usage from the electric company, so we don't have to worry about numbers not adding up, emails not coming on time, etc?
 - Gloria: unfortunately, no. The system is set up this way precisely so students don't have to set up accounts directly with PSE&G, because this involves a security deposit. If you have questions about your electric bills and how they're

being handled, please come see Gloria and Anne, and they can go over your data with you for your individual unit.

- Update from Michelle: room change period is set to open on October 1st. There are VERY limited housing vacancies right now, so chances are limited; but we'll hold onto applications until January, in case there are unexpected move-outs before that time. If you would like to switch housing, apply as soon as possible, as it's a first-come, first-served basis. Michelle recommends being open to a variety of options, if you are really intent on changing your housing situation.
 - More information concerning room draw, which has been moved to November this year, is to come soon, so keep an eye out. Michelle and Amber will be hosting webinars about the process.
 - We will also receive an email tomorrow about the annual graduate student housing survey, which has been pushed to the Fall semester to gather more recent information and opinions about the room draw process. It's anonymous, so a great way for Housing to have honest feedback about what's working, what isn't, etc. Real change can come from it, such as G3s being able to renew housing this year, as well as the increased pet allowances at Lawrence.
- Isabelle asked for updates about the sports equipment at Lakeside; Gloria says it will require a larger, committee-only discussion about security and material sign-out before moving forward with the measure.

Resident feedback from the anonymous form

- In the Lakeside study rooms, there are no erasers or board cleaning equipment; can they be replenished?
 - Gloria: yes, noted!
- Complaints about people smoking outside of certain townhouses.
 - Gloria reminds everyone that you must be at least twenty feet away from the building to smoke.
- Noise policy at Lakeside: someone's neighbor often has people over late at night, and they were wondering if there's some sort of policy that can be enforced, because talking to the neighbor hasn't helped.
 - Lakeside has 24h courtesy hours (which was recently in the newsletter), but if speaking directly to the resident hasn't helped, they can reach out to Gloria and Anne, as well as Amber in Housing, to set up a meet all together.
- People leaving opened/empty Amazon boxes in the mailrooms.
 - Gloria: This is not allowed; everyone is of course required to take their trash and recycling to the appropriate areas. If this continues, we give warnings, and if they are not heeded, fines may be imposed.
- Complaint about trash: people throwing their trash over fences instead of walking around, which leads to a lot of scattered litter.
 - Please be courteous of others, and especially of our facilities staff, who are the ones who have to clean this up.
- A lot of children's scooters and toys are often left on pathways. Could there be a reminder for these to be put away?

- Gloria: yes, noted.
- Update on the intercom system: this resident has been waiting for a while to have their intercom fixed, is there an estimated time?
 - Gloria hopes to have it by the end of this week.
- Frequency of cleaning the hallways of the apartments: would it be possible for them to be vacuumed more often?
 - There have been staff shortages lately, but yes, we are trying to get back on more of a regular schedule, especially now that move-in and move-out period is over.

- Update from Amber: GC is hosting Oktoberfest!! October 4th, 5:00-7:30 p.m. at OGC. Please come!

- From Gloria: why not put PDFs of the newsletter on the Lakeside Committee website? That way people can reference them more easily.
 - Yes, we'll follow up with Shaowei about this.

- Sophia Koval: if we do send out an email to residents with general best practices, perhaps we could also remind residents to park well in the parking structure, i.e. not diagonally.
 - We'll put this in our email, and Gloria will include it in the newsletter.