

2026-04-27 Lakeside Town Hall, Paper Pre-meeting

Meeting Minutes

Date: 4/27/2026

Time: 4pm

Location: Zoom

In Attendance

Committee members: Sophia, Isabelle, Philip, Chris

University: Shawn, Michelle

ACC (American Campus Committees): Lo, Ashley

Residents: NONE

Useful documents/background or meeting prep

- [Previous Town Hall minutes](#)
 - Constitution Amendments
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General updates

- Constitution updates
 - The committee has finalized constitutional amendments and created a voting form that's been sent to Shawn to make a copy of and manage (for voter verification).
 - Voting concludes 5pm on Wednesday, May 6th
- Clement is graduating so we will be having special election for new garden coordinator (see below).

Social Events Updates

- Chipotle Event
 - Isabelle: It went very well, I'd say we probably had 75 people. They were lining up to get food even before 6pm. Sophia, Chris, and I were there. Was ACC supposed to provide plates and napkins, etc.? We got some with the Chipotle order but then we had to scavenge for the rest.
- Lakeside Relay Saturday April 25th 5:30pm
 - Worked out really well—need to return empty keg to get deposit back, but was cost efficient, and people had a fun time. Should look to doing another event in the future.

Side note: many people in the club expressed interest in the petition to increase lighting on the bridge between campus and Meadows.

- Interest in doing another bird watching event. But bear in mind that we will have lower attendance in May because there are a lot of Graduate School events going on.

Garden Updates

- Fence is still in need of repairs - the wiring on the bottom of the fence needs to be reinforced to keep out rabbits. Gate leading to the shed is another area of concern.
 - Lo: we have been working closely together. The landscaping team was working on the gate this weekend and then we will have our team reinforce the chicken wire.
- Plawking event
 - Nobody on the call was at this event.
- Special election - Clement will be graduating (congrats!) so we need to do a special election.
 - We will send out a call for nominees on May 6th, will accept nominations May 6th to the 13th at 5pm, then have voting open from the 13th/14th to the 20th
 - We need 3 people for an election committee, they can be Sophia, Clement, and we need one more person to volunteer (and resident who isn't running in the election can do it, including current committee members)
 - Jan: do we want to have a website for this or is email sufficient?
 - Sophia: We can put a page on our committee website as usual
 - MR- please note that there is not priority housing for this as the election is happening after the room draw process has closed.

External Relations (In Absentia)

- Yiyang: What do you recommend we do moving forward given the **survey results**?
 - **Gym Actionables:** (1) It would be great to do something about the ventilation issue multiple people complained about; (2) Immediate action: brainstorm on printouts/ gym socials that can be done; (3) Medium term (incoming committee this fall): explore whether we can add cardio equipment and weights (yes, it has been rejected in the past, but we should either rule out this completely and communicate it, or see how things can work).
 - Philip has exercise info and will print it out and hang it up in the gym.
 - **Vending Machines:** Survey results have been communicated to GDAB (specifically John Messina, the Director of Operations of Dining), who has forwarded this to relevant decision makers. We will wait to hear back. **Actionables: None at this time.**
 - **Community tool box:** Clearly a very popular idea but people are more skeptical about the format. **Actionables:** Brainstorm about how committee involvement/ some degree of formalization can improve implementation of this feature from the status quo (ad hoc slack requests on the Lakeside Slack channel).

- Sophia: let's shelf this idea for now. If someone wants to be the tool box czar we can return to it, but seems logistically difficult.
- **Greening move out location** - Meadows has an outdoor area that has been used in the past for collection. Can we book either the BBQ deck or commons for that period if no other covered outdoor space won't work? Not having the Greening Move out is not an option - I'm worried people will leave their items scattered in random locations in the neighborhood if there is no drop off location.
 - Last I checked there were no bookings for 6/15-6/29 which is when the Greening Move Out will take place:
 - YY -> Ok: **if it is possible to use this space, I will communicate this to the GSG Facilities Officer. Let me know if this is the case.**
 - Michelle: Patio is a no because of egress issue, and people book that space often. Has concerns about using common space to keep stuff. It becomes a dumping point and then ACC and building staff need to dispose of it. Unless there is someone who will be in charge of the stuff then having it inside isn't a great idea.
 - Lo: I also worry about having it inside. Also don't want it to take away from other things that people might want to host in Lakeside. Seems more impactful to residents if we put it inside.
 - Sophia: Talked to GSG facilities chair. Dept of Sustainability don't want it outside under tents. They say it should be outside in a place w/ permanent coverage or inside.
 - Isabelle: Is there anywhere in the parking garage we could do it?
 - Lo: That seems like a good compromise.

HVAC Updates

- Update on the ongoing panel replacements?
 - Any improvements on residents cancelling?
 - Lo: We are continuing with HVAC panels. I do feel like cancellations have been better. I'm excited to share that HVAC equipment has started to arrive so we are looking to start the week of May 18. We picked that date specifically to allow for 2 week notice. We will start reaching out to residents soon.
 - Thanks, Lo and Ashley!
- Do we have a timeline for HVAC replacements? Has the equipment arrived?
 - **YES! We started receiving the new equipment and will begin communicating with residents this week. We are looking to start the week of May 18th. (in two weeks)**

Budget

- Chris: Not much to share. I've been in contact with anyone who has been spending money. We are in a good spot. But a problem is that TigerWell has been asking for things that we can't

provide, e.g. an expense report. If we could be more active about responding to them so that we can get this closed down before the end of the fiscal year then that would be great.

- Michelle: Housing is still waiting for ACC to give that to them. It's an unusual budget item. I have been talking to Shawn to figure out what we can do on the back end to move this along and get it handled.
- Shawn: It's gonna happen. Everyone is going to get their money!
- Chris: Do we have an internal Lakeside Wiki for advice on how to do budget-related things like submitting receipts on concur.
 - Sophia: You can put these materials in the committee Google Drive.
 - Chris: I will start working on something soon.

Open Floor for Questions

- Manhole that was just added next to the parking garage - it's a huge indent in the road and cars and the bus hit it hard. Would it be possible to get this manhole more level with the road?
 - Lo: I wish I had an answer for that. PSE&G decided to do this work and didn't tell us. We will follow up with their team. But unfortunately that may be what we are going to get because it's PSE&G.
- Who do we contact about potholes along Alexander Road? Northbound right turn lane onto Faculty has terrible potholes - I know 2 people who've gotten flat tires from them!
 - Sophia: Is this the town of Princeton?
 - Michelle: Those roads are managed by the township. I will check up to see who needs to be contacted.
- ^ Relatedly, there are some loose stones in the rotary on the part that points toward the train tracks.
- Since the garage construction is done, can the port a potty in the garage be removed?
 - Lo: That's another project I don't oversee. I didn't get a straight answer. That's TPS who runs it. I walked by it to make sure there wasn't a foul smell coming. There wasn't.
 - Michelle: I will follow up too.

Anonymous Feedback

- From the slack: Questions about why students are required to sign a contract 6 months early, then there is a high cancellation fee from the Housing Office.
 - Michelle: Graduate students asked us to move up the room draw time frame, because when it happened in the spring it didn't give people who weren't given housing to find another place. That means with this new system we have been able to offer more contracts off the wait list. The high cost is a \$300 cancellation fee. But if you have extenuating circumstances then the fee can be waived. But \$300 is much less than half of a security deposit that you pay in a normal apartment contract.
- People are still upset about the porta potty in the garage. Apparently it smells bad.

- See above
- Resident said that maintenance people entered their apartment but didn't leave notes.
 - Note to residents: If someone is at home when maintenance staff comes
 - Isabelle: Maybe we can remind maintenance staff to leave notes.
 - Chris: They also send emails. I had an experience where someone came in when I wasn't there and didn't leave a note, but they did send an email.
- Potholes!! Manhole in front of lakeside 200 and Hibben Magie road.
- Someone wants to stop music being played in common spaces like gym, patio, indoor areas.
 - Isabelle thinks this is not a big issue and most lobbies, gyms etc. have music playing, but we can think about this.
 - Lo will evaluate.
- Someone is VERY upset about the package issue and is begging for it to be resolved.
 - Grad students can get packages delivered to Frist. Someone said on the Slack channel that grad students
 - Michelle: No updates at this time. Please continue to report them. My understanding is that the package thefts are happening internally. Maybe a community message would be helpful. I'm not sure if this is an approach that has been taken.
 - Chris: How would we know?
 - Michelle: Because it's happening inside buildings that only residents have access.
 - Chris: It's easy to tailgate.
 - Michelle: This is the information I've received. We had issues at Lawrence a few years ago. But from where they've found boxes they think that it's an internal issue.
 - Lo: Maybe we need to revisit the campaign about no tailgating. I know it can be awkward but it is worth it.
 - Michelle: There are no cameras because higher-ups decided that there will be no cameras going into the graduate community. It is something reviewed annually but I haven't seen any changes. We did a survey about 2 years ago and it was about 50/50 because of privacy. That's why we haven't done cameras in the past. Most cameras that are on campus are not monitored and they're just being filmed in case something happens. They're more for wellness and well-being checks. The way they're put is to see people leaving buildings not put into buildings. That was part of privacy. Some of the conversations are about whether that would even help us identify package theft.

Keep reporting! It helps the cause and we continue to bring it up in housing meetings. We are looking for long-term solutions. Everything that we've looked at before doesn't solve every problem.
 - Sophia: Thank you for advocating for us. When people message in Slack about this problem, we continue to reply and tell people how to report it.
 - Philip: Can we put a sign up that says you're being monitored even if that is not true?
 - Michelle: No, we can't. Two years ago a resident put up fake cameras in Lawrence and it didn't help the theft.

Follow-ups from previous Town Hall:

- Pot holes at end of Hibben Magie Rd (near 751?) → repairs?
- Faucet in mens restroom → repairs?-
- Water fountain → repairs?- **complete**
- Parking garage timeline update?
- Storage closet access for Phillip? - **submitted**

Open Floor

- Chris: What do we do about the trash juice in the hallway???
 - Michelle: Let's have ACC send out an email to that particular building.
 - Ashley: I've been seeing similar things. I will send something in my newsletter.
- Chris: During the storm we had parking issues. Now the university responded by making the enforcement very zealous (in the 30 minute zones). He is doing his job but it seems a little overboard.
 - Michelle: 2 years ago we got a lot of complaints from residents about people hanging out in those spots for too long. The university uses an external company for enforcement outside of business hours.
 - Chris: He's doing a good job but it's too good!
 - Sophia: I see him every weekend.
 - Michelle: I'll let TPS know that they are doing a VERY good job but too good. Let's find a happy medium.

Action Items

- Yiyang: Get in touch with Lo, Department of Sustainability to determine where to put Green Move Out (blocking off a few parking spots was an idea); RSVP for the GSHB presentations if you can make them.
- Michelle: Will work with Shawn to help get TigerWell grant issue fixed; check up with Township contact about potholes and who to contact about them; follow up about porta potty in garage.
- Lo: Also follow up about porta potty, and with PSE&G about the manhole near 200 Lakeside; send email about trash juice to relevant residents.
- Philip: Put up signs in gym about how to use equipment.
- Ashley: Put trash juice reminder in newsletter; also put in reminder about not "piggy backing" when going into buildings?

Next Meeting

- **Next Town Hall is June 1 at 4 pm**