

Roles and Frequently Asked Questions

Pierce County Lakewood Libraries Feasibility Study

What is the role of Pierce County Library System (PCLS), the City of Lakewood, and BERK Consulting, Inc.?

The Pierce County Library System (PCLS) and the City of Lakewood are collaborating to convene a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) charged with determining how the Library System can best provide quality services in a safe, welcoming space for Lakewood and Tillicum residents. Both PCLS and the City are responsible for sharing the information necessary for the CAC to fulfill their charge, including the history of the buildings, financial information, past planning efforts and results of public engagement.

In support of the work of the CAC, PCLS and the City will lead engagement with the broader community and report results to the CAC. PCLS and the City will await a recommendation from the CAC and a subsequent decision by the Library System's Board of Trustees before investing further in the Lakewood Library.

PCLS and the City contracted with BERK to support the work of the CAC.

What is the role of the Community Advisory Committee (CAC)?

The Pierce County Library System and the City of Lakewood formed the Community Advisory Committee (CAC) to advise on how the City and Library System can provide quality services in a safe, welcoming space for Lakewood and Tillicum residents into the future. The CAC is responsible for:

- Reviewing existing community input and additional public engagement efforts.
- Reviewing facility history and current conditions of both the Lakewood Library and the Tillicum Library.
- Developing an evaluative framework and decision-making process for considering long-term facility options.
- Making directional recommendations to the Lakewood City Council and the Pierce County Library System's Board of Trustees in the fall of 2022. CAC recommendations are expected to address the following key questions at a planning (not implementation) level:
 - Should the downtown library be...?
 - Substantially renovated in the same location
 - Torn down and rebuilt in the same location
 - Rebuilt in a new location
 - Relocated to a renovated existing building in a new location

- Should the Tillicum library be...?
 - Renovated in the same location
 - Relocated and rebuilt in a new location

Each option will be presented to the Committee with staff and consultant input on:

- Feasibility (including site availability and zoning requirements).
- Pros and cons (including operations and suitability for desired library services).
- High-level anticipated capital and operating expenses.

Staff will pursue implementation following decision making by Lakewood City Council and the PCLS Board of Trustees. Implementation will include additional planning, site selection (if appropriate) and other tactical details.

What is the timeline for the Community Advisory Committee (CAC)?

The Advisory Committee plans to meet five times between June and October 2022. Each meeting will be approximately two hours. The Committee members will be polled on the best dates and times to meet.

How do Community Advisory Committee (CAC) members participate during and between meetings?

To ensure public transparency and equitable access to comments, Committee members are strongly encouraged to share comments during the scheduled meeting. Comments made during the Committee meeting will be part of the public record.

If a member of the public is providing questions and/or comments about the project to a Committee member, the Committee member is encouraged to redirect public comments to the project email (LakewoodCAC@pcls.us). This helps ensure that public comments are part of the public record and, therefore, transparent and accessible to all Committee members and the public.

Committee members are asked not to engage in deliberation or express opinions about the project with the public and other Committee members outside of meetings to ensure that Committee members take collective steps to reach a decision during scheduled meetings with all Committee members present.

How can the public learn about and comment on the project?

While the work of the Committee may not be bound by the Washington Open Public Meetings Act, every effort is being made to ensure the process is transparent to members of the public.

Members of the public are encouraged to visit the project webpage at LakewoodCAC.pcls.us. The webpage includes all of the documents and contextual information shared with the CAC; Zoom links to listen in on CAC meetings; and CAC meeting agendas, meeting notes, and presentations.

For questions and comments related to the project, members of the public may email the Committee at LakewoodCAC@pcls.us. Comments submitted to that address will be compiled and distributed to the CAC in advance of each meeting. Each meeting will publicly acknowledge the public comments and provide high-level themes that may inform subsequent Committee discussion. Public comments will be included in the public record.

Meetings of the CAC are hosted on Zoom and open for members of the public to listen in. The public can also attend a viewing of the meeting at the Library's Administrative Center (3005 112th St. E., Tacoma).

What are the ground rules for participating in the Community Advisory Committee (CAC)?

1. Each member is an equal participant in the process and has equal opportunity to voice opinions and contribute ideas.
2. Members may bring input from others, but it is understood that each member speaks for themselves. Committee members who are members of a community organization are encouraged to periodically update their respective groups about the Committee's progress.
3. Members accept the responsibility to come to the meetings prepared for the discussions, explore the issues, and consider alternatives that best serve the community.
4. Members recognize the legitimacy of the interests, concerns and goals of others, whether or not they are in agreement. Committee members commit to treating each other, and those who attend meetings, with respect, civility and courtesy.
5. Committee members will make a concerted effort to listen carefully, ask pertinent questions, and educate themselves about the interests and needs that must be addressed in a constructive problem-solving atmosphere.
6. Meetings will start and end on time. Given the scope of the project and focused amount of time available, Committee members will make a concerted effort to focus on the topics under discussion.
7. Each Committee member commits to attending all meetings as possible. Alternates are not being designated in this process. The member may also submit written comments to LakewoodCAC@pcls.us that will be distributed to the others.
8. Staff members will support the process and are not considered CAC members.

The Committee's evaluative framework and decision-making process will be established in the second meeting.

Who is serving on the Community Advisory Committee (CAC)?

- David Anderson - Tillicum Woodbrook Neighborhood Association, President
- Sherwanda Beck-Atkinson - JBLM, Literacy Council, Volunteer
- Amelia Escobedo - JBLM, Lakewood City Council candidate in 2021
- Bob Estrada - Friends of the Lakewood Library, Past President
- Ron Irwin - Lakewood Chamber of Commerce, President
- Lianna Olds - Washington Nonprofits, Deputy Director
- Josette Parker - Clinical Social Worker; Lakewood Senior Center, Volunteer
- Darwin Peters II - Owner of In Focus Productions; Clover Park School District, Committee member
- Ginny Rawlings - Retired nutritionist; Friends of Lakewood Library, Board member
- Tim Rhee - Pierce County Library Foundation Board of Directors
- Chelsey Tschosik - HopeSparks Family Services, Child Therapist
- Bob Warfield - Retired Army; Lakewood United, Volunteer