**The Lakewood Democratic Club**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting held** **Apr 29, 2021  
Online space at zoom.us**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:05pm by President Erik Meinhardt.

Officers present were President Erik Meinhardt, First Vice-President Maureen Dostal, Second VP Mark Schneider Secretary, Treasurer Catie McMahon, Secretary Nicole Parke. The President chaired the meeting. The Secretary took notes.

APPROVAL of the MINUTES - The body approved the meeting minutes from March 25, 2021. Members who do not have access to internet are mailed copies of the minutes.

HOUSEKEEPING - The Club congratulated Kira Krivosh on her new position as magistrate of Juvenile Court.

RECOGNITION OF NOTABLES – Candidate for Lakewood Municipal Court Judge Sara Fagnilli, Lakewood Councilperson and candidate for Lakewood Municipal Court Judge Tess Neff, County Councilperson Dale Miller, Lakewood Councilperson Tom Bullock, candidate for Lakewood City Council Kyle Baker, Lakewood Councilperson Jason Shachner, Judge Richard Bell, Judge Mary Eileen Kilbane, School Board Member Mike Callahan, School Board Member Emma Petrie Barcelona, Judge Deborah Turner, County Councilperson Sunny Simon, County Party City Leader Karolyn Isenhart, candidate for Lakewood City Council Susannah Selnick, Judge William Vodrey, Judge Lisa Forbes, Judge Thomas O’Malley, Judge Maureen Sweeney

**CLIMATE CHANGE & SUSTAINABILITY PROGRAM:**

* **Mike Foley** (Cuyahoga County Director of Sustainability & Former Ohio Representative)
  + Trump exited Paris Climate Accord; County Executive Armond Budish responded by joining Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy
  + looking at local impact on climate change - 12.5% decrease in emissions since 2018, becoming more energy efficient; goal is zero emissions by 2050
  + over last 3 years added 3500 solar panels (?)
  + increase in average annual temperature by nearly 2 degrees fahrenheit over last 100 years
  + longer growing season - starts earlier, ends later
  + average annual precipitation increased by over 17% over last 100 years
  + warmer, wilder, wetter weather
  + changing ecosystem of the Great Lakes
  + County Planning determined most vulnerable neighborhoods/communities in the county
  + promoting Residential Solar Co-Op! Purchase solar panels through the co-op, save money and very little maintenance
  + Municipal Solar Co-Op - installing solar panels on government buildings (Lakewood recently installed solar panels on four buildings)
  + loss in county tree canopy; lakewood working on rebuilding theirs
  + currently proposing to County Council to create County energy company - Distribution Utility Company; creating microgrids that are self-sustained, including landfill solar projects!
  + Brooklyn Landfill Solar - closed and capped Brooklyn landfill, covered in solar panels
  + we are in relatively climate-stable location - no droughts, wildfires, dangerous heat, hurricanes, earthquakes, sea level rise, or saltwater intrusion
* **Sunny Simon** (Cuyahoga County Council District 11 & Chair of the Education, Environment & Sustainability Committee)
  + lead the movement towards plastic bag ban
  + every year plastic pollution increases at alarming rates
  + Cuyahoga County disseminates 319 million plastic bags every year
  + costing consumers money to clean up plastic pollution
  + China & Malaysia previously would take our plastic, dump in Yeng Ze river - Chinese National Sword; cannot recycle plastic like we previously were
  + launched plastic bag ban at Euclid Senior Center, released 50,000 reusable bags
  + instead of reduce, reuse, recycle, we have to start with REFUSE
  + working to do soft relaunch of plastic bag ban
  + working with Solid Waste & Rustbelt Riders to promote & expand composting at home
* **Chris Ronayne**(Board member, Port of Cleveland & President, University Circle Inc)
  + took 35 years to complete 100 mile bike trail through akron, completing last 5 miles through cleveland
  + tomorrow, on Arbor Day, plant saplings from Owens tree that Jesse Owens acquired at Olympics; will be planted at Rockefeller Park
  + cycled off Board of Port of Cleveland last month
  + found way to intercept material coming through cuyahoga river, clean it before it got to Lake Erie
  + opening of Lakefront Nature Preserve, just north of Rockefeller Park, where you can see beautiful bird life
  + shipping via waterway is the most environmentally friendly business?
  + Lakewood supported pilot of Icebreaker Wind (lakefront wind turbine project), direct opposition to HB6, will power 7,000 homes off of East 55th; will create 500 jobs directly and up to 8,000 jobs indirectly (project is also called LEEDCo). coming close to securing funding
  + Matt Dolan is only consistent Republican supporter in Ohio legislature
  + <http://www.leedco.org/index.php/about-icebreaker>
* **Tom Bullock** (Lakewood City Council at-Large & Executive Director of Citizens Utility Board of Ohio)
  + poor air quality is harmful to everyone; environmental justice
  + ohio ranked 47th in the country for quality of utilities
  + direct legal action to address hb6 consumer harm
  + select clean energy plan from Ohio’s “apples-to-apples” website: energychoice.ohio.gov/applestoapples.aspx -- choose “renewable content” (& be sure to read fine print) -- need more clarity
  + consumer choices: rooftop solar, community solar (hopefully in future)
  + pretty affordable to choose 100% clean energy these days!!
  + Energy Harbor LLC is FirstEnergy spinoff
  + very excited for potential new county utility company!
* **Questions**
  + city of cleveland opted out of plastic bag ban? yes. no further update as of now
  + geo-engineering possiblities… hoping we won’t have to use them
  + Becoming vegan / reducing meat & dairy consumption has disproportionate environmental impact. Reduces methane emissions, saves water, etc.
  + eliminate use of straws!!
  + incentivize employees not to drive & park; but, when buying a car, try to get most fuel efficient / electric vehicles
  + as shipping is one of the greenest forms of transportation, can the Seaway be expanded to allow more containerized shipping to reach The Port of Cleveland/Cuyahoga? → most of locks of st lawrence seaway managed in canada. need binational effort to free closure of locks 4 months of year.
  + rain gardens great for your yard!!
* **Other ideas for “going green”:**
  + Reduce meat consumption (bonus points: go vegetarian or even vegan)
  + Reduce reliance on gasoline (ride the bus, ride your bike, get a hybrid or electric car or one with better gas mileage)
  + Recycle your waste correctly (e.g., take plastic films to the grocery store; take spent batteries to an electronics store)
  + Compost food waste (Rust Belt Riders now serves Lakewood)
  + Get solar panels on your roof
  + Re-wild your lawn (bonus points: plant a pollinator garden)
  + Plant a tree
  + Use reusable grocery bags
  + Shop at consignment shops
  + Upgrade inefficient/old appliances/switch from gas to electric + weatherize your home
  + Divest from fossil fuel investments (your personal retirement account; your employer or boards you serve on)

**REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President: no update

First Vice President: thanks to speakers! June focusing on trans rights

Political Activism: call sherrod brown & ask to pass for the people act, thank him for wanting to end filibuster. Action alert from MTV: ohio unlikely to meet constitutional deadlines for redistricting, call state reps/senators/leadership

Book Club: meeting may 18th at 7pm, reading Kill Switch about rise of modern Senate. Watching White Tiger on Netflix

Second Vice President: congratulate Chris & advocates of LEEDCo, 15 years in the making. hoping for Summer Supper!

Treasurer: Over $9,700 in bank account. 66 members have renewed and many renewals came in this week!

Secretary: updating website with archive, trying to find out who has access to @lakewooddems instagram

UPDATES

State legislature - no representation at meeting

County Council - Dale Miller: passed supplemental grant program for the year, includes 50,000 to Lakewood to help with improvement of Kaufman park. Cuyahoga County slated to receive $241 million from federal government from American Rescue Plan. Can cover direct response to pandemic, hazard pay for employees who have close exposure to covid, direct services to replace revenue lost to pandemic, sewer water & broadband infrastructure. hoping to address digital divide.

City Council - Tess: hilliard bridge will be completely removed and replaced in 2023. hilliard road repavement & bike lanes in 2022. bridge will be closed for 2 years. yesterday, mayor’s first state of city address, in ward 1. beck center improving greensace with $50,000 from cuyahoga county. Also received funding from NOPEC to install electric vehicle charger in detroit extension. sloane & detroit intersection undergoing streetscaping, pedestrian friendly projects. fire station #2 under construction for more storage & facilities that will have more safety precautions against spread of carcinogens on equipment.

Tom Bullock: basketball hoops went back up at Madison Park. looking at more park staff? more police presence? Monday will be Safety Commitee meeting & Council meeting. All are welcome.

School Board - Mike Callahan: Chris Ronayne great twitter follow! Vaccine clinic at lakewood civic auditorium tomorrow. Students & community members 16+ are welcome. spring sports well under way. offering summer school to address any covid-related learning loss. Full-in-school option. School district nurse doing amazing work! kindergarten registration now open. has 6th grader going to Garfield next year!

Emma: Megan Wisnicki new superintendent starting this summer. Christy Palombro new assistant superintendent. first female superintendent and first all female leadership team! planning covid precautions / options for next year.

County Party - Karolyn: always happy to talk to anyone about being vegan!

LWV: Susannah Selnick: fair districting postcard writing project on saturday at lakewood park. <https://my.lwv.org/ohio/greater-cleveland/event/postcard-writing-party>

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING - Thursday, May 27, 2021.

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned at 9:08pm.

Event notes prepared by Nicole Parke on April 29, 2021.

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Secretary Approval: sign date

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President Approval: sign date