**The Lakewood Democratic Club**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting held on September 26, 2019**

**Woman’s Club Pavilion at Lakewood Park**

**Erik Meinhardt, President**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:19 p.m. by President Erik Meinhardt. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Officers present were President Erik Meinhardt, First Vice-President Maureen Dostal, Secretary, Matt Kuhns and Treasurer, Cindy Strebig. The President chaired the meeting. The Secretary took minutes.

Introductory remarks by the president

* Endorsement voting process. (7:20)
* Steve Bennett asked how overvotes should be counted; the president replied that they will count as abstaining votes.
* Attendees invited to Sauced Taproom after meeting
* Upcoming events noted: Oct. 8 book club, Oct. 26 mass incarceration documentary, Oct. and Nov. meetings one week early to avoid holiday conflicts

August meeting minutes approved (7:23)

RECOGNITION OF NOTABLES –

Officials and candidates for office were recognized. Current officials in attendance: Sam O’Leary, John Litten, Linda Beebe, Emma Petrie-Barcelona, Meghan George, Mike Skindell, Betsy Shaughnessy, Ed Favre, Tristan Rader, David Anderson, Dale Miller, Judge Nancy Russo

Candidates for 2019-20 in attendance, in addition to those currently in office: Andy Meyer (Lakewood board of education), Jason Shachner (Lakewood City Council Ward 2), Jeff Wise (Lakewood City Council Ward 3), Laura Rodriguez-Carbone (Lakewood City Council Ward 1), Rick Bell (Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas), Brad Presutto (Lakewood City Council Ward 2), Tess Neff (Lakewood City Council Ward 1), Mike Callahan (Lakewood board of education)

The president recognized, as groups, members of the county party central and executive committees, and new club members. (7:26)

Introduction of mayoral candidate forum and process. (7:27 p.m.)

**MAYORAL CANDIDATE FORUM**

Opening candidate remarks, first from Meghan George, then from Sam O’Leary (7:30)

Question 1: Your experience and management philosophy (7:35)

* O’Leary says we must build consensus and describes experience as municipal lawyer
* George describes work on city council, and experience in business leadership

Question 2: How pursue development along with prosperity, history, income and demographic diversity (7:38)

* George talks about the importance of protecting affordability
* O’Leary says means-tested tax changes can protect seniors

Question 3: Major challenges facing Lakewood (7:41)

* O’Leary points to basics, senior service reinvestment, affordability, and climate change
* George cites fiscal responsibility, safety, and compliance with the Clean Water Act

Question 4: Addressing climate change (7:44)

* George says that city can adopt greater energy efficiency and renewable use, and notes support of expanded solar energy investment
* O’Leary says Lakewood has made considerable progress and he will support an all of the above approach including leverage of fiber optic network

Question 5: Democratic record and policies (7:48)

* O’Leary cites nearly lifelong membership of club, and commitment to candidates whoever they are
* George describes work for Democratic campaigns since childhood, and work on council for policies including paid leave

City leader Karolyn Isenhart speaks in favor of Issue 43, charter amendment to allow for a primary in municipal judge elections

VOTING ON ENDORSEMENTS (7:52)

Last call for ballots at 8 p.m., upon which Grant Mackay, Steve Bennett, Katie McMahon and Donna Kolis take ballots aside for counting

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT (8:03)

* Six members took part in successful yard cleanup with LakewoodAlive on Sept 21
* Event coming up Oct 26 to view *13th*, documentary on mass incarceration

Political activism report by Jay Ketchaver (8:04)

* Rep. Marcy Kaptur supports House hearings on impeachment of Trump, call and let her know your opinion
* Help defeat gerrymandering in Virginia by electing a Democratic state house this fall, by writing letters to voters 6-8 at Sauced on Oct 12, or 1-3 at Cuyahoga County Progressive Caucus office on Oct 13

PRESIDENT’S REPORT (8:06)

* Judges Shannon Gallagher and Michael Shaughnessy will discuss mental health and the courts at October meeting
* Census presentation scheduled for this meeting will occur in October also
* Recognition of Judge Nancy McDonald

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT

* Holiday Party will be 12/12 at Bottlehouse

TREASURER’S REPORT – Bank balance is $10,182.36 and current membership is 162 (8:08)

Candidates

* Remarks by Rick Bell, 2020 candidate for Cuyahoga County Court of Common pleas (8:09)
* Recognition of Jennifer O’Donnell, 2020 candidate for Cuyahoga County Court of Common pleas (8:13)
* Recognition of and remarks by Lindsey Grdina, who ran in Ward 1 primary for Lakewood city council
* Remarks by Pete Rosewicz, candidate for US House district OH-9 (8:14)
* President notes that many candidates have petitions to sign, as do campaigners seeking referendum to overturn Ohio House Bill 6

SECRETARY’S REPORT – Summary of historical research into origins and history of club, finding Lakewood Democrats organizing locally as early as 1920 (8:17)

Ohio House, Mike Skindell (8:23)

* Notes ~~recently departed~~ Tom McBride’s role in breaking up a decades long Republican majority on Lakewood city council, and that Lakewood’s local elections have changed from nonpartisan to partisan and back [n.b. McBride’s brother Gerald recently died, not Tom]
* TRAC recently rejected a request by RTA for funds to purchase new rail cars, Skindell to propose legislation which would fund this instead
* Ohio House to finally take up gun safety legislation in hearings soon

Remarks by Collen Reali, 2020 candidate for domestic relations court (8:28)

City Council, O’Leary: council is beginning budget priorities process (8:30)

Remarks by Gabriella Rosalina, 2020 candidate for court of appeals (8:31)

Rosalina introduces her brothers, directors of the Avengers feature films, who speak about plans to support Rosalina and promote interest in registering and voting among younger people in 2020, while working on next film in Cleveland

Board of Education, Emma Petrie-Barcelona: Homecoming is Friday, parade route from park to high school. (8:37)

The president invites members to talk freely until endorsement voting results (8:38)

ENDORSEMENT VOTING RESULTS announced by Bennett (8:41)

* Dan O’Malley for city council ward 1
* Jason Shachner for city council ward 2
* Yes on Issue 43
* Emma Petrie-Barcelona for board of education
* No other candidates reached endorsement threshold of 60% in favor

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING – October 24, 2019, one week early to avoid Halloween.

ADJOURNMENT – Adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Matt Kuhns, Secretary on Sept. 30, 2019.

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Secretary Approval: sign date

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President Approval: sign date