**The Lakewood Democratic Club**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting held** **February 24, 2022
Online space at zoom.us**

**CALL TO ORDER**: The meeting was called to order by President Erik Meinhardt.

Officers present were President Erik Meinhardt, First Vice-President Maureen Dostal, Second Vice-President Mark Schneider, Treasurer Catie McMahon. The President chaired the meeting. The Secretary took notes while watching the meeting recording at a later date.

**APPROVAL of the MINUTES**: The body approved the minutes from January 27, 2022. Karolyn moved; Judge Clancy seconds.

**RECOGNITION OF NOTABLES -** School Board President Betsy Shaughnessy, Lakewood Municipal Judge Tess Neff, Lakewood City Councilperson Kyle Baker, Lakewood City Councilperson Tom Bullock, CCDP City Leader **and now Executive Director of CCDP** Karolyn Isenhart, judicial candidate Retanio Rucker, School Board member Michael Callahan, State Senator Nickie Antonio, Judge Maureen Clancy, County Councilman Dale Miller, State Rep Mike Skindell, Judge Deborah Turner, Judge Rick Bell, Lakewood City Councilperson Sarah Kepple, School Board Member Emma Petrie Barcelona, County Councilperson and candidate for Lieutenant Governor Cheryl Stephens, Judge Lauren Moore, judicial candidate Jennifer O’Donnell, judicial candidate Kevin Kelley, Ohio Supreme Court candidate Terri Jamison, Judge William Vodrey

Erik congratulated Karolyn Isenhart on her new position as Executive Director of the CCDP!

**HOUSEKEEPING**: Please join us after the meeting for food, a drink, and social time at Sauced Taproom at the corner of Detroit and Warren (weather permitting).

Happy New Year! Don’t forget to pay your 2022 dues! We are planning to endorse in the primary. Endorsement meeting will depend on when maps are approved.

We stand in solidarity with our brothers and sisters in democracy struggling against autocracy all over the world – specifically we stand with Ukraine as they face an invasion by Russia. An attack against democracy anywhere in the world is an attack on us. Unfortunately, many on the right in our own country seem to idolize Vladimir Putin and are apologists for his authoritarian ways, and even Donald Trump called the invasion “genius.” I fear that there is a segment of our own country that would like us to become more like autocratic Russia. It is clear that this Club wouldn’t be able to exist without the protections we are afforded in this country to peaceably assemble, and use our rights of free speech to criticize and petition our government, and get our fellow citizens to do the same.

**PROGRAM:**

Ohio Lt. Governor candidate Cheryl Stephens is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the East Akron Neighborhood Development Corporation (EANDC), which strives to strengthen communities by providing affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization. Cheryl is also the Councilmember for Cuyahoga County District 10, where she focuses on improving county services and increasing investment in local small businesses. Cheryl has previously served the residents of Cleveland Heights as a Councilmember and Mayor.

Q: Tell us about yourself!

A: Erik is one of my favorite westside Democrats! He exemplifies how we can build relationships, and how we represent the openness of the party. When you call him, he responds, and he tries to make sure everyone is included. About me - Dad is U.S. Air Force retired. I went to Japan when 18 months old! Moved around throughout my childhood. By the time I was 13 years old, I’d lived on 3 continents. Learned from traveling, USA is the best country in the world. Even in Germany, where higher income and variety of education options, people wanted to spend time in USA. Dad ended up in Dayton; I’ve lived in Ohio ever since. Always reading. Ohioans committed to giving to communities. For last 12 years, leadership in Ohio more committed to making friends wealthier and better off. Median income in Ohio is lower than national average. Here in Ohio, great education, freshwater, affordable living, we should all have better opportunities. Everyone should have access to education, quality job, and be able to buy a home. Losing that in Ohio. The choices we make about who lead our state will affect our quality of lives. We have deficit of affordable housing. Want to invest in affordable housing and small- and medium-sized businesses. Nan and I don’t just talk; we do the work.

Q - Karolyn: What more can and should the state be doing to protect Lake Erie?

A: Ohio EPA needs to create guidelines with assistance of farmers. Farmers are great asset of this state. Need to work with them to keep land and water clean. Government is a team sport!

Q - Cindy: We have land to be developed in Ohio. Do we have any land in Cuyahoga that could be developed?

A: We need to redevelop! I spent 8 years working for Cuyahoga Land Bank. We worked on demolition of old vacant hotel in Bedford, worked with Team NEO, used grant funds and reduced cost of property, sold to Universal Windows. Takes investment and patience. Smarter to redevelop existing property than build on green land.

Q: Which republican candidate are you hoping is your opponent and why? What are your strategies for winning?

A: Nan thinks Renacci is better candidate to run against. I think DeWine is. Gov DeWine started out well, but then didnt protect Amy Acton, didn’t protect the average Ohioan, helped make FirstEnergy richer, supported son becoming state Supreme Court justice, etc. Our job is to serve constituents, not large companies. Renacci is a bit of an oddball, so I understand Nan’s perspective. Our goal, in the fall, will be to make sure that the average Ohioan understands that we want your income to go up, your expenses to go down (no longer going to pay for coal plant in Indiana), want one job to be enough, want your elected officials to serve you better. Americans have always believed in home ownership; makes your life better.

Q - Rob McRae: Any hope for the icebreaker wind turbine farm project?

A: The funding we thought was available might be gone. Both Nan and I believe in the wind turbine process. Wind turbines and solar energy are part of our future. If Iowa can have wind turbines, we certainly can on Lake Erie.

Q - Karolyn: Can you reaffirm your commitment to a woman’s right to choose?

A: Nan and I have always been pro-choice. A woman must choose her destiny, no questions. It is not a group decision. Need to elect leaders who will be pro-active in making sure our future is better than our past.

Opening campaign office on Coventry the first week of March! Thank you for inviting me to join you this evening!

Congresswoman Shontel Brown, elected and sworn in in 2021, is a member of the House Agriculture Committee and the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, and she is an active member of the Congressional Black Caucus, the New Democrat Coalition, and the Congressional Progressive Caucus. She first entered public service in 2012, when she was elected as a Warrensville Heights city council member. In 2014, she was elected to represent the 9th district on the Cuyahoga County Council. She currently serves as the Cuyahoga County Democratic Party Chair.

Congresswoman Brown: Only been in office a little over 100 days! proud of the work I’ve been able to do. Campaigned on passing the president’s agenda. Been working on infrastructure for decades! Got it done on my second day! $1.8 billion to road repair. $96.7 million to repair bridges. In ohio, we have 1,377 bridges that need repair. 100% federally funded project. Proud to say I stood with Dan O’Malley to say this investment will deliver hundreds of jobs to our economy. When I was on county council with Cheryl Stephens and Dale Miller, we put forth an initiative to help our students when they had to transition to virtual. Investments of $100 million to help people have access to broadband internet. President Biden just in Ohio last week and announced $1 billion investment in restoration of our lake. Member of Agriculture Committee - proud to follow in footsteps of Secretary Fudge - working to combat poverty and food insecurity. SNAP, WIC, Medicare can also get access to internet at a discounted rate. Internet is equivalent to electricity. Farming is critically important in our state. Capitalize on relationships with new leaders in the area. See some real change in Ohio! Committed to replacement and removal of lead pipes. Ohio has second largest number of lead pipes. There’s a chance I could become your Congressperson!

Q: Can you talk about history of this seat and how it feels to be in Congress?

A: Louis Stokes advocated for this seat for representation and was the first to hold it. Then Stephanie Tubbs-Jones, Marcia Fudge, and now my honor to hold the seat. Only 12,000 members of Congress in history, only 350 have been woman. Only 52 black women have served in Congress. No two days are alike; on my second day the voting started at 8:30am and didn’t end until 1:30am that night. Polarization is not nearly as frequent as you might imagine. Dave Joyce, Anthony Gonzalez and I are working on legislation to help our veterans. We disagree a lot, but need to take issues one thing at a time.

Q: Saw you are on many caucuses. Also have you made any new friends?

A: I have been well-trained by CCDP to work with all Democrats. Black Caucus is described as “conscience” of the caucus! Joyce Beatty and Bennie Thompson immediately took me under their wing. Started friendship with Sarah Jacobs (California), Haley Stevens (Michigan), Jahana Hayes (Delaware), etc. Sometimes standing next to Speaker Pelosi. A wild experience, and very humbling! Gotta have friends to pass legislation.

Q: Any reaction/thoughts on the attack on democracy last night with the invasion of Ukraine?

A: Fastest coordination of NATO. Will see sanctions come into play. Expecting sanctions to be very aggressive in isolating Russia. We have put forth humanitarian efforts to not get to this point. Don’t anticipate soldiers being put forth. This is about democracy! We will not stand for authoritarian behavior. We are taking steps to make sure this is clear to Putin.

Q: Saw you were endorsed by Mayor Bibb. Can you share more about your campaign?

A: Looking forward to same results as last time! Please go to [shontelbrown.com](https://shontelbrown.com/). Need all help we can get. Can run unopposed or scared. Coalition has expanded since last time we ran. If that means bringing Lakewood into the fold, I couldn’t be happier. but even if they do not put lakewood in district, I could still use the help! Will not be running for party chair again, but entrusted party to good hands in Karolyn Isenhart. Thank you all for the time! looking forward to coming back!

**REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

President: Erik -

Update on meeting in person: Hope that we can. COVID cases very low in county right now. difficult running a club that’s built on relationships over zoom. waiting on city of lakewood to get back to us re: woman’s pavilion at lakewood park OR new Cove Community Center. Cove may have newer AV capabilities, better lighting and parking. Hoping to still be able to show program on Zoom… will be logistical challenge to offer both but hoping for some volunteers to help us figure it out.

Endorsements – possibly next month? We will need to inform the Club by March 10 (21 days in advance). We have money to spend, from all of you! We may have our own state rep and senator challenged by people outside of lakewood. Waiting on maps to determine if we will have endorsement meeting next month.

Nickie: could we endorse at end of month even if it’s not done by March 10th, knowing that things will be sorted out by end of month?

Erik: could create a scramble if people dont have enough notice of who’s running against who, etc. we will see.

Reminder to pay your dues if you want to take part in endorsement process!

First Vice President: Maureen - if you have any ideas for future programs or speakers, please let us know.

Political Activism: Congressman Tim Ryan (candidate for US Senate) virtual meet & greet: Thursday, March 10 | 7:00pm | https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82602986230?pwd=Rnpsbmk5b21pYXdSYXVPdlJNVElVUT09#

Virtual meet and greet with 4 statewide down ballot candidates (Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer, and Auditor): Save the Date: March 9 | 7:00pm | Via Zoom (link to follow, check your email)

Jay - can work on this until October 29th. Vote Forward sending letters to potential democratic voters. Just released campaigns for 2022. Sending all letters on same day. Track record of success! Plus we can do an in person letter writing party. You are responsible for printing your letters and getting stamps. If you need help with that please let us know!

Book Club: Carol - Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 7:00pm we will have our book club meeting at Bottlehouse Brewery (on Madison Avenue). For March, we will read Chapters 1-7 of Unthinkable: Trauma, Truth, and the Trials of American Democracy by US Representative Jamie Raskin. In this #1 New York Times bestseller, Congressman Jamie Raskin tells the story of the forty-five days at the start of 2021 that permanently changed his life—and his family’s—as he confronted the painful loss of his son to suicide, lived through the violent insurrection in our nation’s Capitol, and led the impeachment effort to hold President Trump accountable for inciting the political violence. We will save the last half of the book for the April book club meeting.

We will also watch the film The Inventor: Out for Blood in Silicon Valley (HBO), a documentary investigating the rise and fall of Theranos, the one-time multibillion-dollar healthcare company founded by Elizabeth Holmes. In 2004, Holmes dropped out of Stanford to start a company that was going to revolutionize healthcare. In 2014, Theranos was valued at $9 billion, making Holmes, who was touted as “the next Steve Jobs,” the youngest self-made female billionaire in the world. Just two years later, Theranos was cited as a “massive fraud” by the SEC, and its value was less than zero.

Maureen - we’re not a “you have to read the book” book club! if you read a little bit or just want to discuss the topic, please join!

Second Vice President: Special Events & Awards (Jesse Schmidt, Brian Taubman): Possibility of meeting in-person for our April 28th meeting at Sauced.

Treasurer: $10,044.57 in the bank + $540.73 in PayPal as of 02/24/2022.

FEC reports turned in!

Renew your membership: (paste link into chat: <https://www.lakewooddemocrats.com/join>). If you need help or need to check if you renewed, please reach out. Will be going through membership ahead of endorsement meeting.

Thanks to everyone who renewed so far!

Fill out the membership form online and purchase your membership via Paypal or send a check to PO Box 771263, Lakewood, OH 44107 made out to Lakewood Democratic Club.​

Adult Memberships are $20.00 and Senior/Young Adult Memberships are $10.00, but there is a small transaction fee charged to the donor if payment is made via this website. To avoid this charge, you may send a check. Membership is for one year (January 1 to December 31) and members will be asked to renew their membership and update their information at the regular January club meeting.

Voting membership requires: (1) payment of annual dues, (2) attendance at 3 general meetings in the 12 months prior to a vote, (3) residence in Lakewood, and (4) being a registered Democrat.

Secretary: (not present)

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

Statehouse: Senator Antonio - Redistricting Commission met today. While Republicans did produce a map, did not comply with all of the rules and did not work with Democratic colleagues. Huffman evaded questions. Vote was 4-3 to pass the maps. Two Democrats on committee; the third “No” was Keith Faber because of too many splits and districts weren’t compact. Set up for some questioning at Supreme Court next week. I have opponent, Jeff Johnson, as of now, depending on district. Working on bill to allow solar panels on condominiums. Capital budget coming up. This club is engaged; as a group we need to keep encouraging people to vote. Your vote matters now more than ever. Authoritarianism on the rise. I am having event March 24th at Music Box 5-7pm.

State Rep Skindell- boundaries of my district keep changing. could split lakewood. map approved tonight, i would have democratic opponent, also an incumbent. Next tuesday, march 1st, contempt hearing in supreme court as commission could be held in contempt of court. In Ohio House, republicans working to expand concealed carry so that you wouldn’t need a permit etc. Also, republicans working to restrict teaching of critical race theory in schools. Don’t have primary date yet. June? August? September? Cost of having two primaries would be additional $15 million. Very concerned that would not have enough election workers to run two primaries.

State Board of Education: (Erik working to bring Meryl Johnson in to discuss less-talked-about gerrymandering of school board).

County Council: Dale - $6 million coming to county for community development projects. Moving forward with county’s plastic bag ban. Not enforcing yet. Spending year educating & publicizing. getting people prepared. Begin enforcing next year. No plastic bag fee yet.

Lakewood City Council: Councilperson Baker - Lakewood working on Climate Action Plan. Outside consultant Sustainability Solutions Group working on plan. Lauderdale & Detroit road construction near completion. Replaced old sewers and water lines. Foster Pool design ready to be implemented. Work may begin later this year.

Councilperson Kepple - many folks contacting about snow & ice. Councilperson Shachner and I looking at ordinances regarding snow removal. Mayor also put forward potential legislation. Partnership with LakewoodAlive to help with snow removal for those who aren’t able. Discussing at upcoming public safety meeting, which Councilperson Litten now chairing. I am now chairing Health & Human Services committee. Health commissioner Terry Allen coming to meeting March 7th at 5:30pm to talk about COVID status in county. Send me questions for commissioner Allen! Commissioner Allen retiring; Commissioner Rodrick Harris taking over, wants to focus on racial inequities and health disparity.

Councilperson Bullock - Meeting coming up considering updates on Building & Safety Code including water heaters, inspection of underground parking structure, etc. City considering legal action regarding parking garage collapse that occurred in apartment building a few months ago. Commercial buildings could use more attention. Safe Routes to Schools opportunity thanks to federal infrastructure dollars. Updating bicycle master plan.

(Erik - Tom was on ideastream last week discussing electric vehicles!)

Councilperson Bullock - Lakewood has seven chargers and potentially two on the way!

Lakewood School Board: President Shaughnessy - new dress code is remarkable in that we couldn’t have done it a few years ago. Taken out much of the detail and aspects that unfairly targeted female students. Committed to diversity, equity and inclusion in schools. Committed to teaching Critical Race Theory. Monday night at 6pm at Garfield - joint city council & school board meeting. Canceled in March of 2020 due to COVID! Finally happening. Variety of topics up for discussion.

School Board Member Callahan - excited for meeting Monday! Thank you to President Shaugnessy for continued leadership.

CCDP: Karolyn - thank you all for congratulations! As a county party, we are a team. Up to all of us to work together, engage voters and elect Democrats. Central Committee - recruited some new folks to run. Will be doing trainings across county. Will be sharing everything I can with Erik and the team. Will be talking to Board of Elections on how we can get ahead of map drama. Email me to add events to the calendar!

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING - March 31, 2022

ADJOURNMENT - The meeting was adjourned.

Event notes prepared by Nicole Parke on March 6, 2022.

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Secretary Approval: sign date

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President Approval: sign date

* **Retanio Rucker**05:50
* Good evening everyone! This is Retanio Rucker. I am a candidate for CUYAHOGA COUNTY Juvenile Court Judge. Thank you to the Lakewood Democratic Club for allowing me to attend this evening’s meeting. If you’d like to know more about my candidacy, please go to my campaign website: www.RetanioRuckerforJudge.com
* **Judge Terri Jamison**07:42
* Judge Terri Jamison running for Ohio Supreme Court VoteJudgeJamison.com
* **Karolyn Isenhart**25:38
* My CuyDem email... kisenhart@cuydem.com
* **Jasmine**01:00:28
* Visit: ShontelBrown.com and shontelbrown.house.gov for more information on Congresswoman BrownTo donate to Rep. Brown’s campaign visit: https://secure.actblue.com/donate/shontel-brown-for-congress-2Listen to Congresswoman Brown’s past 3 telephone town halls by visiting shontelbrown.house.gov/live
* **Jasmine**01:14:43
* Visit: ShontelBrown.com and shontelbrown.house.gov for more information on Congresswoman BrownTo donate to Rep. Brown’s campaign visit: https://secure.actblue.com/donate/shontel-brown-for-congress-2Listen to Congresswoman Brown’s past 3 telephone town halls by visiting shontelbrown.house.gov/live
* **Erik Meinhardt (he/him)**01:23:13
* Congressman Tim Ryan (candidate for US Senate) virtual meet & greet: Thursday, March 10 | 7:00pm | https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82602986230?pwd=Rnpsbmk5b21pYXdSYXVPdlJNVElVUT09#
* **Erik Meinhardt (he/him)**01:23:26
* Virtual meet and greet with 4 statewide down ballot candidates (Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer, and Auditor): Save the Date: March 9 | 7:00pm | Via Zoom (link to follow, check your email)
* **Jay Ketchaver**01:26:39
* Write letters to high potential Democratic voters with Vote Forward!
* **Jay Ketchaver**01:26:41
* https://votefwd.org
* **Jeffrey Pigott**01:28:57
* Book Club was virtual the past couple of months but we are going back to in-person at the bottle house in March.
* **Erik Meinhardt (he/him)**01:29:29
* Hi Stephanie, book club will be in person for March - March 22 @ 7pm at Bottlehouse Brewery on Madison Avenue
* **Jacquie Davis**01:30:51
* How an we make sure we have paid dues?
* **Erik Meinhardt (he/him)**01:31:52
* Hi Jacquie, yes you paid online already for 2022
* **Erik Meinhardt (he/him)**01:32:08
* Thank you!
* **Erik Meinhardt (he/him)**01:32:17
* To renew online: https://www.lakewooddemocrats.com/join
* **Kyle Baker**01:50:05
* https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/climateactionplan/
* **Kyle Baker**01:50:28
* https://www.lakewoodoh.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/ClimateActionPlanTownHallPresentation\_021522.pdf
* **Erik Meinhardt (he/him)**01:50:46
* is there a video recording of that meeting, by chance?
* **Kyle Baker**01:51:36
* I believe they recorded it, but the video link is not on the website. I'll follow up with the Planning Department and get back to you.
* **Tom & Molly Bullock**02:00:00
* That’s a pretty legit beard, School Board member Callahan
* **Karolyn Isenhart**02:03:00
* Events@cuydem.com