**The Lakewood Democratic Club**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting held January 30, 2020**

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

**Erik Meinhardt, President**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:07 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.

APPROVAL of the previous MINUTES of the meeting held Nov. 22, 2019.

RECOGNITION OF NOTABLES –

Current officials in attendance (excluding those making campaign remarks): County Council member Dale Miller, Lakewood Board of Education members Ed Favre and Betsy Shaughnessy, Lakewood City Council president Dan O’Malley, Council members Tess Neff and Jason Shachner, Cuyhoga County Court of Common Pleas Judge Ashley Kilbane, Cuyahoga County Democratic Party City Leader Karolyn Isenhart

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CANDIDATE REMARKS

Brief remarks from appeals court candidates Hugh Carlin and Lisa Forbes (7:11)

Membership renewal information from Treasurer, and voting membership information from President

Additional candidate remarks from Nicole Park (on behalf of Court of Common Pleas candidate Jennifer O’Donnell), Common Pleas candidate Richard Vodrey, Appeals Court candidate Judge Emanuella Groves

Refreshments announcement by President (7:29)

Additional candidate remarks from Appeals Court candidate Judge Gayle Williams-Byers, Congressional candidate Pete Rosewicz, former domestic relations court candidate Kira Krivosh, Ali (on behalf of Bernie Sanders), Brad Presutto (on behalf of Mike Bloomberg), and Anna Brichacek (on behalf of Elizabeth Warren)

Molly Crowe with Moms Demand Action (7:42)

* “Stand Your Ground” measure back in Ohio legislature
* Please support SB 183 (background checks)
* Upcoming events Nan Whaley in Rocky River Feb. 16, and statehouse lobby day Feb. 29

Dale Miller advocating Issue 33, County health and human services levy

Colleen Clark-Sutton advocating Issue 28, Lakewood school district levy

City Council updates from Dan O’Malley, including selection of Scalish Construction to renovate and repurpose Trinity Lutheran Church (7:52)

Board of Education updates from Ed Favre and Betsy Shaughnessy, including relocation of board offices, and opening of public preschool and daycare facility, all at Taft School (7:55)

CUYAHOGA COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY

The president recognized, as a group, members of the county party central and executive committees. (8:00)

Updates from the City Leader

* Meeting and trainings in February for city/ward leaders et al.
* Volunteer as a poll worker for March primary, CLE credit available for attorneys

**2020 READY PRESENTATION**

The 1st Vice President introduces featured guests

* Sarah Kepple, chair of Northeast Ohio Grassroots Coalition
* Jay Ketchaver, organizer for Indivisible CLE

Sarah explains Mobilize the Vote 2020 (8:07)

* Trump is terrible, including for our mental health, but activism > anxiety
* Review of effective activism efforts during past years
* Recent pressure has raised public awareness of and support for witness testimony in impeachment proceedings
* Take Action Tuesdays weekly at Bottlehouse Brewing; bring old yard signs Feb. 4
* Mobilize the Vote, specifically, is a statewide project to persuade nonvoting Democrats to vote
  + Talking to people who haven’t voted in 10 years
  + “Deep canvassing” conversations work, with 3 month effect vs. 3 day effect for shorter traditional canvassing

Jay reviews deep canvassing (8:22)

* Recently attended training event followed by trying it out in the field
* First contact was someone who had never voted
* Established a connection using the methods from training
* “Voting is a gift to somebody that we love”
* Got a commitment to register, and vote for the Democratic nominee for president

Sarah on volunteering to make this happen (8:26)

* We need canvassers, also greeters, material-preppers, hospitality volunteers, etc.
* Regional goals are
  + 75,487 potential voters
  + knock on 45,390 doors, twice
  + recruit 500 people to volunteer for a couple of hours
* Visit neogc.org/mtv2020 or follow on Facebook
* Upcoming storytelling workshops, and canvasses including Feb. 22 in Lakewood ward 4

Question from 1st VP: What happens once party has a nominee? (8:31)

* Sarah: We’re ready to adapt our campaign promptly to supporting him or her

Question from Glenn Campbell: What about voter registration? (8:33)

* Jay: We go out prepared with forms & ready to register people if needed

Question from Vonni Rubin: How about registering students in schools?

* Treasurer: League of Women Voters will do so Feb. 6 & 7

Question from City Leader: is there follow-up on contacts?

* Sarah: Yes and we need data help

Comment from Nicole Park: Try canvassing it’s fun and highly effective

Question from 1st VP: Do volunteers go out alone?

* No, you train and go out on your first canvass in company
* President: I will host first Lakewood canvass out of my home, for precinct 4J which has Lakewood’s lowest turnout

Comment: I don’t like the language of “vote blue no matter who” (8:38)

* Sarah: OK you’re heard and acknowledged

Recommendation from Jay: Donate to Swing Left

Additional candidate recognition: Jennifer O’Donnell; remarks by Domestic relations court candidate Joy Kennedy, and Common Pleas court candidate Ann McDonough

President: Next book club discussion is Desk 88, Feb. 11

Treasurer: Please return pens and nametags, and sign in if you have not done so

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING – February 27, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT – Adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Matt Kuhns, Secretary on Feb. 2, 2019.

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Secretary Approval: sign date

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President Approval: sign date