**The Lakewood Democratic Club**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting held May 28, 2020**

**Online space at zoom.us**

**Erik Meinhardt, President**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by President Erik Meinhardt.

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 MINUTES of the meeting held April 30, 2020.

RECOGNITION OF NOTABLES –

Current officials (non-candidates) in attendance: County Council member Dale Miller, Lakewood Board of Education members Emma Petrie-Barcelona and Betsy Shaughnessy, Cuyahoga County Democratic Party City Leader Karolyn Isenhart, Lakewood City Council members Jason Shachner (ward 2), and Tom Bullock (at-large)

Candidates in attendance: Lisa Forbes (Court of Appeals), Emmanuella Groves (Court of Common Pleas), Rick Bell (Court of Common Pleas)

The president notes that all judicial candidates in attendance are opposed in the general election.

**THE BIG SEND**

Political Activism Committee Chair Jay Ketchaver recapped the concept of Take Action Tuesdays, and the need to adapt to COVID-19 and restricted in-person gatherings. (7:14)

* The Big Send is a campaign to prepare 10 million letters, now, to encourage Democratic-leaning inconsistent voters to turn out in November
* It’s a tested and proven effective GOTV method
* Sign up at thebigsend.org
* Reach out if you need help getting started, paying for supplies, etc.

The president reminds attendees that attending the Zoom meeting counts as signing in, toward voting member status, but couples attending together should identify themselves if only one member of the household registered for the meeting (7:22)

Questions from Dale Miller: Is October 27 too late for mailing the letters, and will people who vote early be screened out?

* Ketchaver: the mailing date may move up, Vote Forward et al. will keep participants updated

**GREEN NEW DEAL**

The president introduces writer and activist David Beach, and club member Glenn Campbell (7:28)

Campbell reviews the massive Australian wildfires in January, and suggests three general lessons from them and COVID-19, both of which are disasters of which scientists warned us (7:30)

1. Listening to experts is important
2. Global-scale threats are real
3. Massive, rapid responses are possible

Campbell summarizes climate change: how it works, where things stand, what our prospects are. “Think about how your body feels when you have a fever of just a couple degrees.” (7:34)

The Green New Deal proposal (7:37)

* Resolutions (H. Res. 109 and S. Res. 59) calling for federal industrial policy to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a way which provides a just transition for all workers and communities
* Infrastructure investment creating millions of good jobs
* Access to clean air, water, and healthy food for all
* Inclusivity, justice, and equity, in contrast to the original New Deal

It is possible (7:41)

* For World War II, U.S. mobilized 40% of the economy for the war effort, rapidly
* U.S. will need a massive economic stimulus to recover from deep recession anyway
* Public support is growing, also from labor, and elected Democrats

What to do toward national policy (7:46)

* Help Democrats win in November
* Call on Lakewood’s U.S. Rep and Senators to support GND resolutions
* Attend events around GND
* Make climate a centerpiece of the election
* Advocate GND as the recovery strategy, after the election

What to do locally (7:47)

* Join Cuyahoga County solar co-op
* Or upcoming Lakewood solar co-op, allowing buy-in even for those not installing solar on their own homes
* Join a planned local group to support implementation of city’s 100% clean energy goal

State level: policy is vile, right now, please support our allies there (7:50)

To learn more, check out sunrisemovement.org, talk to me, or David (7:51)

**Q&A for Campbell and David Beach**

Question about potential Republican support (7:52)

* Campbell: This is a controversy within climate activism. Citizens Climate Lobby has pursued strict bipartisanship but the results have stalled. Decades of hope for good faith and bipartisanship have failed.
* Beach: The Republican Party is a lost cause: intellectually and financially corrupt. The GND policies are still very popular.

Three-way conversation among Bullock, Campbell, Beach

* Tom Bullock reviews Lakewood government actions and commitments, asks about outreach to other communities, NOPEC, etc. Notes that Beach first coined phrase “green city on a blue lake” (7:57)
* Beach: We are currently active in Cleveland Heights, Shaker Heights, Berea… (7:59)
* Campbell: Mentions remarks to South Euclid City Council, last year, at Bullock’s request
* Bullock: The resolution is still alive, in S. Euclid, and I am encouraging it respectfully (8:00)

Jay Ketchaver asks where to sign up for Lakewood co-op (8:01)

* Campbell: more specific information is coming

The president introduces Shachner and Bullock for city council updates, and pauses for a moment of silence honoring lives lost to COVID-19

**CITY COUNCIL UPDATES**

Bullock discusses City of Lakewood budget (8:06)

* Income taxes have fallen off already (partly because payment deadlines have been pushed back); a property tax impact is likely a bit later; funds from state likely to be reduced
* Lakewood has various “rainy day” resources
* Mayor will update soon on voluntary furloughs taking advantage of a state program
* Focusing on the short term now, mostly, because the situation continues evolving

Bullock discusses efforts to help local businesses survive (8:11)

* City’s large hospitality sector may place Lakewood economy at especially high risk
* Distancing is essential, but it reduces hospitality businesses’ capacity; Distill has already closed permanently citing capacity
* Lakewood has helped tide some businesses over, but resources are limited, and any federal aid is still awaited
* Council approved a resolution for expanded outdoor dining last week

Shachner discusses outdoor dining resolution (8:16)

* Purpose is to allow restaurants to create more space outdoors, and maintain a larger portion of their ordinary seating capacity, not to increase total capacity
* “Everything goes through the planning commission. Residents have a say. Appropriate safety forces will be involved.”
* Eight applications on June 4 commission agenda; proposals are in published agenda, online
* Will last to October 31, or end of the pandemic state of emergency
* Have received interest from other communities e.g. Avon
* Housing Committee continued discussion of parklets yesterday

Bullock discusses parklets concept (8:22)

* Already implemented in various cities around the world
* Aside that Lake Avenue bike lines coming this summer
* These expand space for pedestrians
* They have positive outcomes in other cities

**Q&A for City Council**

Maureen Dostall asks about keeping cars from going into a parking space once it’s a parklet (8:28)

* Shachner, and Kyle Baker, note that many proposals include barriers or gates

Chitra Walker asks about aesthetic implications (8:32)

* Shachner confirms that these are a consideration

Adele asks what are we doing to guarantee approvals “chop-chop-chop” (8:33)

* Shachner: this is a concern of mine as well; planning commission, fire chief, police chief say they will strive for efficiency; commission will hold more frequent meetings

Adele asks how long decisions will take (8:35); Baker and Bullock say there is no single guaranteed answer

REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

President: executive committee will meet next week to discuss path forward (8:37)

First Vice President (8:38)

* Women’s History, and recognition of 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage, upcoming
* Suggestions always welcome, for content or format

Second Vice President says future of 2020 Summer Supper to be determined (8:39)

Treasurer (8:40)

* 120 paid members; ask if unsure of your member status
* Bank balance $8,630.11
* Asks for identity of unknown person who joined meeting by phone
* Health tip for Mental Health month: breath, listen to calming music, laugh

Secretary notes that URLS, etc., from tonight’s meeting will be shared (8:43)

County Council member Dale Miller (8:46)

* Average of 72 new cases daily over past five days; mildly below peak but still high
* County focusing on nursing homes and other high risk groups

Board of Education member Shaughnessy: graduation will be a virtual event, plus four days for students and families who wish to schedule a time to receive diplomas and take photos in auditorium (8:47)

Miller addresses question from President about state action to preempt plastic bag ban: county’s implementation is delayed anyway, due to COVID-19; bills passed by Ohio House and Senate but currently have many differences (8:49)

City Leader Karolyn Isenhart: Dues unpaid by some executive committee members (8:50)

Kara Krivosh asks people to support Citizens Committee for Lakewood Animal Shelter, will provide a handmade mask to anyone who donates $50 (8:52)

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING – June 25, 2020.

The president announced the meeting’s conclusion at 8:55 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Matt Kuhns, Secretary on May 30, 2020.

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Secretary Approval: sign date

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President Approval: sign date