The Lakewood Democratic Club

Minutes of Regular Meeting held on Oct. 26, 2017

Woman’s Club Pavilion at Lakewood Park

Grant W. MacKay, President

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by President MacKay. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, officer attendance was noted, as follows: Present were President, Grant W. MacKay; First Vice-President, Kristine Pagsuyoin; Treasurer, Maureen Dostal; Secretary, Chuck Shaughnessy. Second Vice-President, Erik F. Meinhardt, was absent. The President chaired the Meeting. The Secretary took minutes.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA for today, Oct. 26, 2017 (approved by voice vote)

APPROVAL of the previous MINUTES of the meeting held on Sept. 28, 2017

PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Nothing to report.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Nothing to report.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT – Absent, nothing to report.

TREASURER’S REPORT – No regular issues to report, but the Club will be developing a plan to welcome new members, likely involving introductions, holding social gatherings such as weekend morning coffees, and distributing documents and general information about Club activities.

MONTHLY PROGRAM, EDUCATION ISSUES – Barbara Hueter, a Club member and Student Advisor at CCC introduced the speakers: Dr. Andrew Cox spoke on behalf of Issue #61, the first ever capital bond issue for Cuyahoga Community College. Lisa Schaffer-Gill of Lakewood Teachers Association spoke of the impact on teachers of testing and other requirements. They work at home after a full day at school. The main speaker was Jeff Wensing, President of North East Ohio Education Assn. Standardized Testing was a main topic. Many years ago parents pushed for more testing. Now they are pushing in the opposite direction. Major tests have gone from 17 per year down to 15, due to teacher lobbying, but parents and teachers and students are largely opposed to the amount of testing currently required. Another issue was charter schools. Parma’s traditional schools have a budget of $143,000,000 and their charter schools have a budget of 11,000,000. Quality of charter schools depends mostly on the organization or company running the school. A recommended website is knowyourcharter.com. Another issue discussed is the complexity of variation in student populations. Each child’s learning capabilities are a little different and their health and home environment impact them greatly.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Volunteer of the Year nominations can be made online on the Club website.

Tickets for the Holiday Party on Dec. 14th can be purchased online, lakewooddemocrats.com.

New membership blanks can be found on the website.

Articles, announcements, etc. for our Blue Bulletin Newsletter should be submitted by the 20th of each calendar month. Email Grant MacKay, President.

NEWS FROM THE STATEHOUSE – Mike Skindell said he and Nicki Antonio would be running for state office in 2018, for each other’s positions, as they are term-limited in their current offices.

NEWS FROM LAKEWOOD CITY SCHOOLS BOARD OF EDUCATION – Emma Petrie-Barcelona reported that through the efforts of the Treasurer, the Superintendent, and the board members, the District’s bond rating was increased and will result in a savings to taxpayers of several millions of dollars over the next decade or so.

FUTURE AGENDA – The Nov. 30th meeting will be “Civics and Civil Liberties”. Dr. Larry Keller of C.S.U. will talk about the importance of both effective public officials and active citizen groups. Frank Kunstel is a consultant for the ACLU and has made presentations on civil liberties, Know Your Rights, and other topics.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING – Nov. 30, 2017. Then Holiday Party on Dec. 14th.

ADJOURNMENT – moved, seconded, adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Chuck Shaughnessy, Secretary on Nov. 30, 2017.

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Secretary Approval: sign date

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Member Review: sign date

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Member Review: sign date

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Chairman Approval: sign date

[C.P.S. Word: Dem Club – 2017.10.26 Minutes]