**The Lakewood Democratic Club**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting held on August 29, 2019**

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

**Erik Meinhardt, President**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:10 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 June meeting minutes.

RECOGNITION OF NOTABLES –

Officials and candidates for office were recognized. Current officials in attendance: John Litten, Emma Petrie-Barcelona, Meghan George, Betsy Shaughnessy, Mike Skindell, Dan O’Malley, Tristan Rader, and from Tri-City Dems Mimi Gaiter and Matthew Howard

Candidates for 2019-20 in attendance: Lindsey Grdina (Lakewood City Council Ward 1), Brad Presutto (candidate for Lakewood City Council Ward 2), Tess Neff (Lakewood City Council Ward 1), Andrew Santoli (Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas), Jason Shachner (Lakewood City Council Ward 2), Rick Bell (Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas), Lisa Forbes (court of appeals), Jeff Wise (Lakewood City Council Ward 3), Mike Callahan (Lakewood board of education)

The president recognized, as groups, members of the county party central and executive committees, and new club members.

Introduction of evening’s program: Short speeches from candidates for Lakewood Board of Education, and Lakewood City Council. (7:17 p.m.)

**CANDIDATE REMARKS**

Mike Callahan (7:18)

* Board needs better representation of young parents
* I would be visible and approachable
* I am parks/recreation manager for Bedford
* (went over time on remarks)

Nickie Antonio, speaking on behalf of Tom Einhouse (7:21)

* Einhouse is involved in the Cleveland business community

Andy Meyer (7:24)

* I was a substitute teacher in my first job after law school
* will advocate a voluntary consortium of districts to share and learn
* Will work to manage projected budget shortfall as effectively as possible

Emma Petrie-Barcelona (7:27)

* I am a working parent and work with the formerly homeless and people with disabilities
* Worked on refinancing district bonds, saving money for the public

Lindsey Grdina (7:30)

* I serve as court appointed attorney for defendants and help women subjected to domestic violence
* I will advocate affordable housing, sustainable development, parks and green spaces, small business ownership particularly by women and minorities
* I served on the citizen’s advisory committee

Tess Neff (7:33)

* Serving on city council is a wonderful opportunity for me
* I have held positions of authority as a police officer, magistrate, and court administrator for the juvenile court
* I have had a difficult life and overcome that

Brad Presutto (7:36)

* I will prioritize affordability for all residents in structuring payment for water/sewer upgrades
* My professional experience will help attract larger employers to replace lost jobs
* I am already trusted by Ward 2 residents as someone to help resolve problems

Jason Shachner (7:40)

* Society is not fair so I devoted my life to public service in Americorp and as a criminal prosecutor
* I have knocked on thousands of doors and learned that people love Lakewood
* I have been called an outsider and I am Jewish

John Litten (7:43)

* I have promoted block clubs
* $100 million of proposed development
* Residents have input on development

Jeff Wise (7:47)

* Since college years I have actively organized and advocated LGBTQ rights
* As an employee in state legislature I helped Lakewood residents with state government
* Lakewood can do better than process by which hospital was closed

Dan O’Malley (7:50)

* We passed balanced budgets
* I introduced an equality ordinance and ban on conversion therapy
* I deal with absentee landlords every single day

The president recognizes public officials who arrived late: David Anderson, Sam O’Leary, Tom Bullock, Patrick Carroll, William Vodrey, Emmanuela Groves.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT (7:54)

* September meeting will include mayoral candidates QA, you can propose questions and executive committee will pick five, must apply to both candidates
* Voting members will consider endorsements in September, list of voting members will be circulated in advance
* Voting members’ contact information will be provided to candidates, except where members have opted out
* Voting will use a secret ballot, candidates must receive at least 60% for endorsement, abstaining votes will count toward the total
* Review of club’s intention for communicating potential endorsements to voters

City Leader Karolyn Isenhart pushed for considering endorsement of proposed amendment to Lakewood Charter, and the president surveyed members and found no declared objections (7:59)

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT (8:03)

* Sept 21 yard cleanup with LakewoodAlive
* Event coming up to view documentary on mass incarceration
* Report on report/impeachment discussion with Steve Dettelbach
* Sept. 10 book club discuss *The Hidden Life of Trees*

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT (8:07)

* Summer Supper fundraiser was a success
* Bylaws Committee has reconvened

President: Holiday Party will be 12/12

TREASURER’S REPORT – Summer Supper attendance was 122, raised $9,000 total, with $4,156 in costs, for second-highest net income from this event (8:12)

SECRETARY’S REPORT – Thank you for opening the club’s emails (8:14)

President mentions an open event with Ward 3 city council candidates scheduled Sept. 17

Ohio Senate, Nickie Antonio: not in session; attorney general Yost filed a brief in support of LGBT discrimination; possible action on gun violence is uncertain. (8:15)

Ohio House, Mike Skindell: Recently met marine scientists working on plastic pollution, who explained that plastic bags are little seen on shores because they sink, break up and get into drinking water; proposed HB 242 would preempt local restrictions on plastic bags, and has support of neighboring district’s rep. Greenspan. (8:18)

City Council (8:20)

* Tom Bullock: Council has been on recess, will begin budget priorities process after Labor Day
* John Litten: proposed tree advisory group will need people to serve if created

Board of Education, Emma Petrie-Barcelona: Ice cream social at Garfield School. Board offices moving to Taft. Vision of a Lakewood Graduate initiative. (8:21)

Dan O’Malley: youth council needs applicants aged 13-19, by Oct. 1 (8:23)

Cuyahoga County Democratic Party, Karolyn Isenhart (8:33)

* Endorsement of proposed Lakewood charter amendment
* Endorsement of Andy Meyer and Emma Petrie-Barcelona for board of education
* Monday is 11th congressional district Labor Day parade

Event announcements:

* Cleveland Stonewall Democrats fundraiser for candidates is Sept. 15 at Nuevo. (8:26)
* League of Women Voters candidate forum Sept. 25, 7 p.m. at city hall
* LCAC Welcome to Lakewood, Oct. 23
* Fundraiser for CCLAS (shelter animals) Oct. 3, 5:30 p.m. at VOSH

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING – September 26, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT – Adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Matt Kuhns, Secretary on Sept. 1, 2019.

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Secretary Approval: sign date

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President Approval: sign date