**The Lakewood Democratic Club**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting held February 27, 2020**

**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 the previous MINUTES of the meeting held Jan. 30, 2020.

The President explained the unofficial straw poll taking place at the meeting, all attendees welcomed to vote, regardless of residency, membership, etc.

RECOGNITION OF NOTABLES –

Current officials (non-candidates) in attendance: Lakewood Board of Education members Ed Favre and Betsy Shaughnessy, Lakewood City Council president Dan O’Malley, Council member Tom Bullock, Domestic Relations Court Judge Diana Palos, Cuyahoga County Democratic Party City Leader Karolyn Isenhart

Candidates in attendance: Pete Rosewicz (U.S. House), Andy Santoli (Court of Common Pleas), Jennifer O’Donnell (Court of Common Pleas), Joy Kennedy (Domestic Relations Court), and surrogates for Hugh Carlin, Emanuella Groves, Collean Reali, Monique Smith

Liz Gerstenhaber speaks on behalf of former Lakewood City Council member Monique Smith, currently running for state representative in House District 16 (7:15)

**PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN REPRESENTATIVES**

The President introduced the evening’s main program. Six current presidential campaigns sent representatives. (Gabbard and Steyer campaigns did not respond.)

Brad Presutto, field organizer for Mike Bloomberg (7:20)

* Trump “knows that Mike is who he pretends to be.”

Nick Fink, regional volunteer leader and field organizer for Joe Biden (7:26)

* Trump fears Biden
* Republicans will vote for Biden

Ken Harbaugh, former Congressional candidate, on behalf of Pete Buttigieg (7:30)

* Pete’s political theory revolves around belonging

Lana Moresky, DNC member, on behalf of Amy Klobuchar (7:35)

* Effectiveness in the U.S. Senate
* Winning a purple state in the upper Midwest

Timothy Hughes, on behalf of Bernie Sanders (7:39)

* My family’s finances were ruined when my father got MS
* Plan for GHG sequestration

Anna Brichacek, Ohio state director for Elizabeth Warren (7:44)

* Summarizes Warren’s life story, accomplishments including creating the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, and how this story has inspired her

The president repeated an invitation for anyone who wished to speak on behalf of Gabbard or Steyer, to no response.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION DISCUSSING ISSUE 28**

Board of Education members Shaughnessy, Favre, and Petrie-Barcelona speak about Issue 28 (7:50)

* “We are entering into a year of deficit spending.”
* Issue 28 will fund expanded counseling, health services, STEM curriculum, technology upkeep
* The state of Ohio is not supporting public education

Question: How do we help?

* This weekend, knock talk and drop; help on election day; visit lakewoodschildren.org

Question: Is this renewal, entirely new, etc.?

* Issue 28 is entirely new, though we have removed some old millage

Question: Share of funds in Lakewood going to charter schools?

* The figure has gotten smaller in recent years

Question: Future of Emerson School?

* It’s possible that it will become an Ed Choice school, though it’s hoped not

Question: Potential worst-case scenario for Lakewood?

* Hopefully not

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND CANDIDATE REMARKS

The president recognized the arrival of State Rep. Mike Skindell, Council member Jason Shachner, State Senator Nickie Antonio (8:01)

Brief remarks from local candidates and candidate surrogates:

* Joy Kennedy (8:02)
* Jennifer O’Donnell (8:03)
* Mark Schneider on behalf of Colleen Reali (8:05)
* Aqueelah on behalf of Gayle Williams-Byers (8:07)
* Essence on behalf of Emanuella Groves (8:09)
* Caitlin Carlin on behalf of Hugh Carlin (8:10)
* William Vodrey (Court of Common Pleas) 8:12
* Karolyn Isenhart on behalf of Lisa Forbes (Court of Appeals) 8:13
* Mike Skindell (8:16)

First Vice President (8:17)

* Take Action Tuesday is every Tuesday evening in Lakewood
* This coming Saturday, Mobilize the Vote will canvass indoors
* April meeting will feature the Green New Deal
* Ideas for future programs welcome
* Book Club will continue discussing *Desk 88* on March 10

President (8:20)

* Get out the vote rally scheduled 5:30-7:30 p.m. March 4, at VOSH
* *Activized* screening April 1 at Capital Theater presented by county party

Second Vice President (8:21)

* Summer Supper will be July 30, 2020

Treasurer (8:22)

* Prior to the meeting, 90 paid members
* Bank balance $7,982.21

Secretary (8:23)

* Recognition of recently deceased member Pam Wetula

The president noted that the club is donating to the Beck Center, for which Wetula volunteered many years, then proposed a moment of silence

State Senate report from Nickie Antonio (8:25)

* Legislation to eliminate statute of limitations on rape is SB162 and HB279
* Call Senate Judiciary Committee Eklund in support of this legislation
* House consensus on what to do with Ed Choice remains different from Senate consensus
* Support Issue 28

State House report from Mike Skindell (8:30)

* Further information about Ed Choice
* Ohio Fairness Act hearings are continuing in House and a historic floor vote is possible
* Multiple bad pro-gun bills are in General Assembly

City Council update from Jason Shachner (8:32)

* Madison Library parking lot is changing, for the better

Equal Rights Amendment summary from Lana Moresky (8:34)

* Originally, 35 of 38 needed states voted to ratify many years ago
* Recently, Nevada and Illinois ratified the ERA out of the blue, then Virginia this year after Democrats won majorities in VA legislature
* ERA was presented originally to be ratified within a 14-year window, and the validity of NV, IL and VA votes will be challenged in court

City Leader Karolyn Isenhart: Please vote, and vote for Issue 33

The president recognized, as groups, members of county party central and executive committees, and new club members (8:39)

Announcement of straw poll results by Glenn Campbell and Chuck Shaughnessy, who counted the votes along with Nicole Parke and Greg Mahoney: 70 total ballots cast

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Candidate | Total votes | First-place votes | Second-place votes |
| Elizabeth Warren | 36 | 17 | 19 |
| Joe Biden | 29 | 17 | 12 |
| Pete Buttigieg | 24 | 8 | 16 |
| Amy Klobuchar | 19 | 8 | 11 |
| Bernie Sanders | 17 | 13 | 4 |
| Mike Bloomberg | 11 | 7 | 4 |
| Tom Steyer | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| “Any Democrat” | 1 | 0 | 1 |

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING – March 26, 2020.

ADJOURNMENT – Adjourned at 8:43 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Matt Kuhns, Secretary on Feb. 28, 2020.

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Secretary Approval: sign date

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President Approval: sign date