**The Lakewood Democratic Club**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting held September 29, 2022  
Lakewood Women’s Pavilion & Online space at zoom.us**

**CALL TO ORDER**: The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm by First Vice President Maureen Dostal. Officers present were First Vice-President Maureen Dostal, Treasurer Catie McMahon, and Secretary Nicole Parke. The First Vice President chaired the meeting in person. The Secretary took notes.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Club said the Pledge of Allegiance together.

**APPROVAL of the MINUTES**: The body approved the minutes from June 30, 2022.

**SOCIAL:** The club will be socializing at Sauced after the meeting.

**RECOGNITION OF NOTABLES -** State Representative Mike Skindell, Lakewood Judge Tess Neff, Councilperson Sarah Kepple, City Councilperson Jason Shachner, County Councilperson Dale Miller, Councilperson Kyle Baker, Judge Rick Bell, State Senator Nickie Antonio, Judge Lisa Forbes, candidate Anne McDonough, School Board Member Emma Petrie Barcelona, School Board Member Nora Katzenberger, Judge Deborah Turner, CCDP Chair David Brock, City Leader Karolyn Isenhart, candidate Kevin Kelley, City Councilperson Tom Bullock, Judge Thomas O’Malley, candidate Jeffrey Saffold, Judge Maureen Clancy, School Board Member Mike Callahan, School Board President Betsy Shaughnessy

**PROGRAM:**

In preparation for the midterm election this year, we’ll hear from **David Brock**, newly elected Chair of Cuyahoga County Democratic Party. We invite him to share the midterm election plan for this year and his ideas and vision for the Cuyahoga County Party into the future.

**David**: Thank you for having me. One of the greatest venues in the county! June 18 I was elected Chair of the County Party. Thanks to Karolyn [Isenhart], happy to be working with her as Lakewood City Leader & CCDP Exec Director.

Grew up in Olmsted Falls, went to BW/CSU/University of Missouri. Taught History in Columbia, Missouri for six years. Did not want to teach for the rest of my life. Wanted to return to Cleveland; wanted to actually accomplish things. Returned 10 years ago. Have been campaigning on the west side ever since. As former historian, I have decent understanding of history of the party. President Biden had one of the best 10-day stretches in the history of the American presidency a couple weeks ago. Health insurance protected, insulin costs capped, millions received student loan debt forgiveness, passed environmental protections bill. Regular folks like us can get tax credits for taking sustainable measures. And we’re not at war anymore! Want to make sure we elect Democrats all over county and state.

Difference between Republicans and Democrats. (Want to shoutout CCDP Executive Vice Chair Juanita Brent!) Republicans unite around candidates better than Democrats do. Democrats see humans as flawed. No candidate is going to be perfect for all of us (or even any of us sometimes). When you decide to run for office as Republican, you support Bigotry, sexism, lies, hypocrisy, alt Christian right. The old GOP is gone. Democrats seek out answers. and we care about other people. Used to say the personal is political, and today we need to say the political is personal (book bans, etc).

What are we doing? 1) Canvassing - Lakewood does it well! Working with ODP, Mayor Bibb (for the first time in decades, Cleveland Mayor involved politically) 2) Postcards - Party got 100,000. 3) Yard signs. Trying to put structure in place. By 2024 want to have a say over who wins presidency in this state, who wins Senate, etc. This year need 17,000-18,000 in Lakewood for the top of the ticket. 54 years ago in cleveland, greatest speech in American history given at Lakewood City Club by Robert Kennedy. “The Mindless Menace of Violence.” How do you want to feel on November 9? Let’s put forth some effort and get Democrats elected!

**Evan Botzki, Field Director for the West Side/Lakewood:** Kicked off efforts last weekend in Lakewood. Went better than expected! Getting new lists together. Will be having canvasses on Sundays for the rest of October. Everyone saying Tim Ryan & Nan Whaley not going to win. With the group we have here, we can make it happen. We will turn out the vote. Will be leaving phone number etc.

**Karolyn Isenhart, CCDP Executive Director & City Leader:** We have a lead for each ward. Kyle (1), Jason (2), Maureen (3), Erik (4). Postcards will be going to precincts less accessible. Doing postcard nights with Sarah on Tuesdays at Sauced. Jeff & Cindy on yard sign chairs. Tom Bullock is Election Day captain. The Shaugnessys hosted first canvass; Schachners hosting second.

All the leaders:

* Canvassing, neighborhood team leads: Ward 1 – Kyler Baker; Ward 2 – Jason Shachner & Chuck Shaughnessy (who are both hosting all canvassing events); Ward 3 – Maureen Dostal; Ward 4 – Erik Meinhardt; with heavy assistance from Central/Executive Committee members and other volunteers
* Postcards: Sarah Kepple - every Tuesday evening 6-9pm at Sauced; every Tuesday afternoon 11:30am-1pm at Natures Oasis; can also take postcards home with you
* Yard Signs: Jeff Pigott & Cindy Strebig - had yard sign pickup event this past Saturday with 45 pickups. Next drive through yard sign pickup is October 16th.

**Tom Bullock, Councilperson at-Large, in favor of Issue 6, a levy for the Cuyahoga/Cleveland Port Authority**

Continuation levy, not a tax increase. $0.13 million. Small but important part of their budget. A penny a day. for the Port! The port generally serves the Steel Mill, has also grown into tourism. Yields more than 10 million tons of cargo annually. Produces more than $140 million in taxes each year. The port oversees disposal of toxic sediment. Playing role in Irishtown Bend redevelopment project.

Q: I heard there is talk of moving port facilities to east side. Is that true?

A: Have not heard that proposal. Have quite a bit of space to the west of the Browns stadium. Trying to increase port traffic.

Q: Are certain terminals privately owned behind the stadium?

A: I do not know. Would think some are private, some are public

**Kyle Baker, Councilperson Ward 1, in favor of Issue 5, a levy for the Cleveland Metroparks.**

Speaking as private citizen and employee at Cleveland Metroparks. Most important thing to me in 2020 was that we could go out into our parks. Incredible facilities for us to enjoy. In 2013, passed levy. $7.3 million. Continuation levy, asking for same amount. Without support of levy, couldn’t do what we do. We’ve added 21% more trails. Added 3,200 acres - just over 24,000 acres now. What I do! Some communities don’t have access to metroparks. Maple Heights does now. Made an effort to get into the city core, not just on the outskirts of the county. Proximity to high quality parks increases property values. Use our Cleveland Metroparks app!

Stan Austin: spoke in favor, asked for yard sign

Q: Why isn’t the rainforest free on monday? Not included in the free Zoo admission.

A: Zoo free on Mondays to residents of Cuyahoga county & Hinckley township. I don’t know why rainforest not included. We are looking at improving traffic pattern around the Zoo though.

Q: Love the Whiskey Island Connector. What’s next?

A: People see success and want to partner with us. Hiring another real estate attorney. Working on some projects right now.

Q: Metroparks one of the most effective organizations. Because they are so popular, gap in what they could be. We don’t capture clientele in Friends of the Metroparks etc. When ask for renewal, that issue could be driving to the polls and supporting other candidates and issues. Get all the people who visit the park to know more about behind-the-scenes of Metroparks.

A: There is an art and science to when we take the levy to the election. We do engage with visitors.

Q: Thought levy was modest increase. No?

A: The same total amount as 2013, but on the tax bill will look a little bit higher. Doesn’t capture increase in property value.

Q: Any thoughts around social equity at the metroparks?

A: As Democrat, important to me. Where we have park land, and where we invest. Intentionally going to communities that are previously underserved. Have focused on that in the last ten years. Need to go out and engage with young people into the park to see park professions and recruit future employees. Building new Garfield Park outdoor experience center, etc.

Voice vote:

Issue 6 - Port Authority

Favor - Aye

Against - (none)

Abstain - (none)

Issue 5 - Cleveland Metroparks

Favor - Aye

Against - (none)

Abstain - (none)

**REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

President: Erik (absent but sent ahead of time) - Congratulations to Carol Lindley for receiving Democrat of the Year; Congratulations to Olivia Shachner and Carol Ward for receiving flags from the US Capitol courtesy of US Representative Marcy Kaptur

First Vice President: Maureen - October meeting doing nominations for officers of the Club. In November voting on the officers of the club. All of us planning to seek office again except Mark Schneider. Open office - runs Summer supper, Holiday party, social gatherings

Political Activism: Maureen - Tim Ryan fundraiser with Senator Chris Murphy October 15th at Market Garden Brewery 1-3pm, more to come

Sarah Kepple - Sunday October 9th 11am-12pm here at Lakewood Park at Bandstand “My Body, My Vote” rally with Cheryl Stephens, Senator Nickie Antonio, Troy Greenfield, Taylor Sappington; will be doing voter registration

We also have Canvassing every weekend, and sign pickup october 16th 11am-1pm.

Book Club: Carol - Kathleen Belew's Bring the War Home: The White Power Movement and Paramilitary America, watching The Janes on HBO Max. Meeting Tuesday, October 18, 2022 at 7pm at Bottlehouse Brewery in Lakewood.

Second Vice President: Mark (absent, Nicole gave report for him)- 113 attendees at Summer Supper, net gain of $6,200; holiday party on December 15th at 6pm at Bottlehouse Brewery

Treasurer: Catie - $12,910.09 as of 9/27/2022. These numbers will drop: in addition to paying for yard signs, we’ll print and mail Lakewood Dems sample ballots of our endorsed candidates and issues as well as paying for postcard stamps, pizza, and other refreshments for GOTV.

Secretary: Nicole - Follow us on instagram! @lakewooddemclub

**LEGISLATIVE UPDATES**

Statehouse: Senator Antonio - haven’t been in session, haven’t taken away anyone’s rights! \*throws stamps to Sarah Kepple\*. Rep Skindell and I have yard signs; we both have opponents. Rep skindell and I are on one side of mail piece for chasing the ballot, on other side is the whole party slate. Get everyone excited and voting. Appreciate what everyone’s doing. Everything is on the ballot! Kids reading books!

State Rep Skindell - crucial that we make contact with people to get them out to vote. Remind them at the grocery store. Do not vote for State Issue 1 or 2!!!! Vote NO on State Issue 1 and 2!!!

State Board of Education: (not present)

County Council: Dale Miller - go Democrats and go Guardians! Legislation has now passed and Lakewood is receiving $1,500,000 for a new recycling center, animal shelter, stormwater project. Beck Center receiving funding as well. Considering property for new jail. Holding off until new County Commissioner Chris Ronayne takes office. Central booking program - would like to make progress on mental health resources, bail reform, diversion programs. Would like to not have to build a new jail bigger than the current one.

Lakewood City Council: Jason Shachner - introduced ordinance in July around restricting abortion investigation. Created policy that was given to every employee of City of Lakewood, cannot be changed without further action of Council. Abortion-related investigations lowest priority for police department. Not a crime to go get an abortion. Crime is to perform abortion. Women who received abortion immune from prosecution. No employee of city of Lakewood will interview any clients/patients to prove that abortion occurred. Administration support their own employees in seeking abortion healthcare if needed. Kyle Baker & Sarah Kepple banned smoking & vaping in city parks. Let’s get Democrats on Supreme Court!

Lakewood School Board: Betsy Shaughnessy - schoolyear off to a great start! Spirit parade is tomorrow! Homecoming dance Saturday. Joint School Board - City Council meeting at end of October. Biggest concerns continue to be safety and security of staff and students.

Mike Callahan - completed 3-year strategic plan. Tonight on news at 11pm focus on the AP African American Studies course with teacher Austin Sparks and some students.

ODP/CCDP: (no further update)

Cuyahoga County Young Dems: Brendan Heil - doing some canvassing. October 8th canvass on westside. Postcards on October 5th. Hoping to have panel discussion with Pro-Choice Ohio and Red Wine and Blue. Meetings open to everyone.

**GENERAL UPDATES:**

**Sarah Kepple:**

* Take Action Tuesdays - Tuesdays Oct 4th, Oct 11th, 18th, 25th 6-9pm [Pizza & Postcards Edition 6-9pm @ Sauced](https://fb.me/e/28a9lEjFx). Tuesdays Oct 4th, Oct 11th, 1:30am-1pm [Dine & Dash...Off Postcards 11:30am-1pm @ Nature's Oasis](https://fb.me/e/28MCj9ETO)
* My Body, My Vote Rally - Sunday, Oct 9th 11am-Noon Lakewood Park. <https://fb.me/e/2SEtOc1Jw>
* Drive Through for Democracy: Yard Sign Pick Up. Sunday, Oct 16th 11am-1pm Madison Park <https://fb.me/e/1QipeoBUq>

**Karolyn Isenhart:** Greg Mahoney moving to North Olmsted. Last meeting as Lakewood resident. Thank you Greg for everything you’ve done for the Club.

Greg: 22 years in this club! Thank you!

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING** - October 27, 2022 at 7pm

**ADJOURNMENT** - The meeting was adjourned at 8:42pm.

Event notes prepared by Nicole Parke on September 29, 2022.

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Secretary Approval: sign date

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President Approval: sign date