**The Lakewood Democratic Club**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting held on Nov. 29, 2018**

**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 Second Vice-President Erik Meinhardt. Following the Pledge of Allegiance was Roll Call with President Grant MacKay and First Vice-President, Kristine Pagsuyoin absent. Aside from Erik Meinhardt, also present were Secretary, Chuck Shaughnessy and Treasurer, Maureen Dostal. The Second Vice-President chaired the majority of the Meeting. The Secretary took minutes.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA for Nov. 29, 2018 (Approved by Exec. Comm. in January.)

APPROVAL of the previous MINUTES of the meeting held on Oct. 25, 2018. (Approved)

PRESIDENT’S REPORT – none. FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT- none.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT- none.

TREASURER’S REPORT- The Club contributed $1,700 to the County’s sample ballot.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS: During the previous regular meeting, that held on Oct. 25, 2018 nominations had been accepted for the five Club officer positions. In the meantime, Jason Shachner withdrew his name as a candidate for the office of Secretary.

Coming into the Nov. 29, 2018 meeting, there remained a single candidate for each of the five open seats, as follows:

PRESIDENT: Erik Meinhardt

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT: Maureen Dostal

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT: Mark Schneider

SECRETARY: Matt Kuhns

TREASURER: Cindy Strebig

Each candidate gave a three-minute presentation, covering their qualifications and motivations for seeking office.

The election was conducted by Secretary Chuck Shaughnessy who pointed out that in cases with a single candidate for office, election may be by voice vote. A motion was made and seconded to have a voice vote. Another motion was made and seconded to vote on all five candidates at once. Chuck Shaughnessy called the vote and the ayes won unanimously, with no nays. Shaughnessy announced them duly elected, to be sworn in at the end of the January 31, 2019 meeting.

PROGRAM: Shontel Brown, Cuyahoga County Democratic Party Chair, was the honored guest speaker and she summarized the November mid-term election results, saying Lakewood volunteers did a good job, despite losses by the state-wide Democratic candidates. There was an increase in voter turnout and in Democratic votes. She cited a number of Lakewood precincts where there were increases in voter turnout of 30% compared to the last mid-term election. The county more than doubled its investment in sample ballots ($175K to $400K). One successful method was texting sample ballots to voters as they could take their iPhones with them into the voting booth.

Shontel said that in the future Lakewood volunteers might be better employed to canvas in Cleveland or Parma or rural Ohio. There may have been too many main issues… Education, Employment, Equality, Health, and Leadership.

In future elections the focus should be on educating ourselves on what government does, educating voters on the issues, registering voters, getting them to vote, to vote early, to vote Democratic. Promote voting every cycle and down the ballot to the end. Go after unaffiliated (Independent) voters who represent about 58% of the electorate locally.

Rep.-Elect Mike Skindell reported that the Republicans hold about 70% of the seats in the Ohio House and Ohio Senate. Among their recent legislative initiatives are Stand Your Ground and Heart Beat.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – The Holiday Party will be held at the Bottle House on Dec. 18th, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. $10 for guests.

West Side Collaborative will have a holiday party on Dec. 11th.

The Book Club will meet on January 15th at BH and the month’s book is 21 Lessons for the 21st Century.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING – Jan. 31, 2019. Swearing in of newly-elected officers.

ADJOURNMENT – moved, seconded, adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Chuck Shaughnessy, Secretary on Jan. 19, 2019.

[C.P.S. Word: Dem Club – 2018.11.29 Minutes]

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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