**The Lakewood Democratic Club**

**Minutes of Regular Meeting held on Jan. 31, 2019**

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

**Grant W. MacKay, President**

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. by President Grant MacKay. Following the Pledge of Allegiance was Roll Call with First Vice-President, Kristine Pagsuyoin absent. Present were President Grant MacKay, Second Vice-President Erik Meinhardt, Secretary, Chuck Shaughnessy and Treasurer, Maureen Dostal. The President chaired the meeting. The Secretary took minutes.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA for Jan. 31, 2019 (Approved by Exec. Comm. in January.)

APPROVAL of the previous MINUTES of the meeting held on Nov. 29, 2018. (Approved)

RECOGNITION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS – Officials and candidates for office were recognized. Lindsey Wilber Grdina announced her intention to run for Ward 1 council. Ward 3 Councilperson John Litten announced his intention to run for re-election. Visitor Jen O’Donnell of Rocky River announced she will be running for a seat on Cuyahoga County Common Pleas Court.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT – none.

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT- none.

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT’S REPORT- none.

TREASURER’S REPORT- The Club has $4,100 in the bank and will have dues coming in over the next couple of months. The Holiday party netted $1,000 as the cost was offset by donations.

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PROGRAM: FIANCIAL OVERVIEW – CITY OF LAKEWOOD – FISCAL YEAR 2018

Lakewood City Council President Sam O’Leary (W2) and Dan O’Malley (W4) did a presentation on the City budget, which is structurally balanced again as it has been for several years. Dan O’Malley is the current Finance Chair and committee members include Meghan George and Tom Bullock, both At-Large Councilmembers.

LAND ACQUISITION. The city has purchased properties and may use them as follows.

Trinity Lutheran Church and store front building on Detroit between Hall and Westlake, across from McDonalds. No immediate plans. Probably not for fast food.

Cove Church, Cove between Lake and Clifton. Senior Center. In a decade - Possible underground temporary storage for sanitary sewer and storm runoff from the Bird Town area. Several million gallon capacity required. Waste water to be processed after the treatment plant in the valley has caught up with processing the rest of the wastewater after a storm.

Hilliard Theatre property. West of intersection of Madison and Hilliard, east of Woodward. Possible charging station for electric vehicles.

Other possible charging stations are Lakewood City Center AKA Marc’s Plaza and Winterhurst Ice Rink.

PARK IMPROVEMENTS.

Wagar Park at Madison, Hilliard, Rosewood, Park Place, and Orchard Grove. $1,000,000 investment.

St. Charles Green between St. Charles and Belle, south of the tracks, north of Detroit. Lighting and pathways planned.

Edwards Park. Detroit, Edwards, McClure Drive, and Ethel.

Cove Park. Remodeled last year.

Madison Park. Full court basketball.

Madison Park and Lakewood Park have Wifi

STREETS – RESURFACING. Lake Avenue west of Belle will be resurfaced in 2019.

AUDITORIUM – CITY HALL. More improvements in digital technology.

EPA, WASTEWATER COLLECTION – Both Ohio EPA and US EPA are requiring municipalities to upgrade their sewer lines and wastewater treatment systems. The goal in Lakewood is to prevent sanitary sewage from entering Lake Erie and reducing the quantity of wastewater requiring the greatest amount of processing. Lakewood operates its own system and is not a part of the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District (N.E.O.R.S.D.). Lakewood’s sewers are a century old, but portions of the sewers have been upgraded over the years. The original sewers in Lakewood were not entirely separated, so in a heavy rain the storm water would overwhelm the sanitary sewer lines and spill contaminated water into Lake Erie.

There have been major improvements, such as installing large diameter collector pipes under Lake Avenue to collect the wastewater as it flows northward by gravity. It is then pumped south to the wastewater treatment plant in the valley. The wastewater treatment improvements include a high rate treatment capability and a digester.

In a pilot program over the last year or two in the Atkins Avenue area, house sewer drain lines were replaced to create separated sewage streams. A local collection point was monitored and it was confirmed that the plan worked to keep the waste streams separated.

Lakewood has applied for renewal of their 5-year EPA permit, to be decided in March. As a separate system, not part of N.E.O.R.S.D., Lakewood negotiated is own solutions, at its own pace, and some of the improvements are under way. Among the advantages are setting the time table. Without an individualized plan the EPA has rarely allowed more than 10 years for completion of an improvement plan, whereas Lakewood has, to date, managed to get approval for some aspects of the corrective action plan which will take 30 to 50 years. The advantage is to spread the high cost over a longer period to make it manageable for Lakewood residents.

The City has been holding Community Outreach meetings to explain the EPA requirements and educate the public about the future costs for the program. The City will begin to work with landlords in the near future.

Some have expressed concern that even a small increase in fees will be a burden to low-income residents. Initially, it is expected that sewer rates will increase by 10% and water rates will increase by 5%. The City has enlisted the Mayor’s Resilience Task Force to address affordability aspects of the plan.

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ADDRESS of OUTGOING PRESIDENT - President MacKay gave an outgoing address citing accomplishments during his tenure and suggesting he will be minimally involved in the Club in the future, but will likely be a candidate for office at some point. He said he had held Club offices for a total of nine years. He expressed confidence in the incoming President, Erik Meinhardt.

Grant said his administration was one of growth and prosperity. He cited accomplishments during his tenure, as follows: We have become a P.A.C. and may now make endorsements legally; the Club paid for distribution of sample ballots without requesting donations from candidates; a newsletter was established, and a website, and an email capability; the number of standing committees was expanded; a printed budget was initiated; membership rose to 273; bank balance went as high as $8,000; the Bylaws were revised

SWEARING IN OF OFFICERS.

Members elected to office for the two-year term from Jan. 31, 2019 to Jan. 28, 2021 at the meeting held on Nov. 29, 2018 are the following:

PRESIDENT: Erik Meinhardt

FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT: Maureen Dostal

SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT: Mark Schneider

SECRETARY: Matt Kuhns

TREASURER: Cindy Strebig

The newly-elected officers were sworn in by the Honorable Nickie J. Antonio, Ohio State Senator for District 23.

Following the ceremony, Erik Meinhardt assumed the role of chairperson of the meeting.

Erik Meinhardt and Maureen Dostal presented a gift to outgoing President Grant MacKay on behalf of the Club, that being a plaque containing the inaugural address of Thomas Jefferson, which Grant read aloud.

Erik and Maureen presented outgoing Secretary Chuck Shaughnessy with a framed copy of a JFK quotation on being a Liberal in recognition of his service to the LDC and the Democratic Party. Chuck read the quotation aloud and related a story of his first political involvement as a lit dropper in Lakewood for JFK at age 11 in 1960.

ANNOUNCEMENTS – After-meeting get together location is the West End Tavern, Detroit near Riverside Drive.

The Book Club will meet on Feb. 12, 2019 at the Bottle House at 7:00 p.m. and the month’s book is *Educated, A Memoir* by Tara Westover.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING – Feb. 28, 2019.

ADJOURNMENT – moved, seconded, adjourned at 8:12 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Chuck Shaughnessy, Secretary on Feb. 13, 2019.

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Secretary Approval: sign date

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President Approval: sign date

[C.P.S. Word: Dem Club – Minutes 2019.01.31]