

North Ridgeville Democrats

Meeting Minutes

Monday, January 28, 2019 6:30pm, North Ridgeville Public Library

Present: Steve Cristino, Jenna Meyer, Daisie Reish, Ginny McCaskey, Sharon Sweda, Mark Griffiths, Charlie McBriarty, Bob Chapek, Barb McCarthy, Sue Pray Guest: Meredith Bement

Next meeting: Monday, February 25, 2019 6:30pm, North Ridgeville Public Library

1. Guest Speaker – Meredith Bement, Director of the North Ridgeville Senior Center

Meredith Bement gave an overview of the services and events available at the North Ridgeville Senior Center: Meals on Wheels, Transportation to medical appointments and other services (funded by Western Reserve Area on Aging; recently purchased a new van with grant money), the “Lock Box” program (safety program to allow emergency responders to gain access to the home of NR residents), quarterly Spaghetti Dinner, men’s and women’s meals, Tai Chi, Yoga. 9,500-11,000 seniors served a year. Funding from Western Reserve Council on Aging, city of NR, Seniors, Inc. (a 501(c)(3)). She welcomed the club to help provide services, especially at the Spaghetti dinner.

2. Announcements

Daisie Reish passed out information about the American Promise Association’s Launch Event on Thursday, February 21, 2019 from 6:30-8:00 pm at the North Ridgeville Public Library. The workshop subject is how to get Big Money out of politics. Information at americanpromise.net.

Daisie and Sharon Sweda reported that Tony Giardini (Lorain County Democrats), is working on getting precinct captains (chairpersons??) in place. Anyone who is interested can contact Laura Irvin at 214-415-4761 or laura.irvin1959@att.net. Sharon said she will be helping the precinct people identify new residents in their precinct by sharing information about property transfers. She said that the plan is for the candidates to use precinct contacts to knock on doors, and meet with people in neighborhoods.

Bob Chapek, the City Councilman for Ward 4 gave a report on city affairs.

- Recently, the council voted against the cell phone placement near Liberty School. However, the utility took the city to court, and the city has decided to

cede this issue, as the law is on the side of the utility. This will nevertheless cost the city money, as the city must pay court costs.

- Paul Wolanski has announced that he plans to run as a Democratic mayoral candidate.
- Mayor Gillock is not going to run. Kevin Corcoran plans to run as the Republican candidate. There is a lot of reserve money to support his campaign, since Mayor Gillock has not had to spend much in recent years on election costs. He is likely to focus on police issues and funding.
- The city recently lost police dispatchers, and the dispatchers at Lorain County Community College are doing nighttime dispatch. It appears to be going well.
- A proposal to redesign a new city center is under development and will likely go before the Council in 2020.
- The Water Park proposal was defeated.
- North Ridgeville's bond rating was raised to 1AA, one of the highest bond ratings of Ohio cities.

Sharon Sweda reported that Ted Kalo is vacating his seat as Commissioner, and is running for the Lorain City Clerk of Courts, since Laurie Marioni resigned. There are five candidates for Ted Kalo's seat, including Sharon Sweda. On February 5, 2019, the precinct captains will vote. The voting process uses several rounds that eliminate the candidate with the least votes in each round until one of the candidates gets 50% +1. The elected Commissioner will hold the seat through 2020.

Note: Bob Jaeckin previously notified the club members that he North Ridgeville Democrats only have six of the 21 positions filled, and volunteers are needed.

3. Election

In early January, Bob Jaeckin emailed ballots for election of club officers to everyone whose contact information he had. Steve collected the ballots. He asked the members in attendance whether there were any objections to the unanimous votes of those who did vote. As there were no objections, the officers were announced:

President – Bob Jaeckin

Vice President – Steve Cristino

Secretary – Ginny McCaskey

Treasurer – Bob Jaeckin

Director – Communications – Jenna Meyer

Liaison Officer – Elected Officials – Daisie Reish

4. Petition

A petition was circulated for Bob Jaeckin to establish candidacy for Ward 3 City Councilman.

5. Action Items

Before the next meeting, the officers will work on draft by-laws for the club, for consideration of the club members.