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We had a two part program today.

Leading off, John Adams provided a response to last week's presentation promoting the recall of four UA City Council members. The recall process itself has a very specific timeline which must be adhered to. Once the voter signatures are certified (possibly by the end of this week) the election must take place within 30 to 40 days. This would make the UA special election occur sometime in mid to late August. Each council seat in question will be voted on separately rather than as a group. The cost to the city will be about \$60,000 – not counting the reimbursement to the current council members for their personal expenses incurred in defense of their seats.

In the event the recalls are approved the remaining members of city council will appoint replacements. Approval also may negatively affect the city's credit rating and general reputation. Uncertainty in the mind of future council members or potential candidates might also be a result. Approval might also introduce a tendency to attract one-issue candidates in future elections.

A slide presentation and information sheet refuted each of the key allegations made by the proponents of the recall. John noted that the root of this recall effort is opposition to plans to improve Northam Park.

The key points made were as follows:

- There was no deception of the Issue 23 promotional materials which did not mention park improvements. It would have been impractical and difficult to include every conceivable potential use of Issue 23 funds in the materials. For example, the promotional flyers did not mention swimming pools, sidewalks, street lights, field drainage, tree plantings,

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GREETERS

July 19

Dick Beckett
Mary Ann Krauss

July 26

John Fromkes
John Trapp

August 2

Brent Martin
Brian Cook

REGISTRATION DESK

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Chris Taylor
Tracy Harbold

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Brian Cook
Rich Simpson

CALENDAR

July 19

Craig Truax - Mid Ohio
Foodbank
Host: Simpson

July 26

TBD

August 2

TBD

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playgrounds, parking lots and a variety of other uses. In addition, the Upper Arlington News mentioned parks as a potential beneficiary of the Issue 23 funds in three separate articles in October, 2014.

- There was no lack of citizen input into the Northam Parks design. Dozens of meetings have been held throughout the community and there have more than a dozen iterations of the Northam Park plan. Further, a major study of all UA parks will be completed before any further steps are taken.
- The allegation that a publicly funded community center was part of the original Northam Park plan is false.
- A separate citizen vote on the plan details for Northam Park would be unnecessary. Council members are elected as the representatives of the community and should be expected to listen to the community, oversee and approve such projects. More direct community input has been solicited and received for the Northam Park project than for any other in the city's history.
- The claim of fiscal irresponsibility is invalid. The city is rated Aaa by Moody's and AAA by S&P Global Ratings. Only seven other cities in Ohio have comparably high ratings.

The information sheet provided additional supportive detail.

Brad Frick introduced our featured speaker today, Herb Asher. Herb is an Emeritus Professor of Political Science at Ohio State.

Herb commented on the local recall effort and suggested that if the politics in UA have become so divisive, what must that portend for the rest of the country as we approach the national elections?

He turned to his main topic – the upcoming national nominating conventions for the Republican and Democratic parties.

In the past, the conventions were tasked with the process of developing the party's platform and also with establishing party rules – in addition to the nomination of candidates for President and Vice President. In today's media environment, however, the parties have switched strategies. They now develop their platforms and rules prior to the convention itself. Delegates then vote to approve the platforms and rules. Today, if those items were



actively developed at the convention itself, the media feed on any significant disagreements and focus on the party's supposed disorganization or discord.

The convention nomination processes are an opportunity for the nominees to essentially hit the reset button and reintroduce themselves to the American public. This opportunity is especially important this election year for Donald Trump. Herb recalled his announcement of his candidacy for the Republican nomination in June, 2015. It was generally well done and his remarks at that time were more measured and rational than some of those he made during the primary campaign. Asher suggests that he should be returning to that approach when he makes his acceptance speech in Cleveland.

In Herb's opinion, the first meaningful voter polls will take place after the party conventions. Each candidate will likely receive a post-convention "bounce". Ohio will be the key battleground state if the election is close. We should all be prepared for a blizzard of TV commercials as a result.

In the event of a close election, the presence of third party candidates could be an important determining factor in some states. In many voters' minds, both candidates have significant flaws which might make the presence of a third party candidate a more attractive choice. He specifically mentioned the Libertarian Party and Green Party candidates. In Ohio, however, the Libertarian Party will not appear on the ballot.

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The Meeting

President **Chip Knoop** called the meeting to order and asked **Steve Rish** to offer the Invocation and lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Don Leach introduced visiting Rotarians **Doug Gouty** from the Columbus Downtown club and **Lewis VanLandingham** from the Westerville Sunrise club. Guests today were introduced by **Jeanine Hummer** (son **Danny**), **Dave Dewey** (son **Sam**), **Ted Staton** (**Dan Ralley**) and **Don Leach** (**Peter Hahn**).

Before the meeting officially began we were surprised by a surprise chorus of "Happy Birthday" to help **Kevin Brown** celebrate his birthday. The balloons and excellent singing arrived compliments of his family with help from other singers from UAHS.

Chip reminded us that next week's meeting will be at Scioto Country Club.

The July 26 meeting will be designated as Committee Day. The leaders of several of the key committees will discuss their respective committee plans for the 2016-2017 year. Sign-up sheets for committee participation will be available at each table.



Notes and Announcements

Chip asked for at least three more volunteers for the July 30 Rally for the Ranch at Easton Town Center. Volunteers will help watch over the cars on display from 10:30 to 1:30 PM.

John Huneck announced the Community Service Committee's next YWCA Meal Service will be on Monday, July 25. Time commitment is from 5:30 PM until 7:30/8:00 PM. Signup forms were available or let John know if you're interested.

District Governor **Steve Sandbo** told us that the next Guatemala trip is scheduled for November 5 through 11. There are some spaces available for the trip. He encouraged new members to consider participating in this important club project. Call Steve if you'd like to learn more.