

Caucus Committee General Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2023 7:00PM - 9:00 PM

Gorton Center, Stewart Room

President's Report – David Hunt

Caucus Committee Meeting called to order: The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by David Hunt, President. A quorum was in attendance.

Scott Anderson made a motion to approve the minutes from the 3/14/2023 meeting, and Michelle Parnel seconded the motion. The Caucus Committee voted to approve the minutes.

Removal of a Caucus Committee Member – David Hunt

David Hunt read section 6.09 of the Lake Forest Caucus bylaws regarding the removal of a Caucus Committee member. He went on to explain that in an Executive Session on Zoom on the evening of April 6th, the Executive Committee voted unanimously by those in attendance, with the exception of Phil himself, to remove Phillip Arouca from the Caucus Committee for violation of confidentiality policies and procedures, as well as a clear conflict of interest in campaigning against the Caucus Mayor candidate after repeatedly asking for Phil's resignation. Phillip Arouca requested to appeal this vote during the full Caucus Committee meeting held on April 11th.

Deliberation

The Caucus Committee deliberated on the removal of Philip Arouca, Ward 2 Chair from the Lake Forest Caucus Committee for the 2022-2023 year. Philip Arouca presented a statement in his defense. Several Caucus Committee Members expressed their views on the removal of Philip Arouca. Philip Arouca made a number of responses. Chris Benes made a motion to vote to remove Philip from the Caucus Committee and Steve Murphy seconded the motion. The Caucus Committee took a vote to remove Philip Arouca from the Lake Forest Caucus Committee for violation of well-established confidentiality policies and procedures, which Philip himself admitted to knowing and breaking during deliberations, as well as material conflicts of interests as noted in Section 6.09, including but not limited to campaigning against the Caucus Committee Mayor candidate. The motion passed 29-6.

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Executive Committee Nominees – Chris Benes

Chris Benes presented the 2023-2024 Executive Board members for approval at the Spring Meeting to be held at the Gorton Center on April 18th. These are:

- President – Chris Benes
- Vice President – Joe Oriti
- Treasurer – Fred Brewer
- Secretary – Dale Tauke
- Fundraising – Cindy Davidson
- External Communications – S. Aneeqa Aqeel
- Internal Communications – Steve Ratay

Other Business - Dale Tauke

Dale Tauke introduced an election-related resolution of appreciation to the Lake Forest Caucus Mayoral Campaign Leaders to be approved by the Caucus Committee. A motion was made by Dale Tauke and Kristin Vallaly seconded. The Caucus Committee took a vote and the resolution was passed unanimously. The resolution is included as an addendum to these minutes.

Closing Remarks – David Hunt

Caucus Committee ballots were to be postmarked by April 8th.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Jake Weisser seconded by Kent Novit. The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Kristin Vallaly, Secretary

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Addendum - Resolution thanking Lake Forest Caucus Election Leaders

WHEREAS, when a community faces new and serious threats to its well-being and way of life, citizens of the community need men and women of integrity and strength to meet the threats with courage, force and intelligence.

WHEREAS, such threats arose to the Lake Forest Caucus and the governance system of the City of Lake Forest itself in the contested Mayoral election of 2022-2023.

WHEREAS, Lake Forest Caucus officers David Hunt--President, Christopher Benes--Vice President, Joseph Oriti--Treasurer, S. Aneeqa Aqueel--External Communications and Cynthia McCullough--Fundraising and numerous other members of the Lake Forest Caucus Committee including particularly Michelle Parnell and Peggy Siebert (referred to herein collectively as the "LFC Mayoral Campaign Leaders") stepped forward against these threats.

WHEREAS, in so doing, the LFC Mayoral Campaign Leaders, acting without the benefit of any member of the Lake Forest Caucus Committee ever before having encountered such a situation, worked tirelessly, selflessly, creatively, resolutely, cheerfully and, in the end, extremely effectively to defeat these threats and in so doing proved themselves to be the men and women of courage, force and intelligence needed by the Lake Forest Caucus and the City of Lake Forest itself.

WHEREAS, in so doing, the LFC Mayoral Campaign Leaders acted in the strongest possible manner to help ensure that the mission of the Lake Forest Caucus of recruiting and endorsing the most capable and deserving individuals to serve, without intrusion of partisan political interests, in government office continues for the benefit of all residents of the City of Lake Forest.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Lake Forest Caucus Committee hereby in the strongest possible manner commends, and expresses its heartfelt admiration and gratitude to, the LFC Mayoral Campaign Leaders for their tremendous and critical services in confronting and defeating the threats faced by the Lake Forest Caucus and the City of Lake Forest itself in the 2022-2023 Mayoral election.