

Caucus Committee General Meeting Minutes



September 19, 2023

Gorton Center, Stuart Room

Caucus Committee Meeting called to order: Chris Benes, President of the Lake Forest Caucus, called the meeting of the Lake Forest Caucus Committee to order at 7:02 p.m. A quorum was in attendance.

Approval of Minutes: Mr. Benes welcomed everyone and as the first order of business raised the matter of approval of the Caucus Committee meeting minutes of September 5, 2023. Mr. Benes asked for comments. There being none, on motion by Jenifer McGregor and seconded by Kent Novit, the September 5, 2023 minutes were approved unanimously as presented.

Consideration of Endorsement of Sitting City Council Members: Mr. Benes then turned to the matter of considering the endorsement of City Council members seeking re-election. Mr. Benes spoke about the timing of the election process for the candidates and addressed several questions from the members. Mr. Benes then invited the City Council Members, Mr. Ted Notz of Ward 2, Ms. Nancy Novit of Ward 1 and Ms. Eileen Looby Weber of Ward 4, on an *ad seriatim* basis to join the meeting and meet with the Committee. Each made a brief presentation of his or her background and related matters, including responding to questions Mr. Benes had asked them to address, responded to numerous questions from the Committee members and made a brief closing presentation.

After the Council Members were finished, Mr. Benes opened the meeting for discussion of the matter of endorsement of each for re-election. Members of the Committee shared and discussed their impressions and assessment of the City Council members. At the conclusion of the discussion, on motion by Steve Murphy and seconded by Janet White to vote on the matter of endorsing the City Council members for re-election, the members cast their written votes. The result was the approval by majority vote to endorse each of the City Council members.

Next Meeting: Mr. Benes then noted to the Committee the activities scheduled for the Committee on September 25. He noted the City Mayor and Manager would be guest speakers, that the Caucus Open Call meeting with attendance by interested members of the public would be held, followed by a meeting of the Committee for consideration of revisions to the Caucus Bylaws.

Reports: Mr. Benes and other members of the Executive Committee then reported on several activities:

- Cindy Davidson, Fundraising Officer, described the plans for the September 21 Caucus Committee social event. She also addressed discussions held by the Fundraising Subcommittee on possible approaches for the Caucus Committee's current-year fundraising plans.
- Fred Brewer, Treasurer, presented an update on the Caucus' website redesign.

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- Steve Ratay, Internal Communications Officer, discussed progress on a replacement for the Volunteer Profile Sheet system.
- Mr. Benes provided an update on the Alderman Search Subcommittee and timetable for presenting candidates to the full Caucus Committee for consideration and deliberation.
- Mary Galea, Ward 1 Chair, addressed the progress of the Ward 1 search for candidates for the City Audit Committee.
- Mr. Benes then briefly addressed the matter of revisions to Caucus Bylaws to be presented to the Committee at its next meeting.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Mr. Benes called for a motion to adjourn, which was made by Michael O’Neill, seconded by Erik Carrier and approved unanimously by acclamation by the Committee. The meeting concluded at 9:40 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dale Tauke, Secretary