

Caucus Committee General Meeting Minutes



September 5, 2023

Gorton Center, Stewart 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 7:05 p.m. A quorum was in attendance.

Opening: Mr. Benes welcomed all members of the Committee to the first Committee meeting of the new Caucus year. He gave an overview of upcoming Committee activity.

Review of proposed new Caucus Committee members: Mr. Benes then turned to the matter of the review of candidates proposed by Wards 2, 3 and 4 to fill vacancies in their respective Ward representative positions. The candidates were:

- Ward 2—Michael Crimmins and Jay Souve
- Ward 3—Wyn Cain and Larry Obermeyer
- Ward 4—Alex Wilcox

One by one each candidate was invited into the meeting to present themselves, their backgrounds and qualifications and their interest in the Caucus to the Committee and to respond to questions from the Committee, after which the candidate left the room.

Approval of the Old/New Caucus Committee meeting minutes of April 25, 2023: Prior to addressing the matter of acting on the proposed new Ward representatives, Mr. Benes raised the matter of approval of the Old/New Caucus Committee meeting minutes of April 25, 2023. Mr. Benes asked for comments. There being none, on motion by Chris Casey and seconded by Michael O'Neill, the April 25, 2023 minutes were approved unanimously as presented.

Action on the proposed new Ward representatives: Mr. Benes then opened the meeting to discussion of the proposed new Ward representatives. Committee members voiced their views of candidates. At the conclusion of the discussion, Michael O'Neill moved that the Committee vote on the matter of appointments of the five candidates to the Committee. Peggy Siebert seconded. The vote was taken for each candidate individually, and all five candidates were approved by majority vote. Mr. Benes then invited the newly appointed Ward representatives to join the Committee meeting, which they did. Mr. Benes welcomed them to the Caucus Committee and requested the members of the Executive Committee to introduce themselves to the new Ward Representatives.

Further remarks: Mr. Benes then addressed the Committee on:

- The upcoming activities of the Caucus;

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- The importance of:
 - attendance at all Caucus meetings and functions;
 - maintaining confidentiality of all Caucus information and matters; and
 - avoidance of personal bias or agendas in Caucus matters; and
- The overall strategies and goals for the Committee for the Caucus year.

At the request of Mr. Benes, Aneeqa Aqeel spoke of the Committee's new program for members of the Committee to attend council, board and committee meetings as observers and report back to the Committee. She encouraged Committee members to participate in this program.

Also at the request of Mr. Benes, Joe Oriti gave an overview of the activity of the subcommittee for recruiting and reviewing potential candidates for City Council Ward 1 and Ward 3 Alderman positions, and Mary Galea reported on Ward 1's recruiting candidates for potential service on the city's Audit Committee, noting that two positions need to be filled.

Mr. Benes then noted that the Committee will meet on September 19 with sitting aldermen who are seeking the Caucus' endorsement for additional terms as aldermen and that the Committee will hold a social event for all Committee members at the Deerpath Golf Course on September 21st.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Mr. Benes called for a motion to adjourn, which was made by Aneeqa Aqeel, seconded by Desiree Witte and approved unanimously by acclamation by the Committee. The meeting concluded at 8:35 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dale Tauke, Secretary