

Caucus Committee General Meeting Minutes



January 9, 2024

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 7:06 p.m. A quorum was in attendance.

Opening remarks: Mr. Benes welcomed everyone to the first Committee meeting of the new calendar year. He thanked everyone for their dedicated work to date, noting a special thanks to Ward 2 for finding and interviewing the excellent Library Board candidates to be reviewed by the Committee this evening.

Approval of minutes: As the first order of business, Mr. Benes raised the matter of approval of the Committee meeting minutes of November 2, 2023. Mr. Benes asked for comments. There being none, on motion by Peggy Siebert and seconded by Stephanie Hadjis, the November 2, 2023 minutes were approved by acclamation as presented.

Review of candidates for Library Board: As the next order of business Mr. Benes noted that the Committee would interview candidates Vincent Sparrow and Linda Harmer for endorsement for a seat on the Lake Forest Library Board.

At Mr. Benes' request, Ms. Siebert, Chair of Ward 2, then invited Mr. Sparrow into the meeting room. Mr. Sparrow briefly noted his experience with serving on the Committee and on the City Audit Committee, as well as on other boards. Committee members addressed various questions to Mr. Sparrow, to which he responded. At the conclusion of the interview, Mr. Benes thanked Mr. Sparrow for his services to Lake Forest and his interest in the Library Board. Mr. Sparrow then left the meeting room and Ms. Siebert invited Ms. Harmer to join the meeting. Ms. Harmer briefly described her work experience and her interest in serving on the Library Board. Committee members then addressed various questions to her, to which she responded. At the conclusion of the interview, Mr. Benes thanked Ms. Harmer for her willingness to serve, and Ms. Harmer left the meeting room. The Committee members proceeded to share and discuss their observations about the two candidates and their qualifications. At the conclusion of discussion, on motion by Mr. Benes and seconded by S. Aneeqa Aqeel, the Committee voted to approve Mr. Sparrow as the Caucus' endorsed candidate for the Lake Forest Library Board.

Election of New Committee Members: Mr. Benes then addressed the Committee on the upcoming election of new members to the Committee. He and Dale Tauke addressed a few aspects of how the election process would proceed this year, noting that Mr. Tauke and Fred Brewer were leading the process.

Adjournment: There being no further business, Mr. Benes called for a motion to adjourn, which was made by Larry Obermeyer, seconded by Jennifer McGregor and approved by acclamation by the Committee. The meeting concluded at 9:02 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Dale Tauke, Secretary