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### ***Caucus Baseball: Hits and Misses***

Susan Sailor Daly

The complaint against the Caucus filed by the Beidler campaign has been withdrawn. [Please see the letter from the Election Board here](#). We are pleased to know the Caucus had everything in order and that the complaint is now withdrawn. The Caucus gets a hit. Runner on first.

The Lake Forest Caucus' Spring Meeting is set for Tuesday, April 18, at 7 pm at the Gorton Center. The date is published on their website, but unlike the onslaught of emails received during the mayoral campaign, there hasn't been even one about the Spring Meeting. The officer slate for the coming year will be presented and voted on at the meeting, the treasurer's report will be made, and other business matters will be discussed. We encourage everyone to attend. A hit. Runner on first for the Caucus; second base runner picked off for trying to steal third. One out.

Unfortunately, Ward 1 residents will have to choose between their Ward Meeting and the Caucus' Spring Meeting. Both will be held the same evening and time. We recommend Ward 1 residents attend the Caucus Meeting, since the Caucus gives general members full access to Caucus leadership only two times per year. City Council members and City staff are available as needed to residents. Second out for the Caucus. Runner still on first.

Caucus Second Ward Chair Phil Arouca was voted off of the Caucus last Tuesday night for his part in fleshing out the information, as disclosed in the Caucus minutes on their website, which led to the Caucus' decision to nullify the vote on November 9, 2022. ([click here for letter](#)) The Caucus Committee's view of Arouca's disclosure was that he had breached a confidentiality agreement. It is important to note that Caucus Committee tradition upholds confidentiality regarding discussing the pros and cons of candidates for City Boards, Commissions, and elective offices. That tradition does not and should not include Caucus procedures, especially in light of nullifying a general membership vote. We, the general membership, need to know how the Committee behaves on behalf of, as they say, "all of us." Tuesday night's vote removes Arouca from the last meeting, of less than one hour, of the official Caucus Committee calendar. Arouca would have termed off of the Caucus after that one hour meeting anyway. This can only be seen as retribution from a Caucus Committee prone to autocratic-style leadership. It is a threatening move intended to cow into silence anyone else who dares move against the group. Other autocratic leaders would readily recognize this tactic and feel right at home with most of our Caucus representatives. For their strike against democracy, the Caucus is given their third out.

## Lake Forest for Transparency

Please plan to attend the Caucus Spring Meeting on Tuesday, 7 pm, at Gorton. The election is over. Now we can begin discussing in earnest who we want to be and how we want to act. Independent candidate Prue Beidler was treated with ill-will and disrespect. That was allowed and driven by Caucus leadership and their candidate, Randy Tack. Attend the Caucus Spring Meeting and let them know this is not the us we want to be. It's time to engage in this important conversation and play a better game. The Caucus struck out. Now we're at bat.