

Boston Ward 5 Democrats
Meeting Date: May 15, 2018

MINUTES

The regular and duly noticed May meeting of the Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee Meeting was called to order by Chair Kenzie Bok (the Chair).

The Chair recognized Laura Shkordoff of Ward 4 & CityLife/VidaUrbana to provide a status update on the Jim Brooks Stabilization Act. Laura reported that the Act passed the Boston City Council, but due to the Home Rule petition process, needed to also be passed by the state legislature. The legislative committee refused to vote it out of committee, so it will not be going to a vote before the legislature. The bill is “dead” in the legislature and would need to be presented again to be voted on in the future. There is no current ask to Ward 5. The proposal is that if the Act is presented again, Ward 5 consider working with Ward 4 to support it.

New Members

The Chair announced that Michael Pizziferri and Tom Havel had been nominated for membership in Ward 5 and were present at the meeting and so eligible to become members.

Anthony Lombardi moved that Michael Pizziferri be raised to membership. Coleman Lynds seconded. Motion passed by acclamation.

Ross Levanto moved that Tim Havel be raised to membership. Kathy Judge seconded. Motion passed by acclimation.

First Suffolk & Middlesex Senatorial District

The Chair recognized Sen. Joe Boncore who gave a update on legislation of note passed by the legislature in the ending term, and highlighted some of his own work in those areas. Three of Senator Boncore’s proposals made it into the Criminal Justice Reform bill: (1) raising the dollar amount required for a crime to be a felony; (2) expungement of certain marijuana convictions; (3) enabling diversion for certain defendants over the objections of the district attorney. Senator Boncore also chaired the Transportation Committee, and worked to raise road and bridges funding to help with winter damage repairs. Senator Boncore noted that the MBTA has a 7.5 billion deficit as to repairs and asks Ward 5 to support the fair share tax amendment in November, as half of that funding source would go to transportation and infrastructure. Senator Boncore chaired the Housing Committee and noted that Massachusetts has a good economy, good education, and good jobs but that we are 47th in housing affordability. This fact prevents companies from coming here and affects our existing workforce and where they can choose to live and work. He supports programs and bonds to help fund low income housing, and a 1.8 billion dollar bond offering. He also supports the short term rentals bill, as the North End and Chinatown are being negatively affected by those kinds of rentals. Up to this point, the state has regulated this industry loosely and left opportunity for localities to deal with it on a local level. It prevents companies from coming here. There is no workforce housing.

Kathy Judge moved to open the consideration of senatorial endorsement for the First Suffolk and Middlesex District. Rob Whitney seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. Kathy Judge nominated Senator Joe Boncore for endorsement. The motion was seconded by Elisha Fielding and passed unanimously. Endorsements were closed. Diane Barry moved that the vote to endorse be taken by acclamation, which motion was seconded by Ross Levanto, and passed unanimously. The motion to endorse Senator Joe Boncore passed by acclamation.

Candidates for Suffolk County D.A.

The Chair recognized Greg Henning, candidate for Suffolk County D.A. Candidate Henning spoke about his background and current work in the Suffolk D.A.'s office, and what he would like to do as Suffolk County D.A. and improvements he'd like to make at that office.

The Chair recognized Evandro Carvahlo, currently a state representative from Boston, and a candidate for Suffolk County D.A. Rep. Carvahlo spoke about his upbringing in Cape Verde and Boston, and his reasons for choosing to run for Suffolk D.A., which center around criminal justice reform and changing the relationship of our communities of color with the D.A.'s office.

Nominations for Membership

The Chair noted that Jason Ewas and Olivia Cifrino qualify to be nominated for membership.

Jessica Sullivan moved that Jason Ewas be nominated for membership, which motion was seconded by Coleman Lynds.

Jessica Sullivan moved that Olivia Cifrino be nominated for membership, which motion was seconded by Hilary Gabrieli.

The Ward discussed the number of elected membership seats that are currently available. Michael George moved that Hilary Gabrieli and Jess Sullivan be raised to full membership, which motion was seconded by Rob Whitney. The motion passed unanimously.

Acceptance of the Minutes

The Chair asked for acceptance of the April Minutes. Corrections were made. Hilary Gabrieli moved to accept the minutes as amended, which motion was seconded by Jess Sullivan. The motion passed.

3rd Suffolk District

The Chair recognized recognized Rep. Aaron Michlewitz. Rep. Michlewitz spoke about the legislative accomplishments this year. He mentioned that a portion of the revenue generated by short term rentals will go to affordable housing and infrastructure. He also discussed a bill providing contraceptive care for women in the Commonwealth whether

Congress provides for that or not, and passage of the Patch Act protecting confidentiality for women's health when dealing with employers and employer insurance plans. The legislature is working on a gun control bill to improve the Commonwealth's laws, which are already very strong, and to improve voter access.

Diane Barry moved to open the consideration of endorsement for representative for the 3rd Suffolk District, which motion was seconded by Coleman Lynds and passed unanimously. Ross Levanto moved that Ward 5 endorse Rep Aaron Michlewitz, which motion was seconded by Kathy Judge. Kathy Judge moved to close endorsements for this district, which motion was seconded by Jess Sullivan. Ross Levanto moved that the vote be taken by acclamation, which motion was seconded by Diane Barry. The motion to endorse Rep. Aaron Michlewitz was passed by acclamation.

Suffolk County Register of Deeds

The Chair read a statement by Stephen J. Murphy, the current Suffolk County Register of Deeds.

Chair recognized Katie Ford, candidate for Suffolk County Register of Deeds. Katie Ford spoke about why she is running for Suffolk County Register of Deeds, and her past work in Massachusetts politics. She spoke about changes she would make in the way the office presents itself and makes information available to the public.

Diane Barry moved to open the consideration of endorsement for the Suffolk County Register of Deeds, which motion was seconded by Tim Havel, and passed unanimously. Alex Bok moved that Ward 5 endorse Katie Ford, which motion was seconded by Kristen Mobilia. Jess Sullivan moved that Ward 5 endorse Steve Murphy, which motion was seconded by Matt Maddalo. Alex Bok moved to close endorsements for Suffolk County Register of Deeds, which motion was seconded by Diane Barry. After discussion by the Ward, Alex Bok called the question, which motion was seconded by Diane Barry. The Chair took a vote by roll call, resulting in 20 votes cast for Katie Ford, 1 for Steve Murphy, and 2 silent. Ward 5 thereby endorsed Katie Ford for Suffolk County Register of Deeds.

8th Suffolk District

The Chair recognized Rep Jay Livingstone, current representative for the 8th Suffolk District. As Rep Livingstone had recently delivered a legislative update to Ward 5, Jay kept his remarks brief, and responded to questions regarding his committee work and current legislative items.

Diane Barry moved to open the consideration of endorsement for representative for the 8th Suffolk District, which motion was seconded by Ross Levanto and passed unanimously. Ross Levanto moved that Ward 5 endorse Rep Aaron Michlewitz, which motion was seconded by Dan Lyon. Ross Levanto moved to close endorsements for this district, which motion was seconded by Kathy Judge. Ross Levanto moved that the vote be taken by acclamation, which motion was seconded by Jess Sullivan. The motion to endorse Rep. Aaron Michlewitz was passed by acclamation.

Reconsideration of the We the People Act

The Ward discussed the timing of the vote, and whether the May meeting was the best time to take up this item. Michael George moved that Ward 5 create an ad hoc committee to look at it and make a recommendation to the Ward, which motion was seconded by Kathy Judge. Tim Havel and Kate Gallivan volunteered to serve on the committee with Michael George. The Chair will email the Ward friends and members list to see if anyone wants to join the ad hoc committee.

The Chair opened the floor for Ward concerns, announcements and any new business.

Kate Gallivan reminded the Ward of the imminent vote in the U.S. Senate (May 16) on the net neutrality bill. She asked for tweets and phone calls to Senator offices in support, if you are so minded. There was then discussion of the Pride parade on June 9. The Chair notes that many of the campaigns are likely to march and would encourage people to join them.

The next meeting of the Ward is: Tuesday June 19. Jess Sullivan moved we close the meeting, which motion was seconded by Ross Levanto, and passed unanimously.

Attendance

Members

Barry, Diane
Binney, Bob
Bok, Kenzie
Bok, Alex
Fielding, Elisha
Gabrieli, Hilary
Gallivan, Kate
George, Mike
Havel, Tim
Holland, Liam
Hucul, Sharon
Judge, Kathy
Levanto, Ross
Livingstone, Jay
Lombardi, Anthony
Lynds, Coleman
Lyon, Dan
Maddalo, Matt
Mobelia, Kristen
Nanda, Rajan
Pizziferri, Michael
Sullivan, Jessica
Whitney, Rob
Xiao, David

Guests

Cifrino, Olivia

Ewas, Jason
Gautier, Sean
Robertson, Kerby
Singer, Sandra
Vincent, Helene