

Boston Ward 5 Democrats - February 19, 2019 - 7 pm

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

Approval of the Minutes

Mike George moved to amend the minutes to add Mike George and Sharon Durkan to the attendance roster; seconded by Sharon Durkan The motion passed.

Kathy Judge moved that we accept the minutes as presented, which motion was seconded by Coleman Lynds. Motion passed.

Membership Matters

The Chair announced that Enid Pope, Natalie Here, and Jeremy Cushman were all eligible for nomination to associate membership.

Sharon Durkan nominated Enid Pope for associate membership in the Ward 5 Democratic Committee, which nomination was seconded by Andrea Burns.

Coleman Lynds nominated Natalie Heer to associate membership in Ward 5, which motion was seconded by Sharon Durkan.

Michael Pizziferri nominated Jeremy Cushman to associate membership in Ward 5, which motion was seconded by Kathy Judge.

Legislative Updates

State Sen. Will Brownsberger came to speak to the Committee about the legislative agenda in the State Senate. The Chair recognized Senator Brownsberger as a long time friend of the Committee and called to the attention of Ward 5 that Sen. Brownsberger is also the new President Pro Tempore of the Senate. The Senator started by discussing some of the achievements of the last legislative session, including criminal justice reform, the beacon street bill, progress on Charlesgate park. He plans to continue this year to focus three intertwining local issues: housing, transportation and the environment. The Senator reported that there is an increasing sense of urgency in the Senate as to all three issues. The Senator discussed upcoming items on autonomous and electric vehicles; ride sharing; the Global Warming Reduction Act; education funding; MBTA Oversight; additional criminal justice issues such as life without parole, and alleviating the ways in which our justice system extracts funding from poorer communities.

Q&A with Ward 5

State Rep. Chynah Tyler of the 7th Suffolk District is serving in her 2nd term and currently serves as the Vice Chair of public health committee. Rep. Tyler agrees with Senator Brownsberger that there were significant accomplishments in the last legislative session. They lowered extractive fines and fees, and expungement of the records of the falsely accused; the BRAVE Act (a. Veterans Protection bill) which among other items increased financial assistance for burial expenses. Rep. Tyler is open to different ways of getting things done, such as using voter initiatives to bypass long legislative processes. She is focused on local issues such as: accessibility of roadways and sidewalks; lighting in Fenway Park; traffic congestion in the Fenway. College tour: if any Ward 5 friends or members are interested in participating in the College Tour, contact Rep. Tyler to volunteer. The College tour introduces kids to colleges. For many, it's their first trip outside of their neighborhoods. In the current session she has filed 30 plus bills, Many address housing issues, particularly the rights of renters. She's also focused on school funding and the Foundation Budget.

Q&A with Ward 5

City Councilor Ed Flynn - District 2. Councilor Flynn is serving his first term in office. He spends significant time listening to the concerns of his district, which is a highly diverse area. He thinks that time spent in and around the district is an important part of his job. Councilor Flynn estimates that District 2 has the most public housing in any district in Boston. In his opinion, the federal government has almost abandoned our public housing, and the BHA is doing a good job at picking up the slack. Tries to listen to concerns of his district - it's diverse. He's working on having more service access for Chinatown residents by having written materials in multiple languages to increase understanding of what is available and how to access needed services. District 2 probably has the most public housing of any district in Boston. Housing stock is an increasing issue, and AirBNB has had a devastating impact on the housing stock in some areas of District 2. He's also working to improve the physical infrastructure and accessibility of schools in District 2.

Q&A with the Committee

Ward Business and Announcements

The Chair noted that we'll have more of our Ward 5 elected officials coming to report next time, and then we'll have heard from all of them. The point of winning elections is to govern and govern well, and to have courage to attack some of these intractable issues. Once we've heard from everyone, we may find that there are issues that this Committee would like to work on as citizen advocates.

The Chair called on Kathy Judge to walk us through the proposed bylaws amendments. Kathy noted the new leave of absence provision in Article 3. We did some general clean up - defining

terms. Then we codified some of the existing practices, Article 8 - Secretary to establish rules that identify the additional events where you get attendance credit. Transparency on posting some of this information on the Ward's website. Removed provision saying that you can't vote if you don't pay dues (in contravention of the State Party rules); a few changes that let the Secretary take actions that codify existing practices.

Discussion - delegates to state convention - remove gender binary requirements? What to do about gender fluid persons? Please submit any thoughts/suggestions in writing via email.

Notice of annual dues: if we don't want to change dues, we don't need to vote. Since we're not raising dues, so we're not scheduling a vote. \$25 per year for students and first year members; \$60 for everyone else; you can also apply for a waiver (see form).

Diane Barry moved that the February meeting of the Boston Democratic Ward 5 Committee be adjourned, which motion was seconded by Molly Hitt. The motion passed.

Attendance

Pat Amend
Hilary Bacon Gabrieli
Diane Barry
Bob Binney
Kenzie Bok
Andrea Burns
Suzanne Comtois
Kate Gallivan
Mike George
Molly Hitt
Sharen Hucul
Kathy Judge
Rep. Jay Livingstone
Coleman Lynds

Carol Krupa
Kristen Mobilia
Michael Pizziferri
Enid Pope
Sandra Singer
Dan Smith

Guests

Sen. William Brownsberger
Jeremy Cushman
City Councilor Ed Flynn
Natalie Heer
Enid Pope
Steve Owens
Rep. Chynah Tyler