

**Boston Ward 5 Democrats**  
**Minutes - April 7, 2020 Meeting**

*Per the notice sent to membership, due to the declared State of Emergency, and the Governor's Order banning gatherings of more than 10 persons, and upon the advice of the State Democratic Party, this monthly meeting of the Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee was held online via Zoom.*

The duly noticed April meeting of the Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee was called to order by Sharon Durkan (The Chair).

**Updates on COVID-19 Response by the State and by the Boston City Council**

***Rep. Jay Livingstone***

The Commonwealth has 800 million dollars of federal bail out money to put towards COVID-19 relief. One of the items the legislature needs to figure out is how to operate when the State House is closed and the state of emergency prevents 160 plus persons from working together in their usual physical proximity.

- The administration is expecting a surge in the number of COVID-19 cases within the next 10 days to 2 weeks.
- The legislature passed a supplemental budget to provide money to the Department of Public Health and to the local Boards of Health for COVID-19 response work, and to set up the operations room.
- In response to the huge surge of unemployment claims, the legislature passed a law waiving the one week waiting period, and adding in the federal bailout dollars to increase the weekly amount.
- The legislature passed a series of bills to provide municipalities with flexibility on their budget deadlines. The Commonwealth's own budgeting process is also being dramatically revised. It is difficult to accurately estimate revenue, or costs associated with continued COVID-19 response, etc.
- The legislature is looking at what it could do to help smaller businesses.
- The legislature is working on bills to stop foreclosures and evictions during the emergency and probably for 30 days after.
- Next, the legislature is turning to how to transition from the emergency to an economic recovery and restarting our economy.

Rep. Livingstone addressed the questions of the Committee.

***City Councilor Kenzie Bok***

City Councilor Bok discussed the 5 stages of the emergency:

1. **Stopping the Spread.** (Stay home; wear a mask; observe social distancing; etc.)

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2. **Handling the Surge** (happening now)

3. **Take Care of the Essentials** (food, shelter) while all of this is going on. People with federal vouchers to pay their rent but can't find an apt that will take it. Food scarcity issues.

4. **Making people whole.** Getting businesses back up; people back to work; help with catastrophic losses.

5. **How to fix the failings in our system and economy that COVID-19 laid bare.**

Currently, we're in stages 1 through 3, pretty much simultaneously. Without skimping on the effort required for those stages, we need to make sure that we get to stage 5. Councilor Bok challenged the Ward 5 members and guests to think about what we want to do for Stage 5.

The City is filing a Mayor's Budget tomorrow because it is statutorily required to do so.

The Ward raised questions about the stress on local food kitchens. Councilor Bok spoke to the need to support the existing systems: donate to the Boston Resiliency Fund and to Project Bread. She acknowledged that one of the tensions we're all dealing with is a desire to help, and yet an inability to physically volunteer. We need to rely on the existing programs that have systems to get the needed help to where it needs to be.

The Chair Sharon Durkan pointed out that if we donate money, the existing groups can often buy in bulk, where we as individuals cannot. The money goes further if you donate money rather than buying food to donate. The Chair will send out an email with links to these organizations.

### **Election of Officer and Executive Committee**

The Chair reminded the members that we are conducting elections as part of our obligation to reconstitute the Ward Committee every 4 years. The first part of that process was accomplished through the election of 35 elected members, who will now vote to elect officers, members of the executive committee, and associate members.

### **First Vice Chair**

Kenzie Bok nominated Coleman Lynds for the position of First Vice Chair, which nomination was seconded by Jay Livingstone.

Diane Barry moved that we close the nominations, which motion was seconded by Rob Whitney.

Rob Whitney moved that we vote by acclamation, which motion was seconded by Kathy Judge. Motion passed, and Coleman Lynds was elected to the position of First Vice Chair by an acclamation vote.

*The Chair turned the meeting over to First Vice Chair Coleman Lynds to run the election of the Chair of the Ward 5 Democratic Committee.*

### **Chair**

*Coleman ran the Chair election*

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Adrienne Zak nominated Sharon Durkan for the position of Committee Chair, which motion was seconded by Diane Barry.

Rajan Nanda moved that nominations be closed, which motion was seconded by Rob Whitney.

Diane Barry moved that we vote by acclamation, which motion was seconded by Kenzie Bok. Motion passed and Sharon Durkan was elected to the position of Committee Chair by an acclamation vote.

*First Vice Chair Coleman Lynds passed management of the meeting and elections process back to the Chair, Sharon Durkan.*

**Second Vice Chair**

Sharon Durkan nominated Pat Amend for the position of Second Vice Chair, which nomination was seconded by Gretchen Bennett.

Jay Livingstone moved that nominations be closed, which motion was seconded by Sharon Durkan

Kathy Judge moved that we vote by acclamation, which motion was seconded by Diane Barry. Motion passed and Pat Amend was elected to the position of Second Vice Chair by an acclamation vote.

**Secretary**

Pat Amend nominated Diane Barry for the position of Ward Secretary, which motion was seconded by Gretchen Bennett.

Molly Hitt moved that nominations be closed, which motion was seconded by Rob Whitney.

Kathy Judge moved that we vote by acclamation, which motion was seconded by Bob Binney. Motion passed and Diane Barry was elected Ward Secretary by an acclamation vote.

**Treasurer**

Gretchen Bennett nominated Bob Binney for the position of Ward Treasurer, which nomination was seconded by Molly Hitt.

Jay Livingstone moved that nominations be closed, which motion was seconded by Kathy Judge.

Rob Whitney moved that we vote by acclamation, which motion was seconded by Rajan Nanda. Motion passed and Bob Binney was elected to the position of Ward Treasurer by an acclamation vote.

**Four Positions on the Executive Committee**

Diane Barry nominated Landon Lemoines, Hilary Bacon-Gabrieli, Kathy Judge, Gretchen Bennett for the four open positions on the Executive Committee, which nomination was seconded by Sharon Durkan.

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Each was polled as to whether they accepted the nomination and would serve if elected. All responded "yes."

Diane Barry moved that nominations be closed, which motion was seconded by Pat Amend.

Coleman Lynds moved that we vote by acclamation, which motion was seconded by Rajan Nanda. Motion passed and each of Landon Lemoine, Hilary Bacon-Gabrieli, Kathy Judge and Gretchen Bennett were elected to the position of Executive Committee Member by an acclamation vote.

**Election of Associate Members.**

Coleman Lynds nominated Jason Ewas, Cindy Korb, Elizabeth Leary, Alice Lin, Sue Smith and Helene Vincent as Associate Members of the Ward 5 Democratic Committee, which nomination was seconded by Sharon Durkan.

Gretchen Bennett moved that we closed nominations, which motion was seconded by Landon Lemoine,

Diane Barry moved that we vote by acclamation, which motion was seconded by Sharon Durkan. Motion passed and each of Jason Ewas, Cindy Korb, Elizabeth Leary, Alice Lin, Sue Smith and Helene Vincent as Associate Members of the Ward 5 Democratic Committee by an acclamation vote.

As of the current meeting, Lucy Rivera is eligible to be elected to Associate Member. Sharon Durkan nominated Lucy Rivera for Associate Member, which nomination was seconded by Alex Bok. The motion passed by acclamation, and Lucy Rivera is now an Associate Member of the Ward Committee.

***If you were elected today the Chair will be sending you some paper work for the party for your e-signature.***

**Bob Binney – Treasurer's Report**

Bob let the committee that as of the date of the meeting, only 12 persons had paid their dues – please pay. The dues are \$25 for students and 1<sup>st</sup> year members, and \$60 for everyone else. Dues can be paid through ActBlue or mail a check to Bob.

**Announcements from the Chair**

The nominating convention is canceled. Ed Markey will be the nominated candidate for U.S. Senate, and both Markey and Kennedy will be counted as having the necessary 15% to get on the fall ballot. Both the Markey and Kennedy campaigns both agreed to this solution.

The May and June monthly Ward meetings will also be virtual, and will be on the usual night of the month (3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday at 7 pm).

**Adjournment**

Diane Barry moved that we adjourn this meeting which motion was seconded by Rob Whitney. Motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

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**Attendance**

**Members**

Pat Amend  
Hillary Bacon-Gabrieli  
Diane Barry  
Gretchen Bennett  
Bob Binney  
Alex Bok  
Kenzie Bok  
Olivia Cifrino  
David Crossman  
Jeremy Cushman  
Jason Ewas  
Kate Gallivan  
Natalie Heer  
Molly Hitt  
Kathy Judge  
Cindy Korb  
Carol Krupa  
Elizabeth Leary  
Landon Lemoine  
Alice Lin  
Jay Livingstone  
Julie Livingstone  
Coleman Lynds  
Dan Lyon  
Pat McDonough  
Kristen Mobilia  
Rajan Nanda  
Michael Pizziferri  
Lucy Riviera  
Dan Smith  
Susan Smith  
John Spillane  
John Steies  
Helene Vincent  
Rob Whitney  
David Xiao  
Adrienne Zak

**Guests**

Sue Singer  
David Eunsberger

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