

## **Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee June 16, 2020 Meeting Minutes**

*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.*

Sharon Durkan (The Chair) called the meeting to order at 7 pm.

### **Endorsement Consideration – Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley – 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District**

Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley recalled that when she first ran for Boston City Council, Ward 5 was her first endorsement, and that she ran for her current position in order to make this a more just and equitable district. Congresswoman Pressley took questions from the Committee.

The Chair opened the floor for discussion of endorsement, The Chair moved that discussion be closed, which motion was seconded by Landon Lemoine. Motion passed. Molly Hitt moved that we vote by acclamation, which motion was seconded by Landon Lemoine. Motion passed.

The Chair moved that we endorse Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley for the upcoming election for the Massachusetts 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District, which motion was seconded by Diane Barry. Motion. Motion passed.

The Ward 5 Democratic Committee endorses Ayanna Pressley for election as Congresswoman for the Massachusetts 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District.

### **Boston City Councilor Kenzie Bok – Update on the City's Budget Process**

Kenzie Bok recalled that she served as the Chair for the Ward 5 Democratic Committee before running for her current seat as the Boston City Councilor for District 8. Councilor Bok is the chair of the City Council's Ways and Means Committee, and she addressed the Committee regarding the current status of the budget process for the City of Boston.

### **Membership Matters**

Diane Barry nominated Lauren Brody for membership, which motion was seconded by Natalie Heer. Motion passed. Lauren Brody can be elected to membership next meeting.

## **Approval of Minutes**

Some corrections were made to speaker notes and the Treasurer's Report. The Chair moved that we accept the May Minutes as corrected, which motion was seconded by Gretchen Bennett. Motion passed and the minutes are adopted.

## **Bob Binney – Treasurer's Report**

Ward 5 Treasurer Bob Binney reported that we have about \$3800 in the bank. Expenses are very low right now, and we've had a high number of active members pay their dues - 37 out of about 44 active members. We haven't identified key expenses for the rest of the year, but that is in process. Committee members discussed some options for activities we might wish to save funds for, if the current state of emergency permits such activities in the Fall.

The Chair repeated the Committee's policy that waivers or cost adjustments are available if dues are an issue for any member. Ordinary dues are \$60. Dues for first year members and students is \$25.

## **Announcements**

The Committee members discussed that there are things we can do both individually and as the Ward 5 Democratic Committee to support election of Democrats, and to participate positively in Anti-Racism efforts.

Rob Whitney announced an upcoming panel discussion on Protecting The Right To Vote, which is sponsored by the Boston Bar Association Civil Rights and Liberties Section and American Constitution Society. This event is free and open to everyone, and will be held via Zoom on June 24th starting at 5 pm. The panelists will be Quentin Palfrey of Voter Protection Corps, Brenda Wright, who is a Sr. Advisor at DEMOS, Sofia Hall of Lawyers for Civil Rights; and Genevieve Nadeau who is a Counsel with the Protect Democracy Project.

Pat Amend is organizing a virtual phone bank with J.P. Thomas in Wisconsin. The goal is to help find poll workers and poll watchers.

Jay Livingstone reported on the status of The Voter Protection Bill, which passed both houses of the MA Legislature and should be on the Governor's desk for signature by the end of the week. One of the features of the bill is that it authorizes COVID-19 as a sufficient excuse for an absentee ballot. Gretchen Bennett would also like to organize virtual activities for Ward 5 members and friends to participate. We'll be in touch via email.

## **Motion to Adjourn**

Gretchen moved that we adjourn the meeting, which motion was seconded by Diane Barry. Motion passed.

## **Attendance**

<b><i>Members</i></b>	<b><i>Guests</i></b>
Pat Amend Hillary Bacon-Gabrieli Diane Barry Gretchen Bennett Bob Binney Alex Bok Kenzie Bok Olivia Cifrino Helen Cox David Crossman Jeremy Cushman Sharon Durkan Jason Ewas Kate Gallivan Natalie Heer Molly Hitt Sharon Hucul Kathy Judge Cindy Korb Carol Krupa Landon Lemoine Jay Livingstone Julie Livingstone Dan Lyon Kristen Mobilia Enid Pope Dan Smith Susan Smith Rob Whitney Adrienne Zak	Lauren Brody Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley Sandra Singer Ross Levanto Beata Coloyan Christina Pierce Matt Maddalo City Councilor Julia Mejia