

Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee March 16, 2021 Meeting

Due to the declared State of Emergency in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 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.

Boston City Councilor-at-Large Michael Flaherty

Councilor-at-Large Flaherty dropped by to visit with the Ward. He wants to let us know he's running again and will be asking for our support. He'll be one of only two members who have more than 2 terms of experience. Councilor Flaherty talked about upcoming bills and hearings with the City Council and addressed questions from the Committee.

Candidate for Boston City Councilor-at-Large Jon Spillane

Jon Spillane has been a member of Ward 5 since 2016! Most recently, he's been working for City Councilor Kenzie Bok, and before that, he worked on affordable housing with the Department of Neighborhood Development. He's also been attending Suffolk Law School. With so many experienced City Councilors leaving, it's important that he has institutional experience working in Boston City Hall and getting things done with the Boston City Council. His website: JohnforCouncil.com. Candidate Spillane addressed questions from the Committee.

Candidate for Boston City Councilor Said Abdikarim

Dropped in on our Zoom to meet the Ward and let us know that he's running. Candidate Abdikarim spoke about the importance of access and equality, which are important to him and his candidacy.

Quentin Palfrey

Quentin spoke to us about working for the current administration. It's an honor, especially with all of the challenges currently facing our nation. Quentin also addressed questions from the Committee.

City Councilor Kenzie Bok spoke about the protest she organized at the 55 bus stop last weekend— where the 55 bus route used to start. The MBTA has discontinued the 55. **State Representative Jay Livingstone** attended the protest as well. Councilor Bok underscored the point of how unacceptable it is to lose that bus for that neighborhood. There will be similar protests at the same site on Sunday afternoons at 5:30 to let the MBTA know that the neighborhood cares and the protestors won't go away. They'll be there the next few Sundays as well, starting at 5:30. State Rep Jay Livingstone said that all the T is saving is about \$21 million total, a small fraction of the federal money coming from the stimulus bill. With the increased funding coming for the MBTA, there is no reason for these cuts.

Treasurer's Report

Bob Binney gave his Treasurer's Report. We have \$5,595 in the bank, including the membership fees for this year. There are very few expenses, so we're in good financial shape. Dues: According to the bylaws, we're all supposed to be paid up by tonight's meeting. If you want/need a waiver, contact Bob or Sharon to let them know. Your request will be confidential. The sheet will just show that you're current. We understand that it's been a difficult year for many. Dues are \$25 for new members and students, and \$65 for everyone else.

Candidate for Mayor of Boston John Barros

Discussed his candidacy – took questions from the Committee.

Candidate for City Council-at-Large Ruth Louijeune

Just filed out her candidacy papers today! Equity and inclusion are important to her. Went to Boston Public Schools. During law school, she represented tenants at Boston Housing Court, which was both dispiriting and inspiring.

Candidate for Mayor of Boston Michelle Wu

Always happy to be back with Ward 5! Michelle discussed her candidacy and the policies and plans they're rolling out as part of her campaign. Addressed questions from the Committee.

Candidate for City Councilor-At-Large Domingos DaRosa

Just dropped in to visit and listen in!

Approval of Minutes

Diane Barry moved to approve the February minutes as presented, which motion was seconded by Helen Cox. Motion passed. Minutes are approved.

Announcements/Events

Natalie Heer and Jeremy Cushman are moving out of the Ward! Regrets from the Committee. They're moving to Minnesota, where Natalie has family.

The Mayoral Forum we're sponsoring with Ward 4 is taking place on April 20th – it's getting off the ground. Sharon will be sending out the link – please share with your networks. We have about 500 spaces available for attendees.

Motion to Adjourn

Rob Whitney moved that we adjourn the meeting, a motion that was seconded 2nd by Kristen Mobilia. Motion passed. The meeting is adjourned.

<i>Members</i>	<i>Guests</i>
Hillary Bacon-Gabrieli Diane Barry Gretchen Bennett Bob Binney	Sandra Singer Quinn Valchich Michael Flaherty Rosaline Hill

Alex Bok Kenzie Bok Jeremy Cushman Sharon Durkan Kate Gallivan Natalie Heer Molly Hitt Sharon Hucul Kathy Judge Cindy Korb Jay Livingstone Patrick McDonough Kristen Mobilia Lucy Rivera Sue Smith Jon Spillane Rob Whitney David Xiao Adrienne Zak	Said Abdikarim Shari Ben Starr Daniel R Rosalind Hill Quentin Palfrey
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------