

Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee

June 24, 2025, Meeting

The Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee meeting was held online via Zoom, due to a heat emergency. Bob Binney called the meeting to order.

Meeting Minutes Review & Approval

The May minutes were reviewed and approved.

Committee Business

Membership

-Livio Valenti was elected Associate Member.

Sharon Durkin nominated Brendan Dunn for membership; Creelea Pangaro seconded. If he attends, Brendan will be eligible to be elected Associate Member at the July meeting.

Secretary of the Committee

-Since Shari Franzetta has stepped down as secretary, Rob Whitney moved to nominate Mark Mantell. Hilary Bacon Gabrieli seconded. Sharon moved to close nominations, Kate Gallivan seconded. Mark was elected secretary.

Executive Committee

Gretchen Bennett has stepped down, as she has moved from Boston. Vote tabled to next month. Sharon Durkan pointed out that the rules dictate this. Notice describing the role will be sent out.

Treasurer's Report

Rob Whitney's Report reported the following:

General Financial Status

-Current Balance (Citizens Bank Account): \$4,291.18

Membership Financial Activity

-No. of Members who have paid 2025 Dues: 19

-Dues Payments for 2025: \$1,340

-Dues for 2025 are payable now. Members can pay via links on the website, or by check, and additional donations are always welcome. If you can't pay the full amount, contact Bob and/or Rob or Hilary.

-THE WARD 5 WEBSITE LINK FOR PAYING DUES SECURELY ONLINE:

-Visit the Home Page at <http://bostonward5dems.org>.

-Click on "How to Pay Your Dues if You're a Member" to connect with ActBlue.

-You'll see "Donate to Boston Ward 5 Democratic Committee."

General Membership Dues: \$60 First Year Membership: \$25; Student: \$25.

Activities & Events

Pride/No Kings

-Bob Binney, Jay Livingstone, Pat Amend who marched in the parade, found it inspiring. Pat noted that Pride has become a family event, which is nice to see.

- Sharon marched with the Mayor's campaign, saying that it felt right to mix No Kings and Pride, and the rain wasn't a downer! Kate has marched for several years, and this year's crowd was really great!
- Kathy Judge marched with the MFA, remarked that corporate sponsors who dropped out had no effect on the parade. Creelea loved the blend of Pride and No Kings, as neither overshadowed the other.

At City Council At-Large Forum & the Ward Coalition

- It was organized by the Boston Dems Ward Coalition for Action, which includes representative from Wards 5, 1, 4, 10, 11, 15, 17, 18, 19, 21 and 22.
- Nine candidates spoke. Bob and Hilary attended.
- Bob noted that the Wards are looking for other activities to do together.
- The Coalition has sent out an opinion letter, which Bob and others, including Pat and Gretchen, signed. Bob noted that they signed as individuals, and not on behalf of the Committee.
- Anyone who wants to sign future letters, or get involved in the Coalition, which has been taking a stand on various matters, can reach out to Bob.

Discussions & Endorsement Votes

- Bob announced those who were eligible to vote: Pat, Hilary, Bob, Kenzie Bok, Suzanne Comtois, Sharon Durkan, Abigail Gabrieli, Kate, Sharon Hucul, Kathy, Mark, Kristen Mobilia, Creelea, Hemal Sempat, Nancy Street, Rob and Livio.

Sharon Durkan District 8

- Thanked the committee and is happy with the work it is doing.
- Finds her work rewarding. Local: repaving Beacon Hill, trash collection, filing potholes in Back Bay, code enforcement to make people feel safe. National: making statements on NIH budget cuts, and what it means to lose international students.
- Sunday, at 1 p.m. she and Mayor Wu will kick off a joint office in Fenway, which includes a phonebank.
- Supports Mayor Wu, and Councilors Louijuene, and Santana.
- Budget process was recently completed. City Council made amendments to the mayor's 99% good budget. Added: Hiring a Parks Administrator, a \$100k Boston merchandising pilot, and \$40k for Friends of Mounted Park Rangers.
- District has 78k people. Campaigning keeps her in touch.
- Hemal nominated Sharon for endorsement, Nancy seconded. Kenzie moved for a vote by acclamation, Nancy seconded. **Sharon** was endorsed.

At Large Candidates

- Bob opened the floor for discussion about the candidates: Ruthzee Louijuene, Julia Mejia, Erin Murphy, Henry Santana, Frank Baker, Yves Marie Jean, Marvin Matthelier, Alexandra Valdez, and Will Onuoha.
- Hemal, Sharon Durkan, Kenzie, Creelea, Mark, Rob and Bob all expressed their opinions.
- Kenzie noted that there is a preliminary election on September 9th, so we don't need to endorse four candidates now. We can finalize endorsements post-prelim at the September meeting.
- Bob moved on to the nomination of the candidates.
- Kenzie motioned to open floor to nominations, Rob Whitney seconded.
- Each member was asked to call out their votes, which Bob, Hilary and Mark recorded.

-2/3 was required for endorsement.

Results: Ruthzee:16, Henry:13, Will: 7, Alex: 9, Marvin: 7

-Ruthzee and Henry were endorsed!

Mayoral Endorsement

-Sharon nominated Michelle Wu, Kristen seconded. Kenzie motioned to close floor, Hemal seconded.

-Nancy: Who are the candidates besides Wu and Kraft?

-Kenzie: It's really a two-person race, and the prelim is being seen as essentially a poll. To learn about these candidates, read *The Commonwealth*, *The Dorchester Reporter*, *The Globe* and *The Herald*.

-Jon Spillane: Domingos was part of the Mayoral Forum. See more of him on YouTube. Roberts is essentially a Republican.

-Sharon: The amount of money in this race feels gross. The Mayor is doing the job very well under a lot of pressure and the other candidate is mostly reacting and throwing mud. Her leadership is more important than ever.

-Sharon: Motion to endorse Mayor Wu, Hemal seconded.

-Michelle Wu was endorsed!

Final Notes

-Bob: We have some new faces! Maxwell, Nathan, and Joe!

-We will have a July meeting (July 15th), but not August.

-Thanks to Pat for working on the website.

-Looking for a new person to assist with speakers.

-You can post on social media about our endorsements! Sharon will post on Instagram.

-Kenzie motioned to close meeting, Sharon seconded. Meeting ended.

Attendance

Pat Amend

Hilary Bacon Gabrieli

Bob Binney

Kenzie Bok

Suzanne Comtois

Sharon Durkan

Abigail Gabrieli

Kate Gallivan

Sharon Hucul

Kathy Judge

Mark Mantell

Kristen Mobilia

Creelea Pangaro

Hemal Sempat

Jon Spillane

Nancy Street

Livio Valenti

Rob Whitney

Guests: Joe Hunt, Brendan Dunn, Maxwell Tamer-Mahoney