

# WEST ROXBURY ~ ROSLINDALE BULLETIN

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Buddy Scollins, friends, family and government officials all joined in the dedication ceremony at the corner of Weld and Centre Streets.

PHOTO BY GRETA GAFFIN



Two of the benefits of the Watermark development are new sidewalks on Amory Street and the SW Park and crosswalks.

COURTESY PHOTO

## JPNC debates community benefits of 265 Amory St.

### Last meeting before election

Richard Heath  
Staff Reporter

The last meeting of the Jamaica Plain Neighborhood Council (JPNC) before its thrice-delayed election now scheduled for Aug. 21 went out with a bang on July 27 in a lively debate over community benefits of the 265-267 Amory St. development.

The current neighborhood council was elected on April 28, 2018 with 18 members; only eleven people are on the 2021 ballot with current chairman Kevin Rainsford not seeking reelection.

Neither is Carolyn Royce, the active housing committee chair who served on the council for over seven years.

The JPNC is distinguished by its rapid turnover of members, but the 2018 council had perhaps the most attrition in its 35-year history.

Seven members resigned and two were fired for non-attendance; four were appointed to fill vacancies for the term, but two apparently have declined to gather the signatures to be on the ballot.

In addition, Lindsey Santana, the mayor's office liaison to Jamaica Plain since November 2019, left and was replaced a month ago by Tiffani Cabellero.

In her last appearance as council

JPNC

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## Boston dedicates Rozzie corner to Scollins family

Greta Gaffin  
Staff Reporter

The City of Boston dedicated the corner of Centre and Weld Streets to the late great William R. Scollins on Aug. 6.

Scollins, known to his friends as Bill, ran the Scollins Drug Store at 1420 Centre St. for 40 years, from the 1930s to the 1970s, with his son Buddy Scollins.

District 6 City Councilor Matt O'Malley opened the ceremony and described how his parents actually met at Scollins Drug.

"I would not be here without Scollins

Drugstore," he said. "Yes, it was a pharmacy, but it was more of a community center. It was where people came together."

He added that when his grandfather needed to fly to California for a wake and couldn't pay for the ticket, Bill Scollins lent him the money, and how if a family needed food and couldn't afford it, Bill would tell them to put it on his tab at the supermarket across the street. There was also initially another drugstore across the street, and the

Scollins Dedication  
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## HPNA hosts mayoral candidates

Mary Ellen Gambon  
Staff Reporter

Four of the five mayoral contenders shared their views on numerous issues impacting Boston's future at a virtual forum hosted by the Hyde Park Neighborhood Association (HPNA) on Thursday, August 5.

Several local organizations cosponsored the 90-minute event, including the Belnel Family Neighborhood Association (BFNA), the Friends of the Hyde Park Library, the Hyde Park Board of



Candidates John Barros, top left, Andrea Campbell, top right, Anissa Essaibi George, bottom left and Michelle Wu, bottom right.

Mayoral Forum  
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COURTESY PHOTO

# Mayoral Forum *continued from page 1*

Trade, Hyde Park Main Streets, Keep Hyde Park Beautiful, Southwest Boston CDC, the Ward 18 Democratic Committee, and the West Fairmount Hill Community Group (WFHCG). More than 80 people attended to hear the candidates answer questions collected by HPNA members ranging from development to climate resiliency to small business support.

City Councilor At-Large Michelle Wu, District 4 City Councilor Andrea Campbell and John Barros, the city's former chief of economic development, participated for the entire forum, with Councilor At-Large Annissa Essaibi George joining about halfway through. Acting Mayor Kim Janey was unable to attend due to a death in the family.

"As we know, thinking about this election, we know it's like no other election we've seen in a long time," said HPNA president Mimi Turchinetz. "It really reflects incredible diversity. Whoever gets elected will make history, and it's incredibly exciting."

The preliminary election will be held on September 14, which will narrow the field to the top two contenders for the mayor's seat in the final election on Nov. 2.

The candidates stressed their leadership experience. Barros began his service at age 14 as a community organizer through the Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative to address the alarming asthma rate, closing down transfer stations and working with local businesses. The two keys he stressed are neighborhood involvement and municipal partnership to address issues of cli-

mate resiliency, development, safe neighborhoods and small business sustainability.

Campbell is a six-year veteran of the City Council, previously serving as its president. She hopes to address inequities in housing, food access and quality schools in a leadership style that is "bold and courageous."

Wu, also a past council president, has represented the city for eight years. Although she never expected to run for office as a daughter of immigrants, she said she felt compelled to take action as she sought solutions for her mother, who had suffered from mental illness.

Candidates discussed how they would address the pandemic and equity issues.

"So many of the ways in which we're talking about the pandemic having had an impact actually were already the challenges that our communities were facing long before the virus," Wu said, noting skyrocketing housing costs, coastal flooding and public school needs.

"There's no question for me that it starts with having a city vision that Boston will be a city that is a anti-racist," Barros said. He highlighted a unified approach to addressing issues including police reforms, education and bridging the wealth gap.

Throughout her answers, Campbell stressed that "Boston is a tale of two cities" brought sharply into focus during the pandemic. She was able to become a successful attorney and leader while her twin brother died while in prison awaiting trial. Campbell said she "has always led with a ra-

cial equity lens," instituting training for councilors on racial equity.

Supporting Hyde Park's small businesses was another critical topic, as the community has seen stores close and restaurants fail. A question focused on what policies the candidates have instituted or plan to implement within their first 90 days in office.

Barros, a small business owner, noted that 23 percent of Boston's small businesses remain shuttered.

"As chief of economic development, I stood up six funds that provided direct financial assistance for small businesses," he continued. He would direct federal funds to support small businesses as well as channel more money into the city's Main Streets program.

"One of the reasons I jumped into the mayor's race was because of, frankly, the lack of more investment in small businesses," Campbell said. "The city has the ability to change the landscape of businesses run by people of color and small businesses just by the contracts itself."

She also started the vacant lot initiative in her district, which has brought forth requests for proposals (RFPs) on 30 vacant lots. She would expand this citywide to activate 100 vacant lots.

Wu said she has implemented policies that support small businesses, including the Acoustic on Main ordinance to encourage foot traffic and an

ordinance on equity in contracting. She would fill business vacancies with local enterprises in her first 90 days.

All of the candidates were in support of the city purchasing Crane Ledge Woods on the Hyde Park-Roslindale border. However, Essaibi George was the one candidate to stress that the property is privately owned, and that it may not be available for purchase from its owner, the Jubilee Christian Church, with whom she has spoken.

Barros noted he previously created the largest urban land trust in the country and believes that it is "absolutely doable."

Campbell said the city needed "to be more proactive and less reactive" in purchasing private properties for public recreation or housing opportunities.

"It's painful to have this conversation across the city time and time again," Wu said, "where we see important community treasures at the verge of being lost. I know what a treasure this space is."

Wu added that she visited Crane Ledge several years ago and saw the woodland and panoramic vistas of the city firsthand, calling it "a little bit of paradise." She also stressed that it is in a climate justice community.

All of the candidates said they would declare the climate crisis as "a state of emergency." Wu said she put together the city's first Green New Deal. Barros said he would create a resident displacement fund for those impacted by storms, as well as

improve stormwater management and create power microgrids. Campbell noted that "the city has already failed" her district in addressing the climate crisis by not including Mattapan in city climate maps, where parks are needed.

Essaibi George stressed her work on education policy as well as addressing the crises of homelessness, mental health challenges and addiction. She had previously led a council committee on the last three issues, but said it had been dismantled by then-council president Janey.

Another hot question was about the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) and its issuance of variances on numerous projects.

Barros called for a rezoning of Boston that "would not leave everything in the hands of the ZBA." Campbell stressed that every neighborhood needs a plan that would be codified in the zoning code. Wu described the current zoning process as "the most complex, opaque, political development approvals process anywhere in the country" and has pushed for a major reform of the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA). Essaibi George said there needs to be "a better job at master planning our city as a whole."

HPNA also is hosting a City Councilor At-Large forum at the Hyde Park Community Center on Thursday, August 12 at the Hyde Park community Center at 6 p.m. It is planned to be broadcast on Facebook Live at press time.



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