

BOYLAN HEIGHTS NEWSLETTER

August 2022

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Charlie and Caroline Queen, and Eleanor and Daniel Talley

ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Neighbors,

Phew, it is hot. What a horrible time for our upstairs air conditioner to go on the fritz. I have a new appreciation for the early owners of our house who added a sleeping porch to get out of the sweltering bedroom.

Local politics are also heating up although they probably won't hit sweltering until after Labor Day. As I said in the last newsletter, local politics is where you can have the biggest impact on things that directly affect you. And the best way to have an impact is getting to know the candidates, so if you have a problem, you can pick of the phone and give them a call.

To that end we have invited **Jenn Truman** to this month's meeting. Jenn is running for the District D City Council seat. Come meet the candidate and start having an impact

Don Davis — BHNA President

BH NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING

Tuesday, August 16 · 7:00 – 8:00pm

Google Meet joining info

Video call link: <https://meet.google.com/kix-rgbf-yig>

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Meet Your Neighbors
- II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes
- III. Police Report—Mike Motsinger National Night Out
- IV. Financial Report
- V. Meet the Candidates—Jennifer Truman running for City Council in District D
- VI. Committee Updates—ArtWalk: Lyman Collins
- VII. Old Business: Referrals
- VIII. – New Business

HISTORY IN THE HEIGHTS

The first Boylan Heights ArtWalk was held in 1992 when neighborhood artists banded together to show their works. Later, Co-Chairs Carrie Knowles and Elizabeth Dunbar invited artists from outside the neighborhood to participate in the ArtWalk, as the signature event of the neighborhood, began to take its place in the history of Boylan Heights.

BOYLAN HEIGHTS HAPPENINGS

This is a place where you can share things that are happening around the neighborhood. If you're a new neighbor, or just had a baby, added a new dog to the family, etc. We would like to welcome you or congratulate you. Please email president@boylanheights.org.

*Please welcome Jade Delborne, here are a few fact to help you get to know her! I have lived in Raleigh 7 years. In April 2022, I moved into the apartment on the East end of Jason and Tonya Delborne's home. Jason is my son and Tonya is my daughter-in-law! Olivia and Ramona Delborne are my fantastic granddaughters! I was born in Central Illinois but lived 50+ years in the Chicago area. I retired in 2015 after working in the field of Public Health Research at Northwestern University and at the Chicago Department of Public Health and as a Grant Administrator at a Hospital on Chicago's southwest side.

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NATIONAL NIGHT OUT 2022

We had a lovely evening to celebrate Boylan Heights version of **National Night Out** on August 2. We walked the neighborhood and when we arrived at the Project Enlightenment playground, we had some discussion (over ice cream) about house and neighborhood security and the importance of reporting any suspicious activity. If you encounter suspicious activity in progress, call 911 where you have an option to report it as a non-emergency event. The dispatcher will assign it the proper level of urgency. Early intervention and immediate response are key to stopping crime in its tracks and keeping our families safe.

The drawing prize for displaying the Community Watch house sign went to Mark Jolly and Karen Polk of Lenoir St. - a \$25 gift certificate to Rebus Works. Congratulations.

We appreciate the support of RPD and particularly Lieutenant Alexander and our own Officer DiCello of the community policing unit for their participation.

Stay safe, y'all,

Mike Motsinger—Community Watch Coordinator

ARTWALK AT 30!

This December 4, Boylan Heights will celebrate the 30th annual ArtWalk. As it has grown over the years, ArtWalk has become one of the premiere events ushering in the holiday season in Raleigh. As it turns 30, it is an appropriate time for new leadership to begin steering this fantastic event. I know there are many energetic neighbors who will be fantastic leaders for ArtWalk. I will continue to chair this year's event, with the goal to identify the new chair now to shadow me through this year's process. There is a dedicated committee in place to work with the new chair and I will continue to be a resource as the new chair moves ArtWalk forward. I'm sure the neighborhood does not want to let this event become just a part of our history, so please get in touch with me at boylanheightsartwalk@gmail.com. You may also call me at 919-337-3633 if you would like additional information. I look forward to hearing from you!

Lyman Collins

MEALS ON WHEELS OF WAKE COUNTY STARTS WITH YOU!

The most convenient and impactful way to help the program is by becoming a Meal Delivery Volunteer. Volunteering only requires about 1-2 hours on your day of choice to help feed an older adult or neighbor with a disability in our community.

Meals on Wheels of Wake County Volunteers are the lifeblood of the organization, helping serve over 1,300+ seniors in Wake County through life-sustaining programs. Volunteering provides a golden opportunity to directly help individuals in our community. In-home delivery visits provide opportunities to meet nutritional needs, combat social isolation and health hazards.

All Wake County hot meal pick-up sites are open for hot meal delivery Monday through Friday. Meal pick-up times are between 10 and 11:30 am. Volunteers are urgently needed for all sites! (Huge need at Main Office on Blair Drive in Dix Park. So convenient to our neighborhood!!) For more information, please visit: www.wakemow.org

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BOYLAN HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

June 21, 2022 Google Meet joining info: video call link: <http://meet.google/qqc-bpmk-jzx>

Welcome and Meet Your Neighbors: Don Davis (President), Mike Motsinger (Vice President), John Bush (Treasurer), Amy Marschall (Secretary), Allison Hutchins (At-Large), Susan Thompson (At-Large), Melissa Bailey (Past President), Lyman Collins, Jay Spain, Arny Motsinger, Charlie Queen, Linda Caldwell, Sally Causey Bloom, Travis Bailey, Rob Allen, Officer Blake DiCello (RPD), Jane Harrison, Candidate for City Council District D

Approval of Agenda and Minutes: unanimously approved.

Police Report: monthly report and plans for the Fourth of July. There were no significant changes in crime statistics since last month, although security checks by officers in the neighborhood increased. Porch piracy is an issue in the city but not in Boylan Heights. The city's Fourth of July celebration will be held in Dorothea Dix, with crowds sitting on the big field and the fireworks dispensed from a ways off. Bring a chair or a blanket or watch from home: We should have good views from the neighborhood. The plan to handle traffic will not be finalized until just ahead of the event, but we can expect roads to close to funnel heavy traffic into the neighborhood between 6 and 8 and police directing traffic on Western. There will be shuttles from Moore Square and ride shares from Western and Centennial. Fireworks begin at 9:30 and the park will close down when they are over. There will be no DJ, no bands, no ferris wheels, though possibly some food vendors. The plan is to keep it simple this year to see how it goes. They don't know, but crowds of 10-15K are the best guess. Dreamville had 40K / day, which went well. The bird scooters are gone from Linda's corner. Officer DiCello can be reached by cell phone Monday to Friday: 919-306-3465 or any time by email: blake.dicello@raleighnc.gov

Financial Report: John gave the Treasurer's report. a. Income: \$5 from the Amazon Smiles program. **Expenses:** \$254 was spent in June on the neighborhood summer camp. Overall expenses for the summer camp will add up to \$653 (assuming the refund of \$100 for a deposit paid to the City of Raleigh for the campsite at Dix park). Once the refund is received, there will be \$864 remaining in our account designated in support of children's activities for neighborhood children (funds earmarked in support of local nonprofits supporting area children were fully dispersed in the fall of 2021).

Meet the Candidates: Jane Harrison – she is running for District D's seat on the City Council of Raleigh. Jane is a faculty member at NC State University with the Agricultural and Resource Economics Department and College of Natural Resources. She works as an economist for NOAA's NC Sea Grant program, consulting with communities around the state on economic development and natural resource management. She is primarily interested in the intersection of natural resource management and community involvement. Jane reestablished the West Raleigh CA, but she still sees a loss of citizen engagement and a need for more opportunities for input. In response to further questioning about how to effect that, she mentioned using the existing 28 community centers throughout the city for increasing contact while acknowledging the difficulty of getting high attendance at meetings. She considers hybrid meetings a good option and would like to see computers in these spaces for accessing virtual meetings, and she thinks representatives should take advantage of neighborhood associations and other local groups for exchanging information and ideas. She has two other primary concerns: affordable housing and environmental stewardship. Regarding housing, she loves that the bond passed and that we're working on public options and increasing the private supply but believes we still have a long way to go. Affordability is a huge problem. As for the environment, she values the tree canopy and the waterways, believing them essential. Ample green space and adapting transportation to reduce fossil fuel dependence are both important for Raleigh. In answer to specific questions, Jane says she thinks ADUs (accessory dwelling units) are an affordable living option and good idea, and she in fact lived in one. Her own civic engagement includes attending Planning Commission and City Council meetings to observe and learn

about what's going on, advocating for better bike and pedestrian safety in her own neighborhood near Lake Johnson off Avent Ferry, getting the library in her neighborhood that remained closed throughout COVID to reopen and remain open all day this summer, and generally reaching out to local representatives when she sees a need. Regarding the city's struggles with staffing issues, she noted that her own community pool can't open due to staff shortages and that \$22/hour is the wage needed to live in Raleigh. She supports the recent wage hikes and advocates for continued pressure to raise wages more. In response to specific questions about currently pressing issues, above all the fate of the fence between Dorothea Drive and Western Blvd., Jane cited neighborhood engagement as the first step and said her role as the representative of District D would be to make concerns known to the council. Jane noted that Field Spring Lane was slated to become a cut-through between Buck Jones and Jones Franklin, but the community was able to put a stop to that plan during the design stage. The councilor's role is to advocate with the Planning Commission during the design stage when the neighborhood's request is reasonable and affects the quality of life. On a related matter, the city may include part of Boylan Heights along with S. Saunders in a new TOD (Transportation Overlay District), a tool to promote density that would remove the protections the historic designation offers. Jane acknowledged that if the BH's designation as an historic district were to be removed, significant changes would ensue. She acknowledged a social contract between the city and Boylan Heights residents that informed homeowners' expectations as they moved into the neighborhood and on that basis would support preserving the historic district designation. She likes Boylan Heights and wants to support the neighborhood. She says it's one of her favorite places and its uniqueness is important to Raleigh. Jane's goal in running it is to hear our concerns and she encourages us to reach out to her. She will be at 704 McCulloch on June 29 from 5:00 to 7:00 to hang out and chat. Her email is janeharrisonraleigh@gmail.com.

Committee Updates: ArtWalk: Art Walk 2022 will be the 30th, and plans are to go forward with it in person. Lyman started chairing the Art Walk Committee in its 16th year and sees this year as a nice capstone and good time to pass it on. Please encourage those who might be interested in working with Lyman this year and taking over (or sharing the chairship) for 2023 to get in touch. There's a roadmap and it's not as daunting as it may seem, plus Lyman and Don will stay involved. Ideas for marking the 30th anniversary are welcome, too. BH Newsletters at the City Museum would be a good source for information on the history of Art Walk.

Old Business: Work on setting up links for referrals on the BH website continues.

New Business: Jay Spain will post information about development of "the pit" (the property in the 600 block of W. South St.) on the BHNA page on Facebook. He gave an update on setbacks, easements, building height and other details of the plans at this time. City Council will vote on the Planning Commission's recommendations and whether to allow the development to move forward on August 16. Please contact Jay for more information: boylan411@gmail.com. He is collecting signatures on a petition for City Council. Melissa Bailey spoke at the City Council meeting of today (June 21), requesting a change for the designation of the section of Western Blvd. that passes by Boylan Heights from BRT-4 (six lanes of traffic) to BRT-2 (four lanes of traffic). She is concerned that the wall and vegetation buffer between Western Blvd. and Dorothea Drive will be threatened. While city planner John Anagnost assured the neighborhood at a meeting on June 14 and again at the meeting that there are no plans to do that, they have not put any of their reassurances in writing. District D Representative Stormie Forte amended the motion to designate Western Blvd. as BRT-4 to include a requirement that any changes to the wall and buffer zone be presented to city council and that the neighborhood be informed. The city council voted, and the motion passed. Allison Hutchins emailed each member of city council to ask that the fence and vegetation buffer remain in place. **National Night Out:** will take place on August 2 and will include a walk in the neighborhood followed by an ice cream social. Community Watch signs are available for \$10, and installation is free. Contact Mike Motsinger: michael.motsinger@gmail.com