

BOYLAN HEIGHTS ASSOCIATION MEETING MINUTES
November 19, 2024, 7:00, Rebus Works

I. Welcome and Meet your Neighbors

Present: Mike Motsinger (President), Corny Motsinger, Terri Conyers, Frank Haynes (Vice president), Emily Romblad, Lise Osvold, Anna Kirkland Smith (visitor), Jay Spain, Kim DeLoach, Charles McComas, Daniel Talley, Mark Senior, Sabrina Percher, Aram Amassian, John Lunsford (Treasurer), Donna Wooster, Ethan Hyman, Jill Furgurson, Carly Demler, Karen Polk, Mark Jolly, Matt Daniels, Jack Ratterree, Rob Allen, Jade Brennan, Riane Wubbenhorst, Sandro Giesler, Jane Barabash (secretary), Igor Barabash. Via Zoom: Officer Blake Dicello, Patrick Carroll, Ruth Bromer, Laura Brown (at-large), Amy Marshall, Elizabeth Lunsford. Special Guests: Janet Cowell (Mayor-elect), Jane Harrison (City council - District D).

II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda was moved for approval and seconded. The October minutes were moved for approval and seconded.

III. Police Report - Officer DiCello

During the past 30 days crime has trended down in Boylan Heights. 6 traffic stops were reported at Cabarrus and Boylan. BH Assault Investigation: The doorbell camera footage, recorded on October 14, was insufficient for identifying the suspected assailant. Officers continue to actively work this case. There are no further updates at this time. Cabarrus Men's Shelter : Officer DiCello and M Motsinger spoke with Pastor Vance. The lease for the shelter ends on December 31st. No request for an extension is planned. The building will be demolished in March. Assault: There was an incident on the Walnut Creek greenway near Peach Road Community Center. A female jogger was punched in the face. The perpetrator was found and in custody within 24 hours. Officers Dicello continues to monitor the neighborhood and greenway on a daily basis. Officer DiCello Blake.DiCello@raleighnc.gov 919 306-3465

IV. Special Guests

Mayor-elect: Janet Cowell Cowell won with 60% of the vote, providing a strong mandate. Her first priority is to get to know and work with city council members. She also prioritized affordable housing, pipeline projects, and public safety - including a 10% raise for safety officers. She views environmental issues including protection of trees, creeks, and development of green infrastructure, as well as stormwater management and improved environmental resilience, as key issues for Raleigh. She has spoken with Governor-elect Stein on whether state and government land can be utilized to address housing needs. She invited all present to the Dec 2 swearing in event.

City Council Member: Jane Harrison Harrison shared her 3 main priorities: community engagement, affordable housing, and the environment. She is meeting with neighborhood groups throughout District D to hear concerns. She hopes to see more CACs (City Advisory Councils) with support from the city council. She noted that the Raleigh Police department is one of the best trained forces in the nation with intensive training in calming techniques. Coordinating with programs like CARES (Crisis Alternative Response for Empathy and Support) and having social workers as part of the 911 support team helps address mental health needs

more appropriately. Development of a traffic command unit to respond to minor accidents frees police to address more pressing needs. There is a nation-wide shortage of police including vacancies in Raleigh. The current 24 hour shifts for firefighters in Raleigh is being looked at to make it more family friendly. She noted that multiple approaches are being developed to address homelessness. Based on a successful Houston program, the Pilot Program is helping unhoused persons into stable housing. No one model will meet all needs. As the city grows there needs to be a sustained commitment to clean air and water, The Tree Canopy Plan focuses on growing large trees on public land.

Questions: Cowell and Harrison both responded to questions regarding the future of the BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) system. It was noted that all officials in the recent election support the BRT system and a contractor is yet to be found for the 2 proposed lines in Raleigh. Although federal dollars have been committed to a fast train to Richmond it is unclear how support for this will play out with the new (Trump) administration. Working across the aisle will be important.

VI. New Business

Art Walk 2024 This year 250 artists applied to participate in ArtWalk. A juried panel selected 157 candidates. 14 neighborhood artists are part of the selected group. 60 private homes and neighborhood businesses are providing venues for the artists. The route of ArtWalk has been extended down Boylan and Cutler to Lenoir. A special city leaf collection will take place one day between December 2-6 to spiffy up the neighborhood. Feel free to decorate your home for the event! Artists in Western NC were invited to join ArtWalk, but replied that they were still rebuilding post-floods. There will be a donation table to support artists in Western North Carolina at this year's event. VOLUNTEERS are still welcome to help with Artwalk.

Tree Replanting Project

Karen Polk talked about the loss of tree canopy in Boylan Heights. Many large trees have been removed and more will be cut down. She met with Raleigh Urban Forestry and inventoried the neighborhood to see where and what kind of trees could be successfully replanted. A tree planting event is planned for next October and strong backs will be needed to participate. The city will provide trees, tools, and know how. The neighborhood has changed over the years with power lines and other obstacles. Consider planting a large growth tree on private property, if you have a good spot. This will need to be a sustained effort.

Holiday Caroling

No December date has been selected yet. Good (and bad) singing voices are all welcome to join in this year's caroling. Watch for updates.

V. Continuing Business

Hargett Closure Impact Traffic Study Motsinger has kept in touch with Bradley Kimbrell regarding a traffic impact study with the Hargett Street closure. The NC DOT is leading the project. Plans need to be further defined before Raleigh can investigate the traffic impact.

RCC Expansion Proposal Three renderings of proposed Convention Center expansion have been posted. See www.raleighconvention.com Time for public comment has ended.

Charitable Giving/ArtWalk Update Two applications were received for charitable giving: from the Fellowship Home (on Cutler St.) and Wiley Elementary School. Applications will be reviewed by the Boylan Heights Board and awards made.

V. Financial Report

BHA finances are in good shape. Balances in the ArtWalk and General account are above the amount last year at this time. The board is proposing spending discretionary funds in 2025 on an art related project or activity for the neighborhood. If you have an art project idea please share it with the board!