

ASSOCIATION UPDATE

We are in the home stretch, I believe, of the South Street closure discussion. Regardless of the outcome and your personal view on the subject, I want to say how heartened and proud I am of the participation of our residents in the process. You are truly an engaged and concerned neighborhood.

Many people in the neighborhood have expressed concern about the traffic impact of the South St. closure along with other planned street closures and dense development occurring around us. The comprehensive traffic study we requested was presented at the open house on 9/9. It was very interesting and enlightening. We hope to have someone from the Traffic Department present this same information at our 9/17 Association meeting and conduct a Q&A. If they cannot attend, we will still have information to share.

We have found, with exercising the Association By-laws for our recent BOD elections as well as financial reviews, that they could use a little tightening up. The Board will begin the draft of recommended changes and the residents will have ample opportunity for input and to ultimately vote on the new By-laws.

One of the tenets of the Association is that we will support charitable organizations that also enhance the quality of life in and around the neighborhood (By-laws Article II, Section 4). It is one of my favorites, and I invite you to embrace the idea of outreach for the many nonprofits that do good work around us. Nominations are now open. Reach out to John Lunsford—treasurer@boylanheights.org— for details.

See you at the Association meeting: Tuesday, September 17, 7:00pm at RebusWorks or Zoom.

Mike Motsinger - President

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT UPDATE

This year's National Night Out was delayed due to weather concerns. We combined the NNO ice cream social with the Labor Day picnic (thanks Dunbar family for organizing). We held the drawing from the households displaying the Neighborhood Watch sign. Our winner of a Hatwell gift bag including a fine French wine and tasty treats, Stefan Bray, said, "Gee, the sign came with the house when we bought it in 2001." Persistence pays off.

Mike Motsinger - Neighborhood Watch Coordinator

32ND BOYLAN HEIGHTS ARTWALK

The Boylan Heights ArtWalk, a cherished neighborhood tradition, will take place this year on Sunday, December 8, from noon to 5pm. Our streets will transform into a lively outdoor holiday market with a diverse array of local artists showcasing their unique creations on porches, lawns, and in studios. We're seeking volunteers to help make this event a success—no experience necessary! Volunteering is a great way to meet neighbors, make new friends, and get involved in the excitement. We're looking for support with event promotion, social media, info booths, artist assistance, and general tasks. Volunteers will still have plenty of time to enjoy the event and do some shopping, too!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, September 19th. If you're interested in joining or learning more, please email us at boylanheightsartwalk@gmail.com. Stay connected on Facebook and Instagram or visit www.boylanheights.org/art-walk for the latest updates!

Your ArtWalk Chairs,
Emily Aldridge, Sabrina Percher, & Susan Thompson

ACORN AVENGERS

As I write, we're experiencing false fall #2, or maybe it's "real" fall. Here, you just never know what September will bring. One thing it's definitely bringing is a bunch of native plant sales. Consider the Orange County PlantFest on Saturday, Oct. 5, from 9 to 2 at the Bonnie B. Davis Agriculture and Environmental Center, 1020 US Highway 70, Hillsborough, NC 27278 (www.plantfestnc.org). Fall is a great time to plant trees, shrubs, and perennials; just be sure to give them adequate water.

Join thousands of bug enthusiasts (and not-so-enthusiasts) on Saturday, September 14, for Bugfest at the Museum of Natural Sciences in downtown Raleigh. This year's focus is lepidoptera, the group that includes butterflies and moths. For more info, visit naturalsciences.org/calendar/bugfest/

Lastly, a gentle reminder to LEAVE YOUR LEAVES this fall. Fireflies and other beneficial insects overwinter in leaf litter. If you want fireflies next summer, you can't be raking them up and sending them to the yard waste center this fall. If you really want to clear your lawn, rake minimally and leave the leaves in loose piles. Leave the standing stems of perennials like milkweed, joe pye weed, goldenrod, and echinacea—these also provide overwintering shelter for important insects.

Let us know of any events or info you'd like to share with the Acorn Avengers at acornavengers@googlegroups.com. We're interested in all sustainable living topics!

BOYLAN HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING

August 13, 2024 7:00pm - Hartwell

I. Welcome and Meet your Neighbors

In person: M Motsinger (President), C Motsinger, F Haynes (Vice-president), J Spain, B Hollander, T Conyers, R Ritzman, S Kausey Bloom, S Botts, A Marschall, L Collins, D Marschall, S Norasingh, M Hill, J Barabash (Secretary), D Davis, R Wubbenhorst, D Corbin, H Greene, D Greene, J Brennan, H Taylor, T Tasoni, L Shaughnessy, D Shaughnessy, J Ratterae, D Maurer, K Troost, L Singler, J Furgurson, J Demler, E Hyman, E Talley, K Sanborn, W Hooker, L Tolley, P Webb, H Byers, D Mock, M Robinson (At-large member), R Bromer, J Huberman, R Allen, I Barabash, P Carroll, J Zaloom, R Donat, C Ward
By Zoom: T Bailey, A Kocourek, D Wooster, J Creech, A Gray, C Demler, S Shephard, J Shephard, C Larkin, K Larkin, P Cisco, A Cisco, L Senior, P Webb, J Lioret, E Ball, C Ashby, D Boragin, S von Fossen, R Crain
Guests: J Harrison (City Council), R Shadling (*News & Observer*), A Franklin, T Van Dyer, B Edgerton (SW CAC/DDNA), A Smith, M Smith, B Montgomery, A Mueller, John (camera man, WRAL), J Grace (WRAL)

II. Approval of Agenda and June Minutes

Agenda was moved for approval and seconded. June meeting minutes were moved for approval and seconded.

III. Police Report - Officer DiCello

Officer DiCello reported 4 car break-ins in the past 60 days, none of them in the past 30. About 15 calls made to police per month, for offenses such as traffic stops, abandoned vehicles—about the same rate as Oakwood. No current evidence of people living by the neighborhood RR tracks. About 20 calls made to police in the past 60 days re: the Cabarrus St. shelter, primarily for minor offenses (two disturbances and one assault reported). Shelter will be demolished, maybe in December. Security service was hired in July; calls have slowed since then. Neighbors concerned re: stop sign violations, particularly on Boylan Avenue and at South/Boylan and Cabarrus/Lenoir, plus speeding and wrong-way traffic on Kinsey and Dorthea. Officer DiCello agreed to immediately request increased traffic monitoring.

IV. Continuing Business

Development Beat: Red Hat Amphitheater Relocation
Jane Harrison, District D City Councilor, contacted the BH board for a chance to hear residents' concerns re: proposed closure of South St., offering to answer questions she could, bring back to staff unanswered questions, and get answers to Board President Motsinger. Harrison presented the assistant city manager's timeline of the Convention Center and Red Hat Amphitheater relocation project—dates of land purchases, approval process, funding sources, people involved, stakeholder meetings, amphitheater design contractor (Ratio

USA, LCC), and when City Council was informed. Motsinger reiterated: No one in Boylan Heights wants Red Hat to be closed. There are concerns regarding the need for closure of South Street. A 2 hour discussion ensued. Following is a summary of key areas of concern, comments, and questions, with Harrison's responses:

Q: The May 17 information session was first to mention potential South St. closure. Two members of the BH community were there; it was mainly informational, not seeking community input. Shaw and Raleigh Housing Authority (RHA) voiced concerns there. Why was potential South St. closure not disclosed earlier? Why no opportunity for public input? What about South St. businesses, which had to join the Downtown Municipal District—increasing their taxes—and will now be blocked off from downtown? Is it typical to inform council members so late in the process? The Convention Center and Downtown Raleigh Alliance seem to have an outsized influence on decisions. Why the hurry? Historically major decisions in Raleigh included lots of input. Why not delay construction for a deliberate, thoughtful decision? Can you make sure BH neighborhood is informed earlier next time a major decision affecting the neighborhood is made?

A (Harrison): The city council first learned of the proposed closing of South St. in a June working meeting—an informational, not decision-making, session. She has asked about slowing down the process and will ask again. Possible consequences of a delay: effects on contracts and timelines that might raise costs. Harrison saw the need for more systematic public engagement and can request that as a city councilor. She has been flooded with emails since the June meeting, mostly in support of Red Hat Amphitheater plans.

Q: Shouldn't a traffic study be done before closing a major east/west street? Will a study consider the very significant increased density created by current construction? Closing South St. presents a barrier to this gateway outlined in the Comprehensive Plan—what are effects on connectivity and the Saunders development plan? Will a traffic study consider the effects of multiple street closings: South, Hargett, and Cabarrus? The closure affects both East and West South Street as well as access to Dix Park from Southeast Raleigh—has that been considered? In recent years South St. has often been closed for construction; when fully functioning, it's a major east/west thoroughfare. Have pedestrian and bike traffic been considered? Will there be time for comment on the traffic study?

A (Harrison): She had just met with city transportation staff—consultant Kimberly and Horn is doing a traffic impact study including a South St. closure. All potential openings and new rerouting downtown are being looked at, including planned closure of Hargett for new RR line, eventual opening of West street, and potential creation of a slip lane south of South

BOYLAN HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

street. South St. was described as a low-volume street. She agreed on need for more input from other neighborhoods impacted by South St. closure; city council would need to figure that out. She agreed a decision could not be made without examining a traffic impact study.

Q: Several renderings of the proposed Red Hat Amphitheater that did not require closure of South St. were shared, representing bids that were not accepted last November. Would Ratio LCC have time to come up with an alternate rendering that would not require the closure of South Street? The original bid was for 8,000 seats which has now been reduced to 6000-6500 seats. Does this reduce the cost or possible design options? Closing South street also has costs - developing a slip lane, planning for pedestrian access, and ensuring that Lenoir Street is a viable alternate street.

A (Harrison): She'd been told that to stay within budget, South St. would need to be closed. Keeping the street open would cost an additional \$40 million to build seating vertically. She would bring this question to city staff, given the lower seating capacity.

Q: What are the next steps in the amphitheater project and potential road closure?

A (Harrison): An upcoming city council meeting would continue to discuss the project, including a city staff presentation. A vote on the Red Hat Amphitheater project, including the closure of South Street, is expected at a September meeting.

A motion to vote on a Position Statement to the City Council representing our neighborhood's collective opinion on the potential South Street closure was raised and seconded. It was read and voted on. The position statement had been distributed to all residents of Boylan Heights 10 days prior to the meeting. It was defeated. 24 yea, 30 nay.

A motion to vote on a friendly amended position statement was raised and seconded. It was approved 54 yea, 2 nay.

Amended Position Statement – Whereas the Boylan Heights Association supports the Red Hat Amphitheater remaining downtown, the Association requests that the City of Raleigh provide multiple plans with public input for the design of the amphitheater without closing South St., before development decisions are finalized. Approved 08/13/2024: 54 yea, 2 nay
Adopted by Boylan Heights Board of Directors

V. Financial Report

The annual budget has been approved by the Board. Presentation of the budget is informational and will be put out via social media or at our next meeting.

BOYLAN HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION MEETING AGENDA

September 17, 2024 • 7:00 pm • Rebus Works
Zoom Meeting ID: 870 2257 5519
Passcode: 888428

I. Welcome and Meet Your Neighbors

II. Approval of Agenda and August minutes

III. Police Report - Officer DiCello

- Traffic calming investigation
- Suspicious person

IV. Continuing Business

- Development beat: Red Hat Amphitheater relocation
 - Status of project
 - Open house 9/9
 - Traffic study
 - Next steps

V. Financial Report

- Annual budget presentation
- Financial report

VI. New Business

- By-laws update
- Elected candidate forums
- Charitable giving nominations