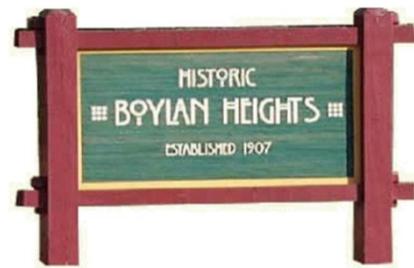


BOYLAN HEIGHTS NEWSLETTER

April 2021

Editor: Susan Thompson

Distributors: Suzanne Botts, Emily & Ryan Cooper, Don Davis, Lise Osvold, Eleanor & Daniel Talley, and Edan Ward



ASSOCIATION UPDATE

Neighbors,

Happy April! I, for one, am excited for the change in seasons as the light at the end of the covid tunnel starts to shine. We aren't quite ready to resume meeting in person, but we are getting close, and that has me excited!

We have some guests attending our neighborhood meeting this month and we hope that you will dial in. First, Raleigh City staff will give us an update about the bus rapid transit (BRT) plans. Second, Kane will give us an update on their project, which will be adjacent to the neighborhood. Please dial in to hear the update and get your questions answered! May will also be a big month with Council Member Stormie Forte joining us as well as neighborhood board elections. We are still seeking volunteers, so if you are interested, please email president@boylanheights.org. I hope that you can join us for our monthly neighborhood meeting on Tuesday, April 20 at 7 p.m.:

Meeting ID: 840 5106 9008

Passcode: 583339

-Melissa Bailey

WILDLIFE HABITATS SPROUTING UP IN BOYLAN HEIGHTS

In last month's newsletter, the Acorn Avengers announced their efforts to become the first neighborhood in the city of Raleigh to be certified as a Community Wildlife Habitat through the National Wildlife Federation (NWF). This process first requires individual yards to be certified as Wildlife Habitats. Since March, 4 additional yards have been certified by neighbors and we are now up to 5 Wildlife Habitats in Boylan Heights! That's 1/8th of the way to our goal of 40!

So, we wanted to ask these neighbors a few questions about creating habitat for wildlife and the certification process.

Why did you want to certify your yard as a NWF Wildlife Habitat?

Karen: I had two primary reasons: 1. to hold myself accountable to my claims about making my yard a wildlife-friendly habitat and 2. to demonstrate how easy it is for others who might be intimidated by the idea.

John & Kate: To be more intentional about caring for and promoting native plants and living things in our yard.

Ned: My wife decided to get our yard certified as a birthday present. She felt like it was a good way to acknowledge the work that I (she helped a lot) had put into changing our yard from a lawn into a wildlife habitat.

What kind of plants and animals are you supporting / do you hope to support in your yard? Do you have a favorite feature in your yard to attract any specific kinds of wildlife?

Karen: Mostly birds and insects, though I have also had mammal visitors including a rabbit, opossums, and raccoons. I planted some winterberry hollies thinking they'd provide nice fall/winter color with their bright red berries on bare branches. Last year I had a good crop of green berries for the first time, only to find

that as soon as they turned red, the birds ate them all, long before I could enjoy the bare branches with red berries! But, that's what they are there for -- my need for winter beauty comes after their need for food. If I can pick another one, it's definitely the mountain mint which attracts so many different kinds of insects! John & Kate: We would love to have our Carolina Wrens continue nesting in our yard and look forward to creating spaces to encourage other birds to do the same.

Ned: Mostly birds and pollinators. I'm working on ways to create habitats for snakes, lizards, and hopefully frogs. My favorite plant so far is butterfly weed (*Asclepias tuberosa*). I love seeing a monarch caterpillar munching away at the leaves.

What sorts of sustainable practices do you use to support wildlife?

Karen: Using native plants whenever I can. Composting kitchen waste, waiting until after winter to prune and clean up last year's plants so that overwintering insects and birds can use them for shelter. Providing food and nesting places for birds and pollinators. No poisons unless extremely judiciously applied to eliminate invasive plants.

Ned: We don't use herbicides or pesticides. I mostly use native plants. I use mulch to help with water retention. I collect rainwater to use when I can.

What is the best thing about having a yard that supports wildlife?

Karen: There's always something engaging in the yard whether it's flowers, caterpillars and other insects, and birds, whose interactions can keep me entertained for hours. And I hope that I'm providing a little bit of sanctuary for species that have been displaced from other spaces.

Ned: There's something special about watching nature at work in your own yard.

What was the NWF certification process like for you?

Karen: Because I had never gotten to the point of actually researching certification, I would say I was among the "intimidated". Once I got nudged by the Acorn Avengers to look deeper into the process, I was surprised by how simple it was. I didn't have to do anything additional or different from what I already do, I just had to complete the forms online and send in a small contribution.

John & Kate: We found the certification process user-friendly and easy... which encourages us to stay committed to the process.

Ned: The NWF certification process is a great way for people to understand what they need to do to attract wildlife to their yards. Every little bit helps.

We want to thank these neighbors for certifying their yards and sharing their experiences with us. On your next stroll through the neighborhood, be sure to check out their beautiful wildlife habitats at 909 W Lenoir St., 706 Florence St., and 421 Cutler St.! Want to support wildlife and help Boylan Heights become the first Community Wildlife Habitat in Raleigh? It's easier than you might think! Visit www.nwf.org/certify or contact the Acorn Avengers at AcornAvengers@googlegroups.com. If you're interested in finding out more about the Acorn Avengers or joining our group, send us an email!

NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD - SEEKING VOLUNTEERS!

We are seeking volunteers to serve on the BHNA Board. We have a board of volunteers who have been serving the neighborhood for years and we are looking for some fresh faces. No prior experience is necessary and there is no minimum requirement for how long you've lived in the neighborhood (our current president joined as secretary 4 months after moving here!). We are looking for all positions, although we are in particular need of a new Secretary and Vice President. Time commitment is approximately 3-5 hours per month. If you are interested or even just curious, please email president@boylanheights.org.

WELCOME, NEW NEIGHBORS!

Please welcome Katherine & Jack Goodman to 811 W. South Street. They are very excited to be part of the Boylan Heights neighborhood. Neither Jack or Katherine is from the Raleigh area, however Jack does have two siblings who live nearby, and Katherine went to college just a little way down the road at Elon University. They were in the process of looking at their new home and their realtor sent them the latest Boylan Heights newsletter. Katherine was so excited to see it - a neighborhood with a newsletter is the kind of neighborhood she wants to be a part of. Of course, she saw the note encouraging new neighbors to reach out and connect, and we are glad she did! They are looking forward to being part of this community, and as COVID guidelines allow, hoping to be able to meet lots of new neighbors and get involved in the neighborhood activities and events.

If you are a new neighbor, please email president@boylanheights.org. We also welcome you to join us at our monthly neighborhood meetings every third Tuesday of the month (currently held over zoom) at 7 pm. See Zoom info below.

WARD OF ID By Brant Parker & Johnny Hart



HAVEN HOUSE

Please join the board in thanking Haven House for so many years of support and allowing us to have our neighborhood meetings in their space. After ten years, they have relocated into newly renovated offices that are owned by the organization. We will miss having them close and are excited for the days ahead for them. Thank you, Haven House!

APRIL ZOOM MEETING!

Our monthly neighborhood meeting will take place Tuesday, April 20th at 7 p.m. Please dial in by going to zoom.us and then joining our meeting with the below meeting information. We look forward to seeing you then!

Meeting ID: 840 5106 9008

Passcode: 583339

BOYLAN HEIGHTS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

March 16th, 2021 @7pm Via Zoom

Present: Melissa Bailey-President, Don Davis-Vice President, John Bush-Treasurer, Jenian Taynton-Secretary, Caitlin Ward-Past-President, Corny Motsinger-At Large, Susan Thompson-At-Large, Lyman Collins, Suzanne Botts, Michael Dunn, Officer Winkle, Linda Caldwell, Karen Polk, Mark Jolly, Rob Allen, Charlie Queen, Allison Hutchins, Mike Motsinger, and George Havelka.

Approval of Agenda and Previous Months' Minutes: Agenda and approved and 2nded. Minutes were also approved and 2nded

Police Report: Officer Winkle monitored traffic issues on Western Blvd, particularly at the South Boylan Intersection and validated the concerns of neighbors. He has referred the matter to the department of transportation for further study and will continue to monitor traffic and safety violations.

Financial Report: John gave an update of the financial report.

Committee Updates: Archives Committee Don continues to report healthy engagement with this new committee and fascinating stories and anecdotal histories from Boylan residents past and present.

Environmental Stewardship and National Wildlife Federation

Adoption: We're pleased to share that Boylan Heights is closer to certification with the National Wildlife Federation. We thank the committee for their hard work, diligence and care for the wildlife of Boylan Heights. Email president@boylanheights.org if you'd like to participate.

Old News: T-shirts – Plans are moving forward for new t-shirts and we're in the design review phase. Hopefully, people will be sporting the new shirts by summer.

Lenoir St. Park: Allison Queen is continuing to represent the interests of the neighborhood in meetings with City of Raleigh staff aimed at improving the seating, shading, and age-diversity of amenities in the park. Contact Allison to join the efforts: ahh320@gmail.com
Thank you, Allison!

Other: Mel is continuing to reach out to city leaders including councilwoman Stormy Forte and others. Look for visitors at upcoming Association meetings.

Heights House Update: Work is nearing completion and the space will open April. Follow Height House on Instagram and Facebook for the inside scoop.

Next Meeting: April 20, 2021 @ 7 pm. See Facebook, the newsletter, and listserv for Zoom url

Meeting Adjourned @ 7:53 pm

BOYLAN HEIGHTS ASSOCIATION MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

7:00pm via Zoom

Agenda

- I. Welcome and Meet Your Neighbors
- II. Approval of Agenda and Minutes
- III. Police Report
- IV. BRT Presentation by City Staff
- V. Kane Update (West & Cabarrus St.)
- VI. Financial Report
- VII. Committee Updates
- VIII. Old Business (t-shirts, Lenoir Street Park, Heights House, other?)
- IX. New Business