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ALLSTON BRIGHTON

After 13 years, Brighton Main Streets director steps down

Posted by Matt Rocheleau June 22, 2012 04:45 PM

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By Matt Rocheleau, Town Correspondent

The director of Brighton Main Streets is stepping down after leading the organization for the past 13 years.

Rosie Hanlon said by phone Friday that it is her last day working full-time as the nonprofit's leader. However, she said she will continue living in the neighborhood, will assist the organization until a new director is hired and plans to remain involved beyond then.

"It really was a very, very difficult decision to leave a program I love and believe in with all of my heart," she said.

Hanlon, a longtime active resident and former city council candidate, announced she is stepping down in a farewell message posted to an [online neighborhood forum](#). She said she plans to soon start a new job at the Jackson Mann Community Center.

In the hours following her announcement, she said her phone had not stopped

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“I’ve received a lot of accolades from a lot of beautiful people. I made a lot of great friends in this role,” Hanlon said. “I’m proud of what we achieved, but whatever we achieved, it was because of the amazing people I worked with.”

She has worked with the [Brighton Main Streets](#) since its inception in 1998, including helping the organization earn its official designation as a Main Street district from the city.

Founded in 1995, the citywide Boston Main Streets program uses public funding and staff to support 20 independently-governed Main Streets organizations, including the one in Brighton, that work with local business districts to improve storefronts and public spaces.

In the message posted online, she outlined some of the ways Brighton’s commercial center has flourished.

“The achievements that have come to fruition in the Brighton community are extraordinary!,” she wrote. “We were noted as a ‘drive thru district’ to now being an up and coming destination! We were a drug-ridden, dirty business district to now being one of the safest districts in the city. Our events are year round and serve young and old alike.”

“When I began, the residents had such a disdain for our local business owners (and it was probably mutual),” she continued. “With a lot of work from our [Economic Restructuring] committee as well as our promo committee, slowly sentiments changed, and we now have an amazing, respect-driven, workable district.”

She thanked the board of Brighton Main Streets as well as local partnering companies and organizations, including major medical, educational and city-run institutions.

“None of the accomplishments could ever have happened without the volunteerism and passion of each and every person involved with Brighton Main Streets,” Hanlon said. “I thank you for your friendship and I wish you all the very best.”

E-mail Matt Rocheleau at mjrochele@gmail.com.

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