



# The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods

**Board Meeting**  
 January 8, 2009  
 Peachtree Presbyterian Church  
 6:30 – 8:30 PM  
 Meeting Minutes

## Meeting Attendees:

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Neighborhood</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
1	Yolanda Adrean	Mt. Paran-Northside	yadrean@earthlink.net
2	Glenn Cartledge	Memorial Park	glenncar@bellsouth.net
3	Gordon Certain	North Buckhead	gcertain@comcast.net
4	Jeremy Ellis	Peachtree Park	jeremyellis@earthlink.net
5	Debra Fowler	Mt. Paran-Northside	debrarfowler@bellsouth.net
6	John Haliburton	Peachtree Hills	john@thrashgroup.com
7	William "Bill" Hargett	Paces West HOA	bhargett@oxford-prperties.com
8	Jack Hellriegel	West Paces Northside	jehellriegel@bellsouth.net
9	Michael Hilton	Tuxedo Park	michaelhiltonmd@gmail.com
10	Kim Kahwach	Buckhead Forest	kajensen@bellsouth.net
11	Jim King	Chastain Park	jimking@mindspring.com
12	Sally Morgens	Tuxedo Park	smorgens@aol.com
13	Jennifer Moyers	Whitewater Creek	jennifermoyers@beacham.com
14	Elizabeth Pritchard	Peachtree Battle Alliance	elizpritchard@bellsouth.net
15	Sue Roberts	Peachtree Heights East	Sroberts20@bellsouth.net
16	Carla Sklenkas	Mt. Paran-Northside	sklenkas@comcast.net
17	Henry Wyche	Grant Estates/South Tuxedo Park	hwyche@valleycap.com

## Representation by Neighborhood

	<b>Neighborhood</b>	<b>Name</b>
1	Buckhead Forest	Kim Kahwach
2	Chastain Park	Jim King
3	Grant Estates/South Tuxedo Park	Henry Wyche
4	Memorial Park	Glenn Cartledge
5	Mt. Paran-Northside	Yolanda Adrean, Debra Fowler, Carla Sklenkas
6	North Buckhead	Gordon Certain
7	Paces West HOA	William "Bill" Hargett
8	Peachtree Battle Alliance	Elizabeth Pritchard
9	Peachtree Heights East	Sue Roberts
10	Peachtree Hills	John Haliburton
11	Peachtree Park	Jeremy Ellis
12	Tuxedo Park	Michael Hilton, Sally Morgens
13	West Paces Northside	Jack Hellriegel
14	Whitewater Creek	Jennifer Moyers

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**Jim King** called the meeting to order at around 6:45 PM. A quorum was present.

### **Secretary's Report**

Minutes for the November and December board meetings were approved by the Board, with some changes to the December attendees.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The BCN has \$1,600 in the bank and \$200 in checks in hand. The collection of 2009 dues (and the amount thereof) was deferred to a future board meeting.

### **Recognition of "New" Neighborhood, Paces West**

Bill Hargett, representing the Paces West Home Owners Association, spoke to the board about his neighborhood. His association had seen articles in the press about BCN and decided they wanted to join.

According to our map (and NPU-A's map), Paces West is part of Randall Mill's territory. Bill explained that his neighborhood of 82 ~\$600,000 condominium townhomes at 1311 West Paces Ferry Road had existed for 28 years without any contact with the Randall Mill neighborhood. There is no interconnection between Paces West and Randall Mill roads. Their association's annual budget is substantial (exceeding \$500,000) and their land area is significant, perhaps 30 acres. Paces West has not been a participant in NPU-A.

A prolonged discussion followed. In the end, the board voted unanimously to recognize Paces West as a Buckhead neighborhood, eligible for membership in BCN. To join BCN, Paces West was asked to pay dues in the amount of \$100.

### **Status of BCN Petitions**

The status of each of the three active BCN petitions was discussed.

**Northside Drive** ("Suicide lane" conversion to turn lanes). Elizabeth outlined recent developments. She had participated in a meeting with Clair Muller on 12/11, after which Clair informed the group present that the GDOT had turned over to the City the responsibility for the removal of the reversible lane on Northside Drive and the transformation of it to a turn only lane. This was confirmed by a subsequent e-mail from Muller. As three-quarters of the GDOT 2009 projects will not be undertaken in 2009 due to a lack of funding, the GDOT agreed to transfer responsibility for restriping the center lane of Northside Drive to the City of Atlanta. The City plans to complete the restriping during the first quarter of 2009 (confirmed by e-mail from Muller). The area neighborhoods have not given up on future implementation of the remainder of the planned improvements including reworked intersections, sidewalks and medians but want to have this critical safety issue solved immediately. It is not clear if that work scope is still GDOT's responsibility or if it is Atlanta's.

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**GA 400/I-85 Interchange Completion** - The status of this petition is on our web site, including copies of signed petitions. Thus far, the petition has been signed by seventeen (17) neighborhoods as shown in the table below.

<b>Associations Approving GA 400 Petition</b>	
1	Ardmore Park
2	Buckhead Forest
3	Castlewood Civic
4	Chastain Park
5	Collier Hills North
6	Grant Estates/South Tuxedo Park
7	Kingswood
8	North Buckhead
9	Paces
10	Peachtree Battle
11	Peachtree Hills
12	Peachtree Park
13	Ridgedale Park
14	Tuxedo Park
15	Wesley Battle
16	West Paces Northside
17	Whitewater Creek

The discussion focused on several points:

1. More neighborhoods need to sign the petition. Board members should contact those who have not signed.
2. We should reach out to our Congressional offices to make them aware of our need for this project. (John will work on this.)
3. The Obama stimulus is said to focus on projects that can be underway quickly, but it is likely that not all the money can be spent immediately, so we need to focus on increasing the visibility of this project.
4. To get the project going, we need to have a consensus on the ramp configuration that is acceptable to the neighborhoods.
5. We need to try to elevate the project's priority within the City of Atlanta since, among other reasons, matching funds may be needed. An argument was made that the current GA 400 gap stunts the quality of density in the Buckhead area, depriving the City of future tax revenues. Fortunately, we have the opportunity to amend the Connect Atlanta Plan quarterly.
6. Once we have an acceptable ramp plan, we can start working on the DOT and ARC.

**Fire Petition** – Yolanda updated the board on the furloughs and brownouts. In a meeting, Muller, Shook and Moore agreed to look at the City's cashflow to see if the budget could be reallocated to eliminate police and fire cutbacks. However, it was reported that the City's new CFO had reportedly found the City's books in such a mess that the June 30, 2008 Financial Statement had still not been released. So, it may not be possible to figure out the cashflow quick enough.

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Ten percent (10%) of the City's tax base is now committed to TADs. Atlantic Station has been built with a new fire station and new fire equipment, but it will not be manned. Worse, the closest fire station to Atlantic Station has been closed. We should all push to get this dangerous situation resolved.

Jim mentioned that Frank Bennett had sent a very strong e-mail to his neighborhood about the situation – half the neighborhood is outside the timely response circles of the fire department. (Jim will see if he can circulate the e-mail to the BCN.) Ed Lindsey's street is similarly outside prompt fire service, as is Garth's. Several on the board asked if we could get copies of Chief Cochran's powerpoints and maps. (Yolanda would try to e-mail Cochran to get copies.) The business community was apparently not aware enough of this situation and we need to increase their awareness. Obama's stimulus speech was mentioned, in that it mentioned funding extra police and fire fighters – Shirley Franklin's speech said the same – can stimulus money help this lack of police/fire funding?

### **Planning BCN's Action Items and Steps for the Calendar Year 2009**

**Outreach** – We need to reach more neighborhoods. As Jim put it: "If you have an adjoining neighborhood that is not here at the table, will you please take the initiative to reach out to them?" Several on the board make comments about good candidates (Randall Mill, Peachtree Heights, the remainder of NPU-C).

Some neighborhoods don't have an association. In that case, what we need to do is to find residents who want to start an association, share our bylaws and help them start one. Alternatively, they may choose to affiliate with a neighbor association. Finally, they may want to attend BCN as a non-voting participant. It will be a slow process but we need to color in the map.

**Web site** – The BCN domain, BuckheadCouncil.Org has been linked to the interim web page on the North Buckhead web site, so [www.nbca.org/BCN](http://www.nbca.org/BCN) and [www.buckheadcouncil.org](http://www.buckheadcouncil.org) get you to the same place. Jim plans to talk to John Birdsong (an associate of Jeremy's) to discuss the features of a permanent BCN web site, including desired levels of interaction, etc.

**Speakers** – In December, Yolanda set up Chief Cochran and staff. The discussion turned to ideas for similar speakers for the balance of the year.

1. Kim mentioned Bill Bozarth of Common Cause who had written an article in the Buckhead Reporter about the Development Authority of Fulton County.

References: Buckhead Reporter articles by/about Bozarth/Fulton Development Authority

- Bozarth Letter: [http://e.lps9.com/Articles-i-2008-12-12-188856.112113\\_Homeowners\\_pay\\_for\\_highend\\_tax\\_breaks.html](http://e.lps9.com/Articles-i-2008-12-12-188856.112113_Homeowners_pay_for_highend_tax_breaks.html)
- Fulton Dev. Auth. Response: [http://e.lps9.com/Articles-i-2009-01-09-190057.112113\\_Development\\_Authority\\_expands\\_jobs\\_and\\_tax\\_base.html](http://e.lps9.com/Articles-i-2009-01-09-190057.112113_Development_Authority_expands_jobs_and_tax_base.html)

2. Government Figures – Political figures and staff, GDOT, etc.

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### **Prioritized Efforts for 2009**

Jim suggested four areas for BCN's focus. During the discussion, board members volunteered to chair these committees, also indicated below.

1. Public Safety – Kim Kahwach
2. Transportation – John Haliburton
3. Education – Deborah Fowler
4. Parks – Gordon Certain

Other areas were discussed without a definite conclusion:

- Taxes and User Fees
- Watershed Management (water bill rates, size of budget, ongoing audit, tendency to secrecy)
- Quasi-Governmental Agencies (Development Authority of Fulton County, Atlanta Development Authority, etc.)
- Trees (wholesale cutting on weekends and holidays)
- Zoning and Development

Among much discussion, several points were made. We need to avoid overlap with the taxpayer's association. We need to set attainable goals. According to our bylaws, non-board members may chair BCN committees.

### **Community Concerns and Announcements**

- Some crimes do not appear in the Zone 2 crime reports – example: an apparent attempted rape in North Buckhead – we need to fix reporting.
- Pepper spray is available from some police officers and sites like Amazon – good personal protection to pedestrians, joggers, etc.
- The “Kolor” restaurant application for liquor license was outlined. Concerns about allocation of floor space and uses were discussed.
- The Buckhead Village police substation is being closed. It will ultimately be replaced by one in the Peach shopping center.

### **Next Meeting : February 12, 2009**

### **Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Prepared by Gordon Certain  
BCN Secretary  
February 7, 2009

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<b>BCN Organizational Status as of 01/08/09</b>						
	<b>Neighborhood</b>	<b>Member ?</b>	<b>Represented at 10/16/08 meeting</b>	<b>Represented at 11/13/08 meeting</b>	<b>Represented at 12/11/08 meeting</b>	<b>Represented at 01/08/09 meeting</b>
1	Arden					
2	Ardmore Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
3	Brookhaven				Yes	
4	Brookwood Hills					
5	Buckhead Forest	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
6	Castlewood					
7	Chastain Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
8	Collier Hills North					
9	Garden Hills					
10	Grant Estates/South Tuxedo Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
11	Kingswood	Yes	Yes			
12	Lindridge Martin Manor		Yes			
13	Margaret Mitchell					
14	Memorial Park	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes
15	Mount Paran Parkway					
16	Mt. Paran-Northside	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
17	North Buckhead	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
18	Paces	Yes		Yes	Yes	
19	Paces West					Yes
20	P'tree Battle Alliance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
21	Peachtree Heights East	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
22	Peachtree Heights West				Yes	
23	Peachtree Hills	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
24	Peachtree Park	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
25	Pine Hills				Yes	
26	Pleasant Hill					
27	Randall Mill					
28	Ridgedale Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	
29	Springlake					
30	Tuxedo Park	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes
31	Wesley Battle	Yes				Yes
32	West Paces Northside	Yes	Yes		Yes	
33	Whitewater Creek	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
34	Wildwood		Yes			