



# The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods

## Board Meeting

September 10, 2009

Peachtree Presbyterian Church

6:35 – 8:40 PM

Meeting Minutes

### Meeting Attendees:

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Neighborhood/Organization</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
1	Yolanda Adrean	Mt. Paran-Northside	yadrean@earthlink.net
2	Laura Braddick	Northside Neighbor	lbraddick@mdjonline.com
3	Gordon Certain	North Buckhead	gcertain@comcast.net
4	Lt. Mark Cotter	APD Zone 2	mcotter@atlantaga.gov
5	Peter Davis	Peachtree Park	loveten@yahoo.com
6	Barbara Delk	Historic Brookhaven	delkb@bellsouth.net
7	Glenn Delk	Historic Brookhaven	glennndelk@mindspring.com
8	Jim Elgar	Ceasar Mitchell for City Council President	jimelgar@gmail.com
9	Amir Farokhi	Candidate for City Council	amir.farokhi@gmail.com
10	Virginia Gunn	Peachtree Heights East	vgunn@bellsouth.net
11	David Gylfe	Collier Hills	dcgylfe@bellsouth.net
12	Sgt. Michael Harris	APD Zone 2	mharris@atlantaga.gov
13	Jack Hellriegel	West Paces Northside	jehellriegel@comcast.net
14	Phillips Jones	Tuxedo Park	gpjatl@bellsouth.net
15	Kim Kahwach	Buckhead Forest	kajensen@bellsouth.net
16	Jim King	Chastain Park	jimking@mindspring.com
17	Bill Langley	Ridgedale Park	langleybill@comcast.net
18	Walda Lavroff	North Buckhead	waldalavroff@comcast.net
19	Jennifer Moyers	Whitewater Creek	jennifermoyers@beacham.com
20	Craig Perry	West Paces Northside	CraigCPerry@aol.com
21	Garth Peters	Memorial Park	gpeters@thebuckheadcoalition.org
22	Elizabeth Pritchard	Peachtree Battle Alliance	elizpritchard@bellsouth.net
23	Buff Quillian	Peachtree Heights West	BuffQuillian@gmail.com
24	John Schaffner	Buckhead Reporter	johnschaffner@reporternewspapers.net
25	Bob Schneider	Garden Hills	bschneider@gardenhills.net
26	Brenda Smith	Mt. Paran-Northside	brendaDavisSmith@gmail.com
27	Betsy Teplis		bbteplis@bellsouth.net
28	Aaron Watson	Morningside/Candidate City Council Post 2	awatson@attach.pq.com
29	Jim Wright	Ardmore Park	wrightjr@mindspring.com
30	Henry Wyche	Grant Estates/South Tuxedo Park	hwyche@valleycap.com

### Representation by Neighborhood:

<b>Neighborhood/Organization</b>	<b>Name(s)</b>
1 Ardmore Park	Jim Wright
2 Buckhead Forest	Kim Kahwach
3 Chastain Park	Jim King
4 Collier Hills	David Gylfe
5 Garden Hills	Bob Schneider
6 Grant Estates/South Tuxedo Park	Henry Wyche
7 Historic Brookhaven	Barbara Delk, Glenn Delk
8 Memorial Park	Garth Peters
9 Mt. Paran-Northside	Yolanda Adrean, Brenda Smith
10 North Buckhead	Gordon Certain, Walda Lavroff
11 Peachtree Battle Alliance	Elizabeth Pritchard
12 Peachtree Heights East	Virginia Gunn
13 Peachtree Heights West	Buff Quillian
14 Peachtree Park	Peter Davis
15 Ridgedale Park	Bill Langley
16 Tuxedo Park	Phillips Jones
17 West Paces Northside	Jack Hellriegel, Craig Perry
18 Whitewater Creek	Jennifer Moyers
19 Buckhead Forest	Kim Kahwach

# BCN Board Meeting Minutes – September 10, 2009

## I. Welcome

Jim King called the meeting to order at around 6:35 PM. A quorum became present early in the meeting.

## II. Introductions

The attendees introduced themselves. Guests included Lt. Mark Cotter and Sgt. Michael Harris of APD Zone 2 Precinct; Amir Farokhi, Candidate for City Council Post 2; Jim Elgar, representing Ceasar Mitchell for City Council President; and Aaron Watson of Morningside, Candidate City Council Post 2.

## III. Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the August board meeting were approved by the Board.

## IV. Membership Outreach

The map at the right shows the status of BCN membership. Twenty-four neighborhoods are members (shown in light red) and eight additional neighborhoods have been represented at least one BCN board meeting (light blue).

Elizabeth Prichard introduced Buff Quillian, the new representative for Peachtree Heights. Garth Peters mentioned that he has had a number of contacts with Wildwood but was not successful in securing their participation.



## V. Committee Reports

### a. Transportation

Gordon Certain reported that an ordinance has been introduced to increase the Wieuca Road speed limit from 25 MPH to 30. At the current 25, the Georgia DOT will not permit APD to enforce the speed limit using radar. Lt. Cotter mentioned that, as the situation is today, any ticket they write for speeding on Wieuca Road will be dismissed in court. Gordon said that other speed calming changes are planned with the speed limit increase so the package of changes will be acceptable to the neighborhood. These changes are related to the new elementary school on Wieuca Road.

### b. Public Safety

Kim Kahwach mentioned several public safety issues that have been introduced as questions for the mayoral candidates to address at the forum. These questions included the candidates' position on outsourcing support services and information technology for the police and fire departments.

### c. Education

Katy Pattillo is not running for re-election. Mark Riley and Nancy Meister are both candidates for her District 4 seat. Mark's former at-large seat is going to Reuben McDaniel, who is unopposed.

### d. Parks

Gordon reported that he and Garth Peters attended a "Project Greenspace" presentation put on by the City of Atlanta Planning Department. The meeting was intended to secure community input before the NPUs and City Council are approached later this year. Garth mentioned the Buckhead Coalition's competition for vertical parks, something that the City's presentation, unfortunately, didn't get into at all.

Jim Wright reported that neighborhoods near Tanyard Creek Park had worked out what they thought was an agreement with Park Pride regarding such things as the alignment of the path and treatment of trees. The neighborhoods maintain Park Pride did not honor the agreement. The neighbors have hired an attorney and have filed suit against Park Pride and the City. John Schaffner asked if BCN might get involved. Jim King responded that we have not addressed the issue since the neighborhoods involved have not specifically asked us to do so.

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Jim King commented on the practice of the renewal of parks leases without adequate public awareness. He mentioned one affecting Chastain Park that was put on the City Council's consent agenda by a councilman from another part of the City and was passed without any public debate. He expressed the desire that in the future such legislation would go through the affected district's council person and would be announced to the public.

### VI. Discussion

There were no invited speakers for this meeting.

#### Comments by Lt. Cotter and Sgt. Michael Harris, both assigned to evening watch for of APD Zone 2:

"The article about crime being out of control is absolutely not true. Crime is actually down 9% for the year." For instance, theft from autos is down 400 crimes from last year. While burglaries were up earlier in the year, he said that they had done a "terrific job" in catching burglars and response times are getting better. He said Sgt. Harris actually caught a burglar going through the ceiling. Several weeks ago, they caught three burglars.

The only crimes that are up are aggravated assault and burglaries (up 81 two months ago, now up only 33). They are keeping a "burglar book" for likely suspects. He said they are doing traffic enforcement in the North Buckhead area – can't get them for speeding but can get them for other stuff on Wieuca Road. He talked about support they had given to Berkley Park, Riverside, and Brookwood. He said if we have any concerns to e-mail him at [mcotter@atlantaga.gov](mailto:mcotter@atlantaga.gov) or cell at 404-617-8030. The Zone 2 precinct phone is 404-848-7231.

Sgt. Harris spoke about some identity theft suspects he captured in Buckhead Forest. Apparently, none of the victims were from the immediate area. He also said that if you experience postal theft or mail tampering, call the USPS – they have expertise in solving those crimes. He also said that APD is going to charge homeowners for false security system alarms.

Cotter said when calling 911 about suspects, give as detailed a description as possible – if they are wearing a red hat and a t-shirt, mention those items. Also, if you don't get satisfactory results from calling 911, call back and ask for a supervisor. There was discussion about various problems with 911, such as reaching the wrong jurisdiction. Someone *[I couldn't tell who the male voice belonged to]* offered the direct line to Atlanta 911: 404-658-6666.

One important question Cotter was asked: Does APD allocate squad cars away from neighborhoods where they know there is an off-duty patrol service? No.

#### Update of Department of Watershed Management

Jim King reported on a meeting that he and Kristy Gillmann attended with the Deputy Commissioner of WSM, Sheila Pierce. The gist was that the City mistakenly thought that the BCN was party to a law suit against them and, because of that, their legal council told them not to respond to our e-mails, letters, phone calls, etc. Also, we had been told that WSM had not responded to Kristy's database of complaints. However, when they met they were told that WSM had started working on the list of complaints the day they got them, though they never told us. They said that every household on the list had been visited within 30 days and they had categorized the issues. 40% of the issues were resolved within 30 days. WSM said they were working on restructuring their customer response systems and procedures. Kristy will follow up on their restructuring.

#### Best neighborhood association practices survey (Craig Perry)

Craig handed out summaries of the neighborhood association practices. This handout is on BCN's web site at [http://www.nbca.org/BCN/2009-09-10\\_BCN\\_Best\\_Practices\\_Survey.pdf](http://www.nbca.org/BCN/2009-09-10_BCN_Best_Practices_Survey.pdf). He commented that he learned a lot just by looking at other association's web sites. (The web site addresses for survey participants are listed on page 4 of the handout.)

15 neighborhoods responded. A third had 74 to 150 homes; just 1 had 151 to 250 homes; 60% had over 250 homes. Most neighborhoods have single-family homes. Few had a mix of single-family homes and condos. One

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was totally condos/townhouses. 87% communicate by e-mail; half produce a newsletter; only a quarter use advertising to raise funds; three quarters have a web site. As for dues, those with amounts less than \$100 provide no security services. Roughly 80% provide some security but coverage varies widely. Other issues covered by the survey include membership percentages, legal structures, by-laws, insurance and challenges.

**Craig commented that only 53% responded that they had directors and officers insurance coverage – he said that he is in the insurance business (but doesn't sell D&O insurance) and that he wasn't sure he would want to be involved on board of an association without such coverage. He said, "I would suggest that the ones that don't have that coverage should look at it."**

Biggest challenges: membership and security. He added that keeping data current (e-mail addresses, who has moved in or out) is a big job. He said getting people involved is a big issue -- it always seems like the small minority is doing 99% of the work.

### Turnout for the Mayoral Forum on September 22<sup>nd</sup>

The questions have been submitted to the moderators. There will be a conference call with Jeremy Ellis and candidates. Need to get the press release out. Jennifer Moyers asked to have her name removed from the press release when distributed by neighborhoods. Will there be audience participation? Yes, index cards will be available for audience questions early in the session. Moderators will ask all questions. Other arrangements for the forum were discussed. Be sure to remind everyone by e-mail.

### Speed indicator sign sponsored by the Buckhead Coalition (Garth Peters)

The Coalition has offered to help all the neighborhoods in Buckhead to purchase a device. Garth said the devices reduce speeds by 35% and may even save a life. The City is putting up some speed radar devices, like at Morris Brandon. He said the City's criteria for putting up a device is that the speed limit must be over 30 MPH. The Coalition wants to provide help for areas with lower limits.

The price for radar signs is normally high, over \$4,000. He said they negotiated special pricing with All Traffic Solutions of \$2,823 for the kit, which is about \$3,000 including taxes. The Coalition decided to offer a grant of 75% to each Buckhead neighborhood. That leaves \$748.84 as the neighborhood's share. The devices are mobile and can be moved to the locations where calming is necessary. It will require someone to be responsible for the device and keep it in their garage when it is not in use. When in use, they can be chained to an immovable object such as an existing sign. The devices can be programmed to operate or not operate during particular hours, extending the battery life. They can also be programmed to not report speeds in excess of a certain number, reports which might encourage some to try to see how fast they can be registered. Tuxedo Park has already received a device. The grants will be available into 2010. Is a solar power version available? Yes, the Coalition has negotiated special pricing for the solar unit and the Coalition will still provide the 75% grant for the base unit.

## VII. Community Concerns

Garth and Jim reported seeing white tail deer in the Buckhead area.

## VIII. Announcements

Candidates' forum – Brenda Smith reminded us that her neighborhood, joined by six other neighborhoods, will have a city council and school board candidates' forum on October 13 at 7PM at Northwest Presbyterian Church on Northside Drive at West Conway. They are inviting the two candidates for city council president, the top candidates for the three at-large council seats, district 8 candidates, and the school board district 4 seat.

## IX. Next Meetings:

- September 22 Mayoral Forum
- October 8

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**X. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at around 8:40 PM.

Prepared by Gordon Certain  
BCN Secretary  
October 7, 2009

Draft

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<b>BCN Organizational Status as of 09/10/09</b>														
			<b>Represented?</b>											
	<b>Neighborhood</b>	<b>BCN Member?</b>	<b>2008 Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>2009 Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>Jun</b>	<b>Jul</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sep</b>
1	Arden													
2	Ardmore Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes
3	Brookwood							Yes						
4	Brookwood Hills												Yes	
5	Buckhead Forest	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes
6	Buckhead Heights										Yes			
7	Castlewood	Yes									Yes			
8	Chastain Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
9	Collier Hills									Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
10	Collier Hills North										Yes			
11	Garden Hills	Yes					Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
12	Grant Estates/South Tuxedo Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
13	Historic Brookhaven	Yes			Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes
14	Kingswood	Yes	Yes							Yes				
15	Lindridge Martin Manor	Yes	Yes				Yes							
16	Margaret Mitchell	Yes					Yes				Yes			
17	Memorial Park	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	
18	Mount Paran Parkway													
19	Mt. Paran-Northside	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes	Yes	Yes
20	North Buckhead	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
21	P'tree Battle Alliance	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
22	Paces	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes	
23	Paces West	Yes				Yes	Yes							
24	Peachtree Heights East	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes			Yes			Yes
25	Peachtree Heights West				Yes									Yes
26	Peachtree Hills	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	
27	Peachtree Park	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
28	Pine Hills				Yes									
29	Pleasant Hill													
30	Randall Mill													
31	Ridgedale Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes
32	Springlake													
33	Tuxedo Park	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
34	Wesley Battle	Yes				Yes		Yes						
35	West Paces Northside	Yes	Yes		Yes		Yes		Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes
36	Whitewater Creek	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes		Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
37	Wildwood		Yes											
<b>Count</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>