



The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods

Board Meeting

October 8, 2009

Peachtree Presbyterian Church

6:45 – 8:40 PM

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Attendees:

Name	Neighborhood/Organization	Email Address
1 Randy Bassett	Castlewood	rbassett@kslaw.com
2 Laura Braddick	Northside Neighbor	lbraddick@mdjonline.com
3 Gordon Certain	North Buckhead	gcertain@comcast.net
4 Julian de Juan	Margaret Mitchell	jdejuan@rawdatainc.com
5 Patrick Dennis	Chastain Park Arts Festival	patrick@affps.com
6 Elly Dobbs	House of Representatives	Jedobbs10@aol.com
7 Kristy Gillmann	Peachtree Hills	phca_kristy@hotmail.com
8 Sgt. Michael Harris	APD Zone 2	mharris@atlantaga.gov
9 Kim Kahwach	Buckhead Forest	kajensen@bellsouth.net
10 Barbara Kennedy	Collier Hills	bar2010@aol.com
11 Jim King	Chastain Park	jimking@mindspring.com
12 Walda Lavroff	North Buckhead	waldalavroff@comcast.net
13 Elizabeth Pritchard	Peachtree Battle Alliance	elizpritchard@bellsouth.net
14 John Schaffner	Buckhead Reporter	johnschaffner@reporternewspapers.net
15 Bob Schneider	Garden Hills	bschneider@gardenhills.net
16 Bob Stasiowski	Peachtree Park	rstasiowski@yahoo.com
17 Jim Wright	Ardmore Park	wrightjr@mindspring.com

Representation by Neighborhood:

Neighborhood/Organization	Name(s)
1 Ardmore Park	Jim Wright
2 Buckhead Forest	Kim Kahwach
3 Castlewood	Randy Bassett
4 Chastain Park	Jim King
5 Collier Hills	Barbara Kennedy
6 Garden Hills	Bob Schneider
7 Margaret Mitchell	Julian de Juan
8 North Buckhead	Gordon Certain, Walda Lavroff
9 Peachtree Battle Alliance	Elizabeth Pritchard
10 Peachtree Hills	Kristy Gillmann
11 Peachtree Park	Bob Stasiowski

I. Welcome

Jim King called the meeting to order at around 6:45 PM. A quorum was never achieved during the meeting.

II. Introductions

The attendees introduced themselves. Guests included Patrick Dennis of the Chastain Park Arts Festival, State Representative Elly Dobbs, and Sgt. Michael Harris of APD Zone 2 Precinct.

III. Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the September board meeting were not approved by the Board due to a lack of a quorum.

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 said that Peachtree Heights West association planned to join BCN at the November meeting. Elizabeth has been in contact with Eric Rainey about the Brandon

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neighborhood which is attempting to organize a neighborhood association. Jim King said that at a BCN Executive Committee meeting support for organizing new neighborhood associations was discussed. He said Elizabeth's name had been mentioned in the context of a possible "outreach" committee. Elizabeth said she would consider doing it. Jim said BCN hoped to come up with a template to help neighborhoods become organized.

V. Committee Reports

a. Transportation

GA400 - Gordon Certain had sent out an e-mail about GA 400 and the ARC's TIP (transportation improvement plan). The ARC is attempting to align their approved project list with available funding and is proposing to delete sufficient projects to do so. The deletions include the project to complete the GA400/I-85 interchange project. [It later turned out that the deletion was of another project in the same area, not the interchange improvement project.] He said the decision was unfortunate because there was a huge source of funding they were ignoring, the GA 400 tolls, which should be sufficient to pay off the bonds. Jim said that the decision was unacceptable and that we needed to attend ARC meetings to encourage the funding of the project. Jim said, we know money has been collected, and there is plenty of federal money – as everybody here knows, it has environmental impact, impact on our quality of life, and there's a ripple effect into DeKalb County as well as Fulton. The project is fully justified. Plus, it should have been built when they did the original construction.

Wieuca Road/New Sarah Smith campus - Gordon also said that the North Buckhead Civic Association had given Mayor Franklin, Councilman Shook and Commissioner Basista copies of a detailed plan for the infrastructure changes needed on Wieuca Road to support the new Sarah Smith Elementary campus. Gordon said the new school would open in two months and twenty days and the City hadn't started making the physical changes that are needed.

A group of neighbors near the new school have stridently opposed sidewalks needed for the new school and it was difficult for government officials to appreciate the real feelings of the overall neighborhood about needed improvements. To secure a reliable reading of overall neighborhood sentiments, the neighborhood association established an Internet-based survey and invited inputs via e-mail. 336 responses to the survey revealed that there was strong support for the new sidewalks and other improvements and dispelled the notion that the protesters were representative of the neighborhood at large. To convey the neighborhood sentiments into a plan that could be executed by the city, a 29-point illustrated plan was submitted to the city. That document is being considered by the city at this time.

BCN board members from other neighborhoods mentioned that they had similar problems with sidewalks at Margaret Mitchell and Sutton. Jim suggested that maybe a survey could be conducted for all schools in the Buckhead area and that perhaps a source of funding could be found. He said that he had found out that block grants, which normally could not be spent in our area, can be spend here for ADA compliance. These options are worth looking into.

A very long discussion followed on aspects related to the sidewalks ("sidewalk banks", impact fees, project approvals, ADA issues, private agreements, homeowner's responsibility for sidewalks, etc.)

b. Public Safety

Sgt. Michael Harris was asked to make comments. Harris said the crime rate continues to go down. They are concentrating on aggravated assault. He said a lady was found at the AmTrack station. She had been kidnapped from DeKalb County and sexually assaulted. She was a cab driver from Colombia. Harris said the only thing that seemed odd was that she had about 4.2 *pounds* of gold with her. Atlanta and DeKalb officials are investigating. Harris mentioned several other incidents.

Jim King suggested that while the crime rate was declining, some high-profile cases were happening that were getting a lot of attention and causing fear. He mentioned a case three weeks before about an attempted carjacking at gunpoint on Pinestream. The victim had left his car keys inside his house. The victim gave the assailant his wallet and a watch. That neighborhood is now on alert. Kim Kahwach mentioned a case on West Shadowlawn of a robbery at gunpoint with the victim shot and ending up in intensive care. Jim mentioned a case last week on Lake Forrest Drive, a scruffy male walked up to the back side of a home carrying their mail and knocked on the door, saying "I have your mail". The resident said he should leave it on the woodpile. The resident was scared to death and called 911 – the police did not find the suspect. Isolated scary incidents are getting a lot of publicity, especially via e-mail and the Internet. Harris commented that people tend to dwell on things that they hear. Call Harris at 404-551-8242 if we see a problem, such as the one John Schaffner mentioned (a motorcycle doing wheelies on Thursdays in front of Filini's on Peachtree).

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A tip was offered – if you see a suspicious person, get a good look at their shoes – they can change their clothing but probably not their shoes. Also get a description of their hair.

Kim Kahwach Suggested the neighborhoods appoint a representative to be on the BCN public safety committee.

c. Education

No input.

d. Parks

Gordon Certain said that Little Nancy Creek Park had its first event as a park (a picnic) – 100 people attended.

VI. Discussion

There were no invited speakers for this meeting.

Elly Dobbs, Georgia House of Representatives District 53, made the following comments: She is getting 50 e-mails a day about the flooding. Over 100 homes in Hanover West and other neighborhoods flooded.

Chastain Park Arts Festival – Patrick Dennis

Patrick Denis briefed BCN on the “1st annual” Chastain Park Arts Festival. It will be quiet and easy, on the back side of the park. People will be encouraged to get out of their cars and walk. Over 1,000 artists applied for the show. They weeded out artists with high-priced art. Big Trees Forest Preserve in Sandy Springs will be the non-profit beneficiary. Admission is free.

Buckhead Events Calendar

Jim King observed that there are many events such as this arts festival that happen in Buckhead neighborhoods every month. He thought BCN should collect them and provide a centralized calendar. Please send event announcements to Gordon Certain at gccertain@comcast.net.

Mayoral Forum

Jim reported the mayoral forum was very successful, with about 500 attendees. Several of the campaigns commented that we had the largest turnout so far this political season.

Mayoral Runoff Forum?

If there is a runoff, we will see if the candidates have interest in a follow-on forum about two weeks after the election.

Water Bills

Kristy Gillman reported about follow-up events related to their meeting with WSM. A previously agreed-upon “dashboard” report on the WSM web site did not appear as scheduled. Kristy is still getting calls from customers with water bill problems, including from all over the city (including south Atlanta and DeKalb County). She encountered one new problem in which the radio frequency on a customer’s meter did not match the City’s computer system, so she was getting usage readings from the wrong meter.

Kristy has established a step-by-step procedure for customers to use to figure out how to diagnose their own problems. This will be put on BCN’s web site. Kristy is also considering a public work session with representatives from WSM.

VII. Community Concerns

VIII. Announcements

IX. Next Meeting

- November 12 – BCN Annual Meeting

X. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at around 8:40 PM.

Prepared by Gordon Certain
BCN Secretary
November 10, 2009

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BCN Organizational Status as of 10/08/09

	Neighborhood	BCN Member?	Represented?												
			2008 Oct	Nov	Dec	2009 Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
1	Arden														
2	Ardmore Park	Yes	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	Yes
6	Buckhead Heights										Yes				
7	Castlewood	Yes									Yes				Yes
8	Chastain Park	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
9	Collier Hills									Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
10	Collier Hills North										Yes				
11	Garden Hills	Yes					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				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	Yes
21	P'tree Battle Alliance	Yes	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		Yes
27	Peachtree Park	Yes		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												
Count		24	17	13	18	14	20	17	12	14	18	17	15	17	11