



THE BUCKHEAD
COUNCIL OF
NEIGHBORHOODS
P.O. Box 11934, Atlanta, GA 30355

The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods

Board Meeting

August 12, 2010

Peachtree Presbyterian Church

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

	Full Name	Neighborhood/Organization	Email Address
1	Andrea Bennett	North Buckhead	andrea0599@gmail.com
2	Beth Beskin	Candidate - 38th State Senate district	-
3	Laura Braddick	Northside Neighbor	lbraddick@mdjonline.com
4	Steve Broadbent	Candidate, Fulton County Commission	steve@voteBroadbeent.com
5	Gordon Certain	North Buckhead	gcertain@comcast.net
6	Hannah Chung	Zone 2 Community Prosecutor	Hannah.Chung@FultonCountyGA.gov
7	Chloe Dallaire	Garden Hills - Candidate - Superior Court	chloe@chloeforjudge.com
8	Mamie Darlington	NAACP Atlanta/Peachtree Hope School	mamie1935@bellsouth.net
9	Glenn Delk	Historic Brookhaven	glennDelk@mindspring.com
10	Edward Floyd	Mt Paran Northside	Floyd7@Bellsouth.net
11	Mary Louise Floyd	Mt Paran Northside	-
12	Kristy Gillmann	Peachtree Hills	phca_kristy@hotmail.com
13	Tom Gordon	Ardmore Park	tgordon@mindspring.cokm
14	Fran Harris	North Buckhead	-
15	Hariet Harris	North Buckhead	harhar@mindspring.com
16	Marcelite Harris	NAACP Atlanta/Peachtree Hope School	mharris008@aol.com
17	Ponder Harrison	Castlewood/CRCT Blue Ribbon Commission	-
18	Phillips Jones	Tuxedo Park	gpjatl@bellsouth.net
19	Kim Kahwach	Buckhead Forest	kajensen@bellsouth.net
20	Barbara Kennedy	Collier Hills	bar2010@aol.com
21	Jim King	Chastain Park	jimking@mindspring.com
22	Lonnie King	Southside/NAACP Atlanta	OnyxDevelopment@comcast.net
23	Bill Langley	Ridgedale Park	langleybill@comcast.net
24	Walda Lavroff	North Buckhead	waldalavroff@comcast.net
25	Bill Lucas	Wildwood	BillJLucas@comcast.net
26	Karen Lucas	Wildwood	-
27	Reuben Mann	Peachtree Hills	mannra24@hotmail.com
28	Nancy Meister	Atlanta Board of Education, Post 4	nmeister@atlanta.k12.ga.us
29	George Mirgorod	Pine Hills	gMirgorod@comcast.net
30	Craig Perry	West Paces Northside	CraigCPerry@aol.com
31	Garth Peters	Memorial Park & Buckhead Coalition	gpeters@thebuckheadcoalition.org
32	Elizabeth Pritchard	Peachtree Battle Alliance	elizpritchard@bellsouth.net
33	Jane Rawlings	Lindridge Martin Manor & President NPU-F	president@Immna.org
34	Loulie Reece	Memorial Park	Loulie_tarbutton_reese@yahoo.com
35	John Schaffner	Buckhead Reporter	johnschaffner@reporternewspapers.net
36	Bob Schneider	Garden Hills	bschneider@gardenhills.net
37	Debra Wathen	Paces	6wathens@bellsouth.net
38	Jackson Wilson	Grant Estates/South Tuxedo Park	president@grantestates.org
39	Camille Yow	Peachtree Heights West	-

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Representation by Neighborhood:

Neighborhood/Organization	Name(s)
1 Ardmore Park	Edward Floyd
2 Buckhead Forest	Kim Kahwach
3 Chastain Park	Jim King
4 Collier Hills	Barbara Kennedy
5 Garden Hills	Bob Schneider
6 Grant Estates/South Tuxedo Park	Jackson Wilson
7 Historic Brookhaven	Glenn Delk
8 Lindridge Martin Manor	Jane Rawlings
9 Memorial Park	Loulie Reece, Garth Peters
10 Mt Paran Northside	Edward Floyd, Mary Louise Floyd
11 North Buckhead	Gordon Certain, Andrea Bennett, Walda Lavroff, Fran & Harriet Harris
12 Paces	Debra Wathen
13 Peachtree Battle Alliance	Elizabeth Pritchard
14 Peachtree Heights West	Camille Yow
15 Peachtree Park	Reuben Mann, Kristy Gillmann
16 Pine Hills	George Mirgorod
17 Ridgedale Park	Bill Langley
18 Tuxedo Park	Phillips Jones
19 West Paces Northside	Craig Perry
20 Wildwood	Bill Lucas, Karen Lucas

I. Welcome

Jim King called the meeting to order at around 6:30 PM.

II. Introductions

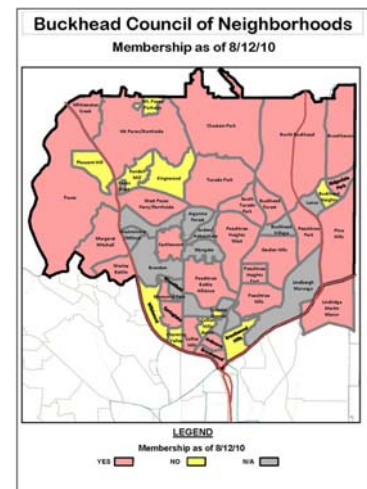
The attendees introduced themselves. Current (June) dues payment status is shown in red in the map to the right. Twenty-eight (28) neighborhoods have paid 2010 dues, an increase of two over 2009. (A larger version of the map is shown on page 8 of this document.)

III. Approval of Minutes & New Members

Minutes for the May meeting were approved as were minutes for June with several changes requested. There were no new member neighborhoods. Kingswood was previously reported as a member and this error was corrected in the June minutes.

IV. Committee Updates

Communications (Jennifer Moyers, Chair) – No report.



Development and Infrastructure Elizabeth Pritchard (Chair) – The Peachtree Battle Alliance and NPU-C have been working hard to ensure that the City Council does not approve the rezoning request for Colonial Homes. The Zoning Review Board and the Planning Department voted to support Pope and Land's plan for rezoning of the site. Yolanda Adrean and possibly Aaron Watson now support NPU-C's position. The Beltline, which had initially supported the rezoning request may be reconsidering. The initial request was to increase the zoning on tracts 1 and 5 to high density and maximum high density respectively. When opposition to that proposal appeared significant, the developer revised the request to change to the zoning to high density on Tract 5 only. Tract 1 is adjacent to single family homes in the Collier Hills North neighborhood. Tracts 2-4 are in the flood plain. The Beltline Subarea 7 Master Plan called for allowing a higher density in the non- flood plain tracts in return for returning the developed flood plain tracts to green space. The developer was not willing to return the flood plain tracts to green space yet wanted the increased density on the non-flood plain tract. The City Council vote was scheduled for August 15th.

Education (Glenn Delk, Chair) – Glenn thanked Nancy Meister for her role in having the APS independently investigate issues with CRCT testing. He noted that Lonnie King and others from the NAACP had attended this BCN meeting because they wanted to hear the reports and discussions related to the CRCT investigation.

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Parks (Gordon Certain, Chair) – Representatives of four BCN neighborhoods attended the August 10, 2010 ceremony to reopen the Central Park Recreation Center as part of the Mayor’s “Centers of Hope” initiative.

Property Taxes (George Mirgorod, Chair) – No report.

Public Safety (Kim Kahwach, Chair) – Kim reported that they were waiting to learn where the Zone 2 Community Prosecutor Hannah Chung’s office would be. Jane Rawlings reported that full funding for Fire Station 11 had been secured and that the transfer of the ladder truck from Station 29 in southern Buckhead to Station 11 in Atlantic Crossing would not occur.

Transportation (John Haliburton, Chair) – No report.

Watershed Management Coordination (Kristy Gillman, Chair) – Gordon Certain commented that many complaints about excessive July water bills had been reported in the Wildwood neighborhood. He asked his neighborhood if they had experienced similar problems and quickly got numerous complaints from North Buckhead residents. WSM is aware of the issues and is investigating.

V. Speakers

Nancy Meister, Post 4, Board of Education and Ponder Harrison, Member, APS Blue Ribbon Commission of CRCT Test Investigation

Summary: This presentation and discussion was extraordinary. It was filled with extremely important information and viewpoints. No attempt is made in this summary to cover everything and the reader is urged to read the details in the Attachment, available at www.nbca.org/BCN/Minutes/att.pdf.

Our new school board representative **Nancy Meister** and Blue Ribbon Commission member **Ponder Harrison** provided much background on the investigation of the APS’ CRCT erasures scandal. That the 2010 CRCT scores, conducted under strengthened security, plummeted in schools linked to questionable erasures, it is reasonable to conclude that cheating had occurred in at least some schools. It was apparent from Ponder’s comments that while the Commission had many skills and resources, it did not have the ability to secure needed testimony and detailed information, so many questions were never answered or even asked. It appeared that subpoena powers, which the commission lacked, would have been needed. From press reports, some Commission members appear to have financial ties to the school system that asked them to audit it, further suggesting that the Commission’s investigation and report may not have been as aggressive or independent as was needed. BCN board members and guests were critical of the APS and of aspects of the way the CRCT investigation has and is being conducted.

After about an hour of discussion (and after Nancy Meister and Ponder Harrison departed) BCN unanimously approved the following important motion:

The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods asks that the Public Integrity Division of the Fulton County District Attorney’s office investigate the APS cheating scandal.

All attendees appeared to be extremely grateful for the contributions being made by Nancy Meister and Ponder Harrison. The information and viewpoints provided by NAACP participants **Mr. Lonnie King, Gen. Marcelite Harris, and Dr. Mamie Darlington**, was extremely useful and well received. Their participation was much appreciated. (This NAACP group is working with Glenn Delk to open a charter school in southeast Atlanta.)

Hannah Chung, Community Prosecutor for Zone 2

Jim: We have another guest with us, Hannah Chung in the District Attorney’s office. She is our new Community Prosecutor for Zone 2.

Hannah: I am very excited to be here. I have been with the District Attorney for almost four years. [My position] is a new position. Zone 2 is the last zone in the City of Atlanta to get a community prosecutor. The community prosecutor has several functions.

- One of the primary functions is to monitor the defendants who are repeat offenders. In the current climate, what we’re seeing as the most problematic throughout Fulton County, not just

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in Zone 2 and not just in the City of Atlanta, are burglars. So, one of my primary roles will be to monitor the cases that come through our office from this zone where we have been able to identify criminals – defendants, people who are under arrest as having committed several similar incidents or have very long records, significant records – and trying to make sure that their cases are handled properly, doing whatever we can to try to ensure that they are sentenced appropriately.

- Another role of the community prosecutor is to act as a liaison between the community and law enforcement. I'll be working very closely with the Atlanta Police Zone 2 officers and Major Browning, in particular. Sometimes there are situations that arise where people in the community may find themselves at odds with people in law enforcement and it takes someone to explain, on both sides, what the case involves, whether we can or cannot go forward with charging a particular individual.

If you do have any particular concerns involving law enforcement, always feel free to call me. Also, if you have any concern about any employee of the DA's office, always feel free to call me. I have the District Attorney's ear and I would be sure to take it straight to him.

Given the discussion that preceded my introduction, I do want to say that we do have a "Public Integrity Unit". And if this group should decide that what is going on with the Atlanta Public Schools System really deserves some investigation, I would be happy talk to the District Attorney about that. I do not work in the Public Integrity Unit. The chief of the unit is an extremely qualified, highly experienced assistant DA. She has worked on a number of high profile cases. I do know that, in general, public integrity cases do take a long time to investigate so, I am happy to act as an intermediary or just make an introduction.

Glenn: I would like to make a motion to ask her department to undertake an investigation. I want to move that the Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods ask that the Public Integrity Division of the Fulton County District Attorney's office investigate the APS cheating scandal. **Jim:** OK. That's the motion. [It was seconded and approved unanimously.]

Hannah: I live in Zone 2. I have two small children. I live in downtown Buckhead in the Realm condominiums. So being community prosecutor for this part of the city is more than just a job to me. I really do care what goes on in Zone 2. The office space that we have identified is on Grandview Avenue at the intersection with Pharr Road in the Roberts Building.

I think some of you are with a case that has come to be known as the Chastain Burglar. There was an arrest recently of an individual who was found breaking into a house in the Chastain Park neighborhood on Tuxedo Terrace. He does have quite a record. And I am now working with the Atlanta Police Department. At the time of arrest, he said he might have been responsible for some other incident in that area. I know there have been other breaking in that neighborhood as well as all over Zone 2. So, that is one of the first cases that I am taking on as Zone 2 Community Prosecutor. His case has been indicted and he is still in jail. The case is assigned to a trial judge and I would expect that it will come up on the calendar in the next few weeks to two months. I expect the defense attorney will make some kind of bond request. I will do whatever I possibly can to keep him in jail.

Kim: How can we get a picture of this person to be circulated throughout the community?

Hannah: I don't have a problem with that, but I would like to check. I don't see any reason a mug shot wouldn't be a matter of public record. For all the cases of repeat offenders I will be involved with, a standard part of my recommendation will be banishment.

Let me also announce that the District Attorney has formed a multi-jurisdictional burglary task force. The burglary situation in Atlanta has grown and we're trying to figure out why. We are doing comprehensive studies looking at what's going on in other cities, comparing this city to other cities. It is comprised of members of our office, Atlanta and Fulton County police, at least one person with a PhD in criminology. This is something that we are taking really seriously.

I also want to inform everyone of a program we have called "Citizen's Court Watch". It is a program where we educate people in the community about what goes on in the court system. The program also notifies citizens of court dates for significant cases. We have Court Watch training sessions. If you would like for me to set up a training session in your neighborhood, I am happy to do that.

Finally, I hope in the next year that I will have been able to come to at least one of each of your neighborhood association meetings. Please let me know when those take place.

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Female voice: Does Fulton County have property seizure authority if there is a restaurant where the management has knowingly permitted drug activity and prostitution activities on an ongoing basis?

Hannah: One way that we have tried to crack down on those types of activities is by working with the other city agencies to shut the businesses down through ordinances that we know they are violating. We could have forfeiture powers if it involved a big ring, something where we could make a lot of arrests that would lead to the business owner being charged with something that involved a financial penalty. One of the reasons the DA created the community prosecution unit is to try and help members of the community crack down on these drug houses, crack houses, these businesses that are operating illegally. That is something that he is very committed to. If there is a location you are particularly unhappy with in your neighborhood, I would be glad to talk to you about it.

[Hannah's e-mail is Hannah.Chung@FultonCountyGA.gov. Hannah thanked the Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods for its help in getting her position established.]

VI. Neighborhood Concerns

Gordon Certain asked neighborhoods participating in the Buckhead Coalition's pothole program to sign a letter he had prepared thanking the mayor for his prompt attention. The letter was signed by many neighborhood representatives.

Edward Floyd reported that Mt. Paran Northside has experienced an increase in burglaries. What are the chances of increased police surveillance? The group's recommendation was to simply contact Zone 2. Citizens are reluctant to call 911 – it is important that calls be made so the APD has proper statistics to support its allocation of patrol units.

Kim Kahwach suggested that e-mails about crime alerts be routed to other neighborhoods as a Buckhead Crime Alert for redistribution.

Mary Louise Floyd mentioned that she had written a letter to the editor in the Buckhead Reporter on July 16, 2010 entitled "City taxpayers demand APS accountability". In addition to the CRCT scandal, the letter spoke about a 2007 situation involving APS electronic equipment bid rigging and expensive equipment being piled in a warehouse. She said the 2007 situation was "swept under the rug." She hopes this time the investigation will go somewhere.

Edward Floyd reported that the Brookwood Alliance has completed one phase of the study of the Peachtree Corridor zoning. If anyone wants to read the report, done by David Green at Georgia Tech, see ArdmorePark.org, look in links – 60+ megabytes.

Jane Rawlings reported that in NPU-F they are taking a close look at the alcohol license process to try to close some loopholes. She welcomes reports of neighborhood's experiences with the License Review Board and city attorney.

Glenn Delk asked that a proposed motion be put on BCN's web site before the next meeting so everyone would have a chance to read it. Gordon asked that it be e-mailed to him.

Jim King reported that the American Legion post is being revitalized and asked neighborhoods to support them in that effort.

VII. Next Meeting

The next meeting date is September 9.

VIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at about 8:30 PM.

Note: *The opinions expressed by the speakers and individual neighborhood representatives in these minutes do not necessarily represent those of BCN or its member neighborhoods.*

Prepared by Gordon Certain
BCN Secretary
September 6, 2010, Revised September 9

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BCN Organizational Status as of 08/12/10																										
		Represented at BCN Board Meeting?																								
	Neighborhood	BCN Dues		2008			2009												2010							
		2009	2010	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Aug	
1	Arden																									
2	Ardmore Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
3	Brookwood		✓						✓								✓						✓	✓		
4	Brookwood Hills														✓											
5	Buckhead Forest	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6	Buckhead Heights											✓														
7	Castlewood	✓	✓									✓					✓									
8	Chastain Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
9	Collier Hills	✓	✓								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
10	Collier Hills North											✓														
11	Garden Hills	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Grant Estates/ South Tuxedo Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
13	Historic Brookhaven	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
14	Kingswood	✓		✓							✓															
15	Lindridge Martin Manor	✓	✓	✓					✓								✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓
16	Margaret Mitchell	✓	✓						✓			✓				✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				
17	Memorial Park	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
18	Mount Paran Pkwy																									
19	Mt. Paran-N'side	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
20	North Buckhead	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
21	P'tree Battle Alliance	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
22	Paces	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓
23	Paces West	✓	✓				✓	✓																		
24	Peachtree Heights East	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓			✓				✓							
25	Peachtree Heights West	✓	✓			✓									✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
26	Peachtree Hills	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓				
27	Peachtree Park	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
28	Pine Hills		✓			✓													✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
29	Pleasant Hill																									
30	Randall Mill																									
31	Ridgedale Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
32	Springlake		✓																	✓	✓			✓	✓	
33	Tuxedo Park	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
34	Wesley Bohler	✓	✓				✓		✓																	✓
35	West Paces Northside	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		
36	Whitewater Creek	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	✓					✓
37	Wildwood			✓																						
Count		26	28	17	13	18	14	20	17	12	14	18	17	15	17	11	18	16	17	24	20	10	13	18	20	