

The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods
Board Meeting
February10, 2011
Peachtree Presbyterian Church, Room 2315 6:30 - 8:30 PM Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

-	Full Name	Neighborhood/Organization	E-mail Address
1	Yolanda Adrean	City Council District 8	yadrean@atlantaga.gov
2	Lou Angle	Peachtree Hills	
3	David Bates	N/A	DavidWilliamBates@gmail.com
4	Major Robert Browning	APD Zone 2	rbrowning@atlantaGA.gov
5	Gordon Certain	North Buckhead	gcertain@comcast.net
6	Hannah Chung	Zone 2 Community Prosecutor	Hannah.Chung@FultonCountyGA.go
7	Leslie Churchill	Margaret Mitchell	Ischurchill@bellsouth.net
8	Noreen Cochran	Northside Neighbor	ncochran@mdjonline.com
9	Kathy Collura	Peachtree Heights East	KathyCollura@bellsouth.net
10	Diane Cox	Brookwood	brookwoodcivic@gmail.com
11	Kristy Gillmann	Peachtree Hills	phca_kristy@hotmail.com
12	Tom Gordon	Ardmore Park	tgordon@mindspring.com
13	Rob Herron	Peachtree Hills	
14	George Hornbech	Peachtree Hills	george@studioala.net
15	Lynn Irvin	Randall Mill	
16	Barbara Kennedy	Collier Hills	bar2010@aol.com
17	Jim King	Chastain Park	jimking@mindspring.com
18	Walda Lavroff	North Buckhead	waldalavroff@comcast.net
19	Greg Mauldin	Springlake	greg.mauldin@alston.com
20	Louis Mayeux	North Buckhead/Patch	Louis.Mayeux@patch.com
21	Reuben McDaniel	Atlanta Board of Education Seat 8 At Large	rrmcdaniel@atlanta.k12.ga.us
22	Nancy Meister	Atlanta Board of Education District 4	nmeister@atlanta.k12.ga.us
23	George Mirgorod	Pine Hills	gmirgorod@comcast.net
24	Jennifer Moyers	Mt. Paran-Northside (Whitewater Creek)	jennifermoyers@beacham.com
25	Ann O'Connell	Mt. Paran-Northside	annoconnell1@bellsouth.net
26	Carlos Perez	AECOM/Design & Planning	carlos.f.perez@aecom.com
27	Craig Perry	West P <mark>ace</mark> s Northside	CraigCPerry@aol.com
28	Garth Peters	Memorial Park & Buckhead Coalition	gpeters@thebuckheadcoalition.org
29	Elizabeth Pritchard	Peachtree Battle Alliance	elizpritchard@bellsouth.net
30	Lt. Steve Purvis	APD Zone 2 Night Shift Commander	
31	Buff Quillian	Peachtree Heights West	buffquillianphw@gmail.com
32	Peggy Ratcliffe	Live Thrive/North Buckhead	pwhitlow@livinggreenpages.com
33	Jane Rawlings	Lindridge Martin Manor & President NPU-F	president@Immna.org
34	Mercy Sandberg- Wright	Tuxedo Park	mercywright@msn.com
35	John Schaffner	Buckhead Reporter	jfschaffner@gmail.com
36	Sally Silver	North Buckhead/NPU-B Chair	sl_silver@hotmail.com
37	Denise Starling	BATMA	denise@batma.org
38	Matt Tollison	Brookwood Hills	matt.tollesen@turner.com
39	Debra Wathen	Paces	6wathens@bellsouth.net

Representation by Neighborhood:

-	Neighborhood	Name(s)
1	Ardmore Park	Tom Gordon
2	Brookwood	Diane Cox
3	Brookwood Hills	Matt Tollison
4	Chastain Park	Jim King
5	Collier Hills	Barbara Kennedy
6	Lindridge Martin Manor	Jane Rawlings
7	Margaret Mitchell	Leslie Churchill
8	Memorial Park	Garth Peters
9	Mt. Paran-Northside	Ann O'Connell, Jennifer Moyers
10	North Buckhead	Gordon Certain, Walda Lavroff, Sally Silver
11	Paces	Debra Wathen
12	Peachtree Battle Alliance	Elizabeth Pritchard
13	Peachtree Heights East	Kathy Collura
14	Peachtree Heights West	Buff Quillian
15	Peachtree Hills	Kristy Gillmann, Lou Angle, George Hornbech,
15	reachtree milis	Rob Herron
16	Pine Hills	George Mirgorod
17	Randall Mill	Lynn Irvin
18	Springlake	Greg Mauldin
19	Tuxedo Park	Mercy Sandberg-Wright
20	West Paces Northside	Craig Perry

BCN 2010/11 Officers

<u>Office</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Neighborhood</u>	E-mail
Chairman	Jim King	Chastain Park	jimking@mindspring.com
Vice-chairman	Elizabeth Prichard	Peachtree Battle Alliance	elizpritchard@bellsouth.net
Secretary	Gordon Certain	North Buckhead	gcertain@comcast.net
Treasurer	Barbara Kennedy	Collier Hills	bar2010@aol.com
Communications	Bob Schneider	Garden Hills	bschneider@gardenhills.net
Member at Large	George Mirgorod	Pine Hills	gmirgorod@comcast.net

I. Welcome

Jim King called the meeting to order at around 6:40 PM.

II. Introductions

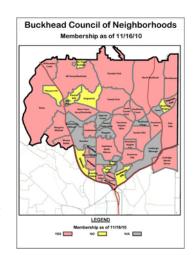
The attendees introduced themselves. A quorum was in attendance.

III. Approval of December Minutes

Minutes for the December meeting were approved.

IV. New Members (If any)

No new neighborhoods asked to join BCN. Lynn Irvin of Randall Mill said that her neighborhood hoped to join soon. Matt Tollison from Brookwood Hills attended so his neighborhood could learn more about BCN – he said there was general interest in his association to join BCN.



V. Speakers

<u>Major Robert Browning, Zone 2 Commander</u> – Major Browning introduced **Lt. Steve Purvis**. Purvis has been with APD for 18 years and had just been transferred into Zone 2. Purvis will be the new evening watch commander, replacing Lt. Canton has been transferred elsewhere.

For 2010, Zone 2 had about a 5% reduction in crime, overall. They were down in every category except for auto thefts. He said that autos were often being stolen to batter open the doors of stores for smash and grab burglaries. In the first six weeks of 2011, Zone 2 was doing "extremely well".

Browning expects 15 new offices and three new police beats in Zone 2 as part of Chief Turner's effort to revise the city's police zones/beats. Overall, 12 new beats are planned city-wide. Zone 2 will take over beats 601 (Cheshire Bridge) and 602 (Morningside) from Zone 6. They also plan to create a new beat in the Lenox Square/Superblock area. Browning has asked for an additional five officers: he wants another "umbrella car" in the Cheshire Bridge area since the expanded precinct will be more than 39 square miles (San Francisco has 44 square miles). He said there were limited routes to get from the rest of the zone into Cheshire Bridge: Piedmont Road or from Buford Highway. He expects the changes in August or September.

Nancy Meister (Atlanta Board of Education District 4) and Reuben McDaniel (Atlanta Board of Education Seat 8 At Large) – Jim King asked Nancy and Reuben to explain the status of the high school site selection. Nancy explained that the administration identifies the site, they do the due diligence, they get everything put together and then they bring it before the Board of Education for a vote. The board is waiting and thinks the announcement of a decision is imminent and a vote will be very soon. Reuben added that the administration has kept both of them "informed all the way along" as they have been looking at the various sites.

An attendee asked what sites are being considered? Nancy: "We're not at liberty to disclose those."

An attendee asked why is it taking so long? Any realtor knows that there are only four sites big enough in Buckhead. Nancy responded that there were more than four sites to begin with and they use a checklist to eliminate sites for such things as a site being too close to a highway, railroads, hazardous materials, etc. She agrees that it has taken longer than anyone expected. "You will be hearing something soon."

An attendee asked, didn't you say that you have talked to neighbors in areas that may be impacted? Is that the case? Reuben: "Let me be clear; we have not had meetings ..." The same attendee: How have you gotten any feedback? Reuben: "Nancy and I and the other board members come to meetings like this and get people's feelings and feedback, but as a practical matter, there are only a few sites that are available. What we're trying to do is to take into consideration the type of facility that people in this neighborhood want this high school to be on a par with, public or private. We do not have and have not had public hearings on these sites." Nancy added that they do see our e-mails. Reuben added that their role is to bring some of the neighborhood feelings to the table whereas, for the staff members, that's not their role.

Jim King noted that there was a petition from the North Buckhead area asking for a central location for the high school. Is there any hope of that? **Nancy** replied that we should understand that it is so hard to find 30 acres of land in Buckhead. They obviously would hope that it would be the best site for all students, but she didn't know where we could find 30 acres right around here that's suitable.

Jane Rawlings asked what role, if any, is APS taking in recognition of current federal school siting recommendations, because, in comparing APS' siting recommendations to current federal siting recommendations, there are pretty vast discrepancies? Current federal guidelines might become future requirements, and if our selections are inconsistent, that might impact our ability to get future federal funds. She added that federal guidelines were pretty clear in supporting *community*-centered schools – maybe the guidelines for a 30-acre site need to be revisited. Maybe 30 acres is unrealistic: North Atlanta sits on ten acres; Grady sits on 17 acres and has a football stadium. Those are things APS should take into consideration. Are they being? Nancy responded "that would be a question for our deputy superintendent for operations that's doing this. I don't know specifically those guidelines. That is his job. I will say that North Atlanta High School: we are tight there. My kids have been there and are there. I don't think that is suitable for high schools that want to have a great athletics program. And you want to have a theater and everything that makes up a great high school. I can't answer your first one: that's not our area of expertise, but Larry certainly could."

Nancy went on to say that eventually Buckhead will need two middle schools and since North Atlanta doesn't meet all of our needs, it makes sense to build to build a high school. Another attendee asked if it was fiscally responsible to build a high school and not build another middle school – our overcrowding issue right now is with our middle school(s). Consider the expense of thirty acres of land. Nancy said she didn't disagree but North Atlanta wasn't going to be big enough to hold the kids who will ultimately be going to high school. North Atlanta is not the best facility for a high school.

An attendee asked if they could afford for the new high school to be built without the one percent sales tax. **Reuben** responded yes, it has been budgeted both ways – school bonds can be used. They have run scenarios that show that the new school is not dependent on the continuation of the sales tax.

Another attendee asked, once the site is purchased, is there a process for the community to comment and have concerns answered? Reuben said that public input will come in at the design phase. There will be public forums about the impact on the surrounding neighborhoods. Jennifer Moyers commented that what she was not hearing was there was not much that citizens could do to change the site if they had issues with that site. Nancy said signage and entry points are the kinds of things they will work with the community on. The said once the site has been selected and negotiated, it is *the* site. Jennifer: So, the answer is no!

Sally Silver, recounting the frustrating experience with the new Sarah Smith site and the lack of coordination between APS and the city, insisted that as soon as the new site is identified, APS must notify the affected city council person. Sidewalks, crosswalks, etc. which are not on school property are the city's responsibility. In order for the city to be ready with that infrastructure when the school opens, they need to know on "day one". Sally said that we are expecting school sidewalks at Sarah Smith to be completed in March, after a whole year's wait (during which school has been in session). In the interim, kids have been walking to school in not-so-safe conditions. **Walda Lavroff** added that she had never seen the process laid out for coordinating APS and city actions – is there a process that can be followed and that people can

understand? It shouldn't be different each time APS selects a school site. Sally added that the process is that APS considers several sites and selects one and then you build the school. Gordon Certain added that in doing it that way, cost tradeoffs which could result in the lowest cost to the taxpayer are not a consideration – each government decides what to do based on what's good for them, not what's good for the taxpayer. **Jim King** added that the APS decision is made by the APS administration, not the Board of Education, which results in frustration because of the lack of public input. Reuben answered, having gone through the process over the past year, they have seen a lot of sites reviewed and when you get down to a top three or a top one, a lot of work has been done that BOE isn't qualified to do—it has nothing to do with neighborhood input, it is the technical components of "does this site work" as a school suitable for children? There is a very detailed process they go through. Gordon commented, we're taxpayers to both the school system and to the city – you could be making optimal choices for the school system that are not optimal for the city, and we're going to have to pay for it. We will have to pay more that way than if you (APS and the city) talked before you made the site selection decision. **Jim** concluded the discussion by saying "I don't think we're going to solve that, but that's the crux of the matter." He continued that the site decision needed to be announced very soon and that BCN was willing to help, if needed.

<u>Denise Starling – Executive Director of BATMA and Livable Buckhead</u> <u>Carlos Perez – AECOM/Design & Planning</u> <u>Peggy Ratcliffe – Live Thrive</u>

This section of the program involved three presenters speaking on three topics related by an environmental/quality of life theme: *Livable Buckhead, Buckhead Eco Collection* and *Buckhead Greenspace Action Plan.*

Livable Buckhead – Denise Starling explained that Livable Buckhead, Inc. is a new 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation which launched early this year. It is a counterpart to BATMA, which Denise also heads. BATMA focuses on alternative transportation and transportation planning for the community. In conjunction with the Buckhead CID, BATMA is also involved in zoning and infrastructure improvement projects. BATMA is mainly funded by federal Clean Air money, money that is at risk in the future. So they have looked at how to maintain the organization and diversify the funding sources. That line of thought led to the creation of Livable Buckhead. They needed to be able to go after foundation and grant funding. BATMA is a 501(c)(4) [like BCN], which doesn't qualify as a charitable organization; a 501(c)(3) was needed. So a new organization was decided upon.

Transportation is one piece of sustainability. There were other pieces of the broad topic of sustainability that weren't being done. These ranged from some "tree hugger" type things to arts, safety and security, keeping the community vibrant, things that promote the longevity of the community. They intend to be careful not to duplicate or replace services that are already being done by other organizations. Their mission statement and articles have accordingly been written very broadly, but their initial activities will be on recycling and greenspace. The discussion of these topics follows.

Livable Buckhead's web site is at http://livablebuckhead.com/.

<u>Buckhead Eco Collection</u> – Peggy Ratcliffe explained that Buckhead's Eco Collection is a joint effort of Live Thrive and Livable Buckhead, in conjunction with Councilmembers Howard Shook and Yolanda Adrean. The Eco Collection is a two-day recycling event on March 25 and

26. The first day is for Buckhead businesses only. The second day is for Buckhead residents only and is by reservation only.

Recycling is available for the following items:

Household Items (Residents Only)

- Paint latex and oil-based (Limit 7 gallons per vehicle.)
- Aerosol paint cans
- Stains
- Medications Over the counter and most prescription drugs, even if expired
 Note: Medications must be left in the original container. Scratch out name on prescription bottles.
 (Schedule 1 narcotics will NOT be accepted.)

Electronics (Businesses and Residents) – see web site for list

Paper Items (Business and Residents) – see web site for list – includes on-site document shredding

Other (Business and Residents)

- Printer cartridges
- Toner cartridges
- Batteries (household varieties only)
- Fluorescent bulbs (compact and tube)

The drop-off location is at 92 West Paces Ferry Road, but cars should line up on Slaton Drive – see this map. See the recycling event's web page for more information and registration.

<u>Buckhead Greenspace Action Plan</u> – Denise started out the presentation with the observation that Council District 7 had the lowest acreage of parks and greenspace in the city. The Greenspace effort was initiated by Howard Shook and is being implemented by Livable Buckhead in conjunction with the Buckhead CID and supported by a steering committee of about 30 stakeholders from throughout the area. AECOM is the consultant firm hired to assist in the effort. Denise said they have been really surprised by opportunities that are available in the supposedly built-out Buckhead area. Ultimately, the city will ultimately own and maintained acquired in this initiative.

Carlos Perez said their efforts started in October. The project began with a needs assessment and will produce a vision for greenspace/parks proposed for the overall NPU-B area. They started with making an inventory of existing greenspace and parks and performing an on-line survey to understand what was lacking and desired in the community. They identified two main priorities: the need for a central gathering space and connectivity (sidewalks, trails).

The vision is long-term, with elements that can be implemented today and others that might take 50 years. He said that people don't fail because they aim too high and miss, but that they aim too low and hit. So the plan will be pretty aggressive in some areas. They plan to focus on quality of life issues, including alternative transportation such as sidewalks and trails. They want to establish convenient access to greenspace nearby to homes and businesses, provide adequate athletic facilities, maximize real estate values, and provide gathering opportunities at the neighborhood and community level. This will be done in a way that integrates arts, history, culture and environmental issues. As areas redevelop, they hope to use that as an opportunity to make greenspace improvements. One of the key opportunities they want to pursue, working with GDOT, is using the right-of-way along GA 400 as a place for hiking trails and parks/greenspace.

The whole presentation was heavily graphic and detailed. Since the presentation is not easily conveyed in words, the reader is encouraged to visit the <u>Greenspace Action Plan Presentation</u>. In future years this greenspace planning approach will probably be expanded to other parts of Buckhead.

Yolanda Adrean - City Council District 8 - 404-330-6051

Yolanda discussed the **Comprehensive Development Plan** which covers ten aspects of city planning. She encouraged everyone to attend the February 15 meeting for our area to discuss the 2011 CDP. Yolanda highlighted two chapters of the CDP, the first of which was Economic Opportunity. She said there was only one sentence in that whole chapter about our school system's impact on our economy. She said we should attend the meeting so we can beef up the treatment of education. The other chapter is on Greenspace. She said, after seeing presentations such as the one tonight, it is clear that the CDP greenspace section is inadequate and unimaginative. This CDP needs to be improved.

Yolanda also discussed **pension reform**. She said our present pension plan is simply unsustainable. She said that the task force lawyers have determined that the city can change some aspects of the existing plan, aspects such as COLA, the retirement year, computation of pay, etc. They are also looking at post-retirement health care benefits. They are also conducting a "pay in class" study, to see if the city is paying employees competitively and that pension plans are competitive with surrounding counties.

She encouraged us to attend the hearings on the pension, to write letters and send e-mails – she said pension reform is not a "slam dunk" and if we are not heard, it might not happen. She said that the city is way behind surrounding counties and cities; they have already reformed.

No state legislation is required for Atlanta's reform. The pension reform issue is being "uncoupled" from the budget issue – money saved by changing the pensions shouldn't be available to fund other programs.

VI. Committee Updates (alphabetical, not meeting sequence)

<u>Communications</u> (Bob Schneider, Chair) – No report.

Development and Infrastructure (Elizabeth Pritchard, Chair) – No report.

<u>Parks</u> (Gordon Certain, Chair) – Gordon reported that a proposal to ban smoking in city parks gained little support in a recent meeting held by the Department of Parks. **Greg Mauldin** reported that Bitsy Grant Tennis Center renovation plans were greatly aided by a \$500,000 Parks Department contribution, leaving only \$90,000 to be raised. Work starts in two weeks. **Diane Cox** volunteered to assist in expediting permit acquisition for the renovation work.

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

Public Safety (Kim Kahwach, Chair) - No report.

Redistricting (Chair TBD) – **Lynn Irvin**, visiting from Randall Mill, spoke about the Milton issue. She said there were a number of basically similar bills in the Legislature for a constitutional amendment to permit Milton Counties to be re-created or established. The

amendment would require voter approval. She doesn't think anything will be done in this session, since it needs to be on the ballot. She argued that Buckhead neighborhoods needed to have an opinion about this legislation, whether it would be to try to join Milton (her first choice) or to oppose the bill. She wanted to know if BCN wanted to set up a committee to parallel one she was working with.

Jim King recounted last month's decision to create, at Ed Lindsey's suggestion, a redistricting committee. He wondered if we should combine a Milton campaign with the property tax and redistricting committee. **Elizabeth Prichard** suggested that BCN have a discussion meeting with no speakers where organizational issues such as this one could be discussed at length. She said it was hard to work out solutions when everyone was tired. It was agreed to defer the discussion to a "discussion" meeting.

<u>Transportation</u> (John Haliburton, Chair) - No report

Watershed Management Coordination (Kristy Gillman, Chair) - No report.

VII. Community Concerns

Chastain Park parking – Jim King discussed the parking problem at Chastain Park. He said that people weren't using the ample parking that's available in the "Red Lot" behind the amphitheater. He encouraged neighborhoods to ask all visitors to consider using that lot to alleviate the parking shortage on West Wieuca Road. He said the lot was well connected with Path walkways and that they were trying to re-label the lot as the "Path Parking Lot".

VIII. Announcements

Zone 2 Community Prosecutor Hannah Chung reported that last December suspect Gregory Favors is believed to have shot State Trooper Chadwick LeCroy. Favors had a long crime history and the incident sparked a debate in the court system. Favors had already pled guilty to a felony theft charge in July 2010. The DA's office wanted four years in prison for Favors; the judge gave him just 60 days. The DA's office has been told that the courts will move some of the cases (burglary and aggravated assault) to a new division, but the change doesn't seem to have taken effect yet. The DA's office is very concerned that burglaries are being moved from the complex case division, where they were actually getting some jail time for those convicted.

A Court Watch event is being held on March 19, 9:00 AM to 12:30 at the Justice Tower, downtown.

IX. Next Meeting - March 10, 2011.

X. Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at about 8:50 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 March 15, 2011

BCN Organizational Status as of 3/15/11																	
		Representation at BCN Board Meetings															
	Neighborhood	6	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011									
		2009			Included 3 meetings	Included 12 meetings	Included 11 meetings	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
1	Arden																
2	Ardmore Park	✓	✓	✓	100%	67%	91%	✓									
3	Argonne Forest						9%										
4	Brookwood		✓	✓		17%	45%	✓									
5	Brookwood Hills					8%		✓									
6	Buckhead Forest	✓	✓	✓	100%	75%	100%										
7	Buckhead Heights					8%											
8	Castlewood	>	>			17%											
9	Chastain Park	>	\		100%	100%	100%	✓									
10	Collier Hills	✓	1	✓		67%	82%	✓									
11	Collier Hills North					8%	9%										
12	Garden Hills	√	1			75%	91%										
13	Grant Estates	1	1		100%	83%	82%										
14	Historic Brookhaven	1	1		33%	58%	91%										
15	Kingswood	1			33%	8%	9%										
16	Lindridge Martin Manor	1	1	1	33%	25%	55%	1									
17	Margaret Mitchell	·	·	·	0070	33%	64%	·									
18	Memorial Park	· /	·		67%	58%	91%	· /									
19	Mount Paran Pkwy				07 76	3078	9%			7							
20	Mt. Paran-N'side	1	1		100%	75%	_	1									
21	North Buckhead	V	∨ ✓				55%	∨									
22	P'tree Battle Alliance	V	V	✓	100%	100%	100%	∨									
23	Paces	-		V	100%	83%	64%										
24	Paces West	√	Y		67%	58%	55%	✓									
25		V	✓			17%											
	Peachtree Heights East	V	V	V	67%	50%		√									
26	Peachtree Heights West	✓	✓	✓	33%	25%	73%	✓									
27	Peachtree Hills	√	V		100%	75%	45%	✓									
28	Peachtree Park	✓	✓		67%	83%	55%										
29	Pine Hills		✓	1	33%	8%	91%	✓									
30	Pleasant Hill																
31	Randall Mill							✓									
32	Ridgedale Park	V	1		100%	58%	73%										
33	Springlake		1	1			55%	✓									
34	Tuxedo Park	✓	1	1	67%	75%	73%	✓									
35	Wesley Bohler	✓	✓			17%	9%										
36	West Paces Northside	✓	✓	✓	67%	67%	64%	✓									
37	Whitewater Creek	✓	✓		100%	75%	45%		1	Now i	nclude	d with	Mt. Pa	ran No	rthside		
38	Wildwood				33%		27%										
	Neighborhood Totals	26	28	14	Avg: 16	Avg: 16	Avg: 18	20									