



The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods Board Meeting

May 12, 2011

Peachtree Presbyterian Church, Room 2315

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

	Full Name	Neighborhood/Organization	E-mail Address
1	Andresen	Asst. Chief Pete Andresen	Atlanta Police Department
2	Belk	Dianne Belk	North Buckhead
3	Campos	Carlos Campos	Atlanta Police Department
4	Certain	Gordon Certain	North Buckhead
5	Chung	Hannah Chung	Zone 2 Community Prosecutor
6	Churchill	Leslie Churchill	Margaret Mitchell
7	Cox	Diane Cox	Brookwood
8	Delk	Glenn Delk	Historic Brookhaven
9	Dobbs	Elly Dobbs	House of Representatives, District 53
10	Egbert	Detective John Egbert	Atlanta Police Department
11	Gordon	Tom Gordon	Ardmore Park
12	Grunwald	Ron Grunwald	Loring Heights
13	Kennedy	Barbara Kennedy	Collier Hills
14	King	Jim King	Chastain Park
15	Lavroff	Walda Lavroff	North Buckhead
16	Love	Gloria Love	Northside Neighbor
17	Mayeux	Louis Mayeux	North Buckhead/Patch
18	Meriweather	Charles Meriweather	Garden Hills
19	Mirgorod	George Mirgorod	Pine Hills
20	Peters	Garth Peters	Memorial Park & Buckhead Coalition
21	Purvis	Lt. Steve Purvis	APD Zone 2 Night Shift Commander
22	Schaffner	John Schaffner	Buckhead View
23	Smith	Alex Smith	Wildwood
24	Tidwell	Tom Tidwell	West Paces Northside
25	Weinman	Melissa Weinman	Buckhead Reporter

Representation by Neighborhood:

	Neighborhood	Name(s)
1	Ardmore Park	Tom Gordon
2	Brookwood	Diane Cox
3	Chastain Park	Jim King
4	Collier Hills	Barbara Kennedy
5	Garden Hills	Charles Meriweather
6	Historic Brookhaven	Glenn Delk
7	Loring Heights	Ron Grunwald
8	Margaret Mitchell	Leslie Churchill
9	Memorial Park	Garth Peters
10	North Buckhead	Gordon Certain, Dianne Belk, Walda Lavroff
11	Pine Hills	George Mirgorod
12	West Paces Northside	Tom Tidwell
13	Wildwood	Alex Smith

BCN 2010/11 Officers (Executive Committee)

Office	Officer	Neighborhood	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

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BCN Standing Committees

Committee	Chair	E-mail
Executive Committee	Jim King	jimking@mindspring.com
Communications Committee	Bob Schneider	bschneider@gardenhills.net

BCN Liaisons

Topic	Liaison	E-mail
Education	Leslie Churchill	lschurchill@bellsouth.net
Parks	Gordon Certain	gcertain@comcast.net
Property Taxes	George Mirgorod	gmirgorod@comcast.net
Public Safety	Kim Kahwach	KAJensen@bellsouth.net
Redistricting	Jim King	jimking@mindspring.com
Transportation, Development and Infrastructure – Watershed Department	Elizabeth Prichard Kristy Gillmann	elizpritchard@bellsouth.net phca_kristy@hotmail.com

I. Welcome

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

II. Introductions

The attendees introduced themselves. A quorum was present.

III. Approval of April Minutes

Minutes for the April meeting were approved.

IV. Admit Any New Member Neighborhoods

No new neighborhoods asked for admission to BCN. Twenty-five neighborhoods had paid 2011 dues as of this meeting.

V. Committee and Liaison Updates

- **Executive Committee** – No report.
- **Communications Committee** – A new web site will be mocked up in the near future.
- **Education** – Leslie reported that the BOE has posted a 27-page report on their web page detailing progress on SACS accreditation-related issues. SACS is planning to visit Atlanta in a few weeks to provide feedback on the report. SACS-related meetings are open to the public and are held every Monday.

The APS has 45 applications so far for the superintendent position and expects to ultimately have about 60. These will be reduced to 5 finalists in early June.

A school demographics meeting is being held on May 18. Two demographics meetings per cluster are expected starting in August. The new high school site closing was on May 2.

- **Parks** – Gordon said that the budget for Parks was being cut significantly (a \$3.1 million reduction or 20%). Look for a reduction in service.
- **Property Taxes** – Burt Manning may be available to speak to BCN next month. Some tax assessment notices have been received – these have inflated tax estimates.

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George reported that when Board of Equalization appeal hearings are held, the Assessor's Office provides a "Property Analysis Worksheet", which lists your house and three comparable houses. He said that the worksheets are very difficult to get in advance but are important for having a successful appeal. This should be discussed when Manning speaks again.

- **Public Safety – Hannah Chung** – the burglars involved in the high-speed chase from Peachtree Dunwoody to GA 400 to I-285 were indicted on multiple counts.

The shoplifting incident at Phipps Plaza last October involved five men who got out of a stolen car, snatched some jeans from Belk's, and then encountered three members of the APD gang unit who were at Phipps for a seminar. All five were charged under the gang statute. The first of the five recently pled guilty to this and a prior robbery -- Hannah asked for a sentence of "10 years, to serve 5", which is what the judge gave him.

Lt. Purvis (Zone 2 evening watch commander) said Zone 2 crime is down. We can help by following the "Clean Car" campaign – take everything that's visible out of your cars.

- **Redistricting** – No report. Will talk about next month.
- **Transportation, Development and Infrastructure** – Gordon reported that a major tree protection ordinance fine was levied in his neighborhood. The total fine for illegal removal of trees in this case was \$120,000, split between three parcels. An appeal before the Tree Conservation Commission for one of the parcels (about \$70,000) was unanimously overruled.

A female board member [*someone please provide her name*] commented about concerns that there is no planning along Peachtree in the Brookwood area. They have applied to be included in SPI 9, in order that a uniform appearance can be achieved all along Peachtree. A Brookwood Alliance plan goes from the I-85 bridge to Peachtree Creek. The segment between the Peach Shopping Center and Peachtree Creek was apparently not included in the SPI 9 discussion. Jim King stated that Peachtree Battle needs to be involved in these efforts.

- **Watershed Department** – No report.

VI. Speakers

Elly Dobbs - House of Representatives, District 53

The legislative session ended on April 15. A special reapportionment session is scheduled in August. Elly mentioned that many legislative districts will be impacted significantly by the Census and that three housing complexes in her district had been closed by the city and that many of the residents had moved to Clayton County.

The Legislature will hold its second session starting in January. Bills introduced in this year's first session which were not voted down by either of the legislative houses and were not enacted are still active and may be voted on in the second session.

Elly said the Legislature passed some very good legislation this year and some bad legislation.

Budget – Elly said the only thing the Legislature *has* to do according to the state constitution is pass a budget. They passed a \$18.1 billion budget for 2012, which was lower than last year's principally because of the loss of Federal Stimulus money. To somewhat compensate for the loss of stimulus money, they reduced the Medicaid reimbursement rate for physicians by .5% and incorporated a 20% increase in health insurance premiums for teachers and other state employees. 2012 per capita budgeted spending is lower than 2001 spending.

Anti-Human Trafficking Bill – Elly said this bill, introduced by Ed Lindsey, was very good and she was glad to help pass it. The bill had already been passed by some other states. The bill

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strengthens the definition of human trafficking and, among other things, provides for training for police officers.

Education Bill (Atlanta School Board) – The Governor is now empowered to reappoint parts or all of the Atlanta school board if they do not make adequate progress in retraining accreditation. While Elly had reservations about the bill on constitutional grounds, she thought the bill would be an extremely important message to help avoid any possibility of having our children graduate from an unaccredited school system.

Tom Tidwell asked whether the Legislature considered alternatives to the removal/appointment procedure such as a recall election. Elly said that was considered but that a recall couldn't happen quickly enough to avoid loss of accreditation. Elly hopes that the power granted by the bill will never be needed and doubts it ever will. She saw it as a "dagger" hanging over the school board encouraging them to act to preserve accreditation. She understands the position of those like Tom who are totally opposed to the bill.

Glenn Delk, also opposed to the bill, said it requires action by the governor to remove school board members if the school system was not off probation by July 1. He said they will not and cannot be off probation by July 1. SACS, on the other hand, said that the school system must act to resolve problems by September 30 to avoid losing accreditation. [In subsequent e-mails which included the actual text of the bill, the bill does not appear to require removals by July 1 and makes the governor to work with other state agencies.] He added that the statute was clearly unconstitutional. He said the solution was not this bill that was passed but action to take away the monopoly power of SACS, an unelected private corporation, to accredit school systems. He said that SACS gets more business by taking actions which increase the level of crisis in school systems. He said a lot of people think that SACS is in the "hip pocket" of the Chamber of Commerce. He added that the Georgia Constitution specifically says that the school system be run by an elected board of education, so a challenge to the bill will be on that basis.

The Hope Scholarship – Lottery revenues have declined, so Hope scholarships have been reduced to about 90% of a full ride. A limited student loan program is available to help with the remaining 10%. Students with outstanding performance will still be able to get 100% of expenses paid.

The Lottery also funds pre-K kindergarten – the governor wanted to cut it to half days, which Elly opposed because many parents have jobs and can't be at home at mid-day. A deal was worked out with more students per teacher and fewer new participants in the program.

Billboards & Trees: Elly sent an e-mail the day after the May BCN meeting saying she hadn't mentioned the really bad bill she meant to cover, the bill permitting clear cutting of trees on state rights-of-way obscuring billboards. She asked BCN members to encourage an e-mail campaign to ask Governor Deal not to sign it. Unfortunately, Deal had already signed it.

Other Bills: Illegal Immigration Reform – Sunday Sales – Pill Mills: there is a greater problem in Georgia with misuse of prescription drugs than illegal drugs. Ethics Disclosure Loophole: lobbyists must now disclose spending to official's staff.

Reapportionment Hearing: The official reapportionment hearing for Atlanta will be on June 30 10:00 AM at location yet to be determined. Strangely, there is only one hearing scheduled for the entire city.

Assistant Police Chief Peter Andresen

Jim introduced Chief Andresen in the context of a letter BCN sent Chief Turner (www.nbca.org/bcn/letters/BCN_Chief_Turner_0322_2011.pdf) about the proposed beat and zone alignment. Portions of another letter were also discussed – see www.nbca.org/bcn/letters/Certain_to_Turner_Comments_on_APD_Zone&Beat_Redesign.pdf.

Census – Andresen commented about the Census and the report that many residents from three housing units in Atlanta had moved to Clayton County – he said that AHA data showed that 80% of them were still living in Atlanta, not in Clayton.

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Human Trafficking – He also commented about the Human Trafficking bill. He said the city has a known problem with prostitution. The city's upcoming budget has funding for an APD Child Exploitation and On-Line Protection Unit with a staffing of eight. APD is also working with the GBI and FBI in work involving on-line crimes. He was asked how the Human Trafficking bill would affect enforcement. He said the problem was the definition of human trafficking – most of what is done is handled by ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement).

Hannah Chung commented that the difficulty is that many "victims" do not consider themselves to be victims and do not cooperate with law enforcement or prosecutors. They are often young runaway girls who won't/can't go back home. "They don't want your help, your sympathy or anything from you. These types of cases are very, very challenging." She said they don't call their pimps "pimps", they consider them their "boyfriends". These are the guys who feed them and give them shelter and clothing. Lt. Purvis added, based on his five years of experience, "these kids don't have a lot to begin with and ... their boyfriends give them the money, the clothes, like they call it: bling. It makes them feel good and they don't view it as something negative."

APD Beat and Zone Redesign – Zone 2 Expansion – Work Load and Response Time – Jim framed Buckhead's concerns around the response time issue. Gordon Certain outlined his analysis of APD's data with the conclusion that workloads at the beat level had indeed been equalized under the proposed redesign but that mileage travelled to accomplish that workload had not been equalized. "A Zone 5 beat officer would on average travel about a third as far to do his work as compared to a Zone 2 officer, both doing the same amount of "work". ... It is inescapable that response time is going to be a problem." (Refer to the bottom of page 3 of the Certain to Turner letter for the table showing data related to this issue.)

Chief Andresen responded: "There are a lot of factors that go into that. Buckhead on the morning watch: there is no traffic. Downtown on the morning watch: there is some traffic. Downtown is built up. Buckhead, as we all know, is spread out but it has a lot of traffic. The response times in Zone 2, and we appreciate Mr. King and Mr. Certain bringing this to our attention, the beat redesign at this time was done with workload measures and not response time, not with miles per beat or a lot of other variables that could have been put in there. Our beat redesign in the past was done by Dr. Richard Clerk, who retired at the end of Chief Pennington's term. The position wasn't refilled. We had him come back to our meetings when we started. We ended up doing this because Councilmember Bond passed a resolution ... that we would do a beat and zone realignment. And so, Detective [John] Egbert worked crime analysis for years. He was a narcotics investigator. That's why he was off-camera for all of those [hearings] – he does a great job with narcotics, but he is also one of our best, so he was ... doing this with the workload measures."

Andresen went through the staffing changes, relocations and technology updates involved in APD's 911 call center. "The national standard for working a 911 call is 90% within 10 seconds or less. We chart the data every week. It goes to the mayor's office. This week we averaged 93% on that. So we have worked out the technology issues but the question they [King and Certain] asked is what is the response time? Northrop Grumman is one of the contractors. They pulled the data originally. And when we looked at the data, we needed to scrub the data because as we mentioned, a lot of times when an officer goes to a call we found out that if he doesn't say 'I've arrived on the call' ... When he arrives and there's a fight started, sometimes he forgets to call in. ... So there are a lot of things with that report that we want to look at and sit down internally and be sure we are giving you a correct number. But we will have that and we will post that in the future on the web site because it is a great tool and it's a great thing for the neighborhood to know. I was just unable to bring it this time although I had a month to do it."

Andresen showed Chief Turner's March 9 Powerpoint presentation (www.nbca.org/bcn/Police_Beats/Zone_and_Beat_Powerpoint_Presentation.pdf). The focus of this study was to define measurable units of work at the beat level that could be objectively

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compared beat-to-beat and zone-to-zone. Then, with the addition of 60 new beat officers, beat and zone boundaries were realigned as needed to establish an equitable distribution of work. The goal, with equalized workloads, was for each beat officer to have the same opportunity to do community policing. Andresen commented that they considered a number of alternative plans including one in which there was a seventh precinct and which put all of Buckhead into its own zone. The beat/zones will be reviewed every six months and updated from time to time. Andresen added that the zone commanders have the flexibility to reconfigure beat boundaries and redeploy umbrella cars to respond to changes in crime frequency. Also see [www.nbca.org/BCN/Police Beats/Zone and Beat Redistricting Proposal \(draft 10-04-2010\).pdf](http://www.nbca.org/BCN/Police%20Beats/Zone%20and%20Beat%20Redistricting%20Proposal%20(draft%2010-04-2010).pdf).

Beat 203B – Among the issues that Andresen resolved was the question of whether the proposed Beat 203B included or excluded Lenox Square: the March 9 presentation words and maps did not appear to agree. Andresen established that the maps were indeed correct and that Lenox Square was not part of 203B and was instead in 204A.

Gordon had urged APD to reconsider the boundaries of 203B. Because it is bisected north-south by GA 400 with few bridges/underpasses and east-west by the Buckhead Loop with no bridges/underpasses to connect to the rest of the neighborhood to the north, the usual grid simply doesn't exist in North Buckhead. Rather, a few key nodes connect grids in one part of the neighborhood to another. Buckhead Forest is similarly challenged. Detective Egbert explained that Gordon's proposal for reconfiguring boundaries for 203B in the Piedmont Center and Buckhead Forest would involve beat workloads in excess of APD's guidelines. While that is no doubt true, inclusion of Piedmont Center (Piedmont Road) and the north side of the Buckhead Loop (Lenox Road) within the boundaries of Beat 203A makes its boundaries troublingly lengthy and worthy of further review.

Response Time Tracking – Currently the main problem is that many calls do not have an arrival time recorded. This has not been an impediment for their workload analysis, since assumptions can be made, but it is a problem for computing response time statistics. Jim King, observing that APD had the technology to track the workload of beat officers in one database and the location of their cars and 911 call statistics elsewhere, wondered if APD could integrate them to track response time. Andresen said their technology vendor has assured him that they can. He added that they had looked at trial reports prior to this BCN meeting and determined that the reports weren't ready to share. He also said that they were dealing with over a million calls and didn't have the urgency categories to go with the calls. Gordon asked if we will see response time reports for the current beat configuration, so we can assess how well the redesign is working. Andresen: "I'm working on getting that."

He indicated the transition would happen in September/October when a few more police training classes are graduated.

VIII. Announcements

IX. Next Meeting – June 9, 2011.

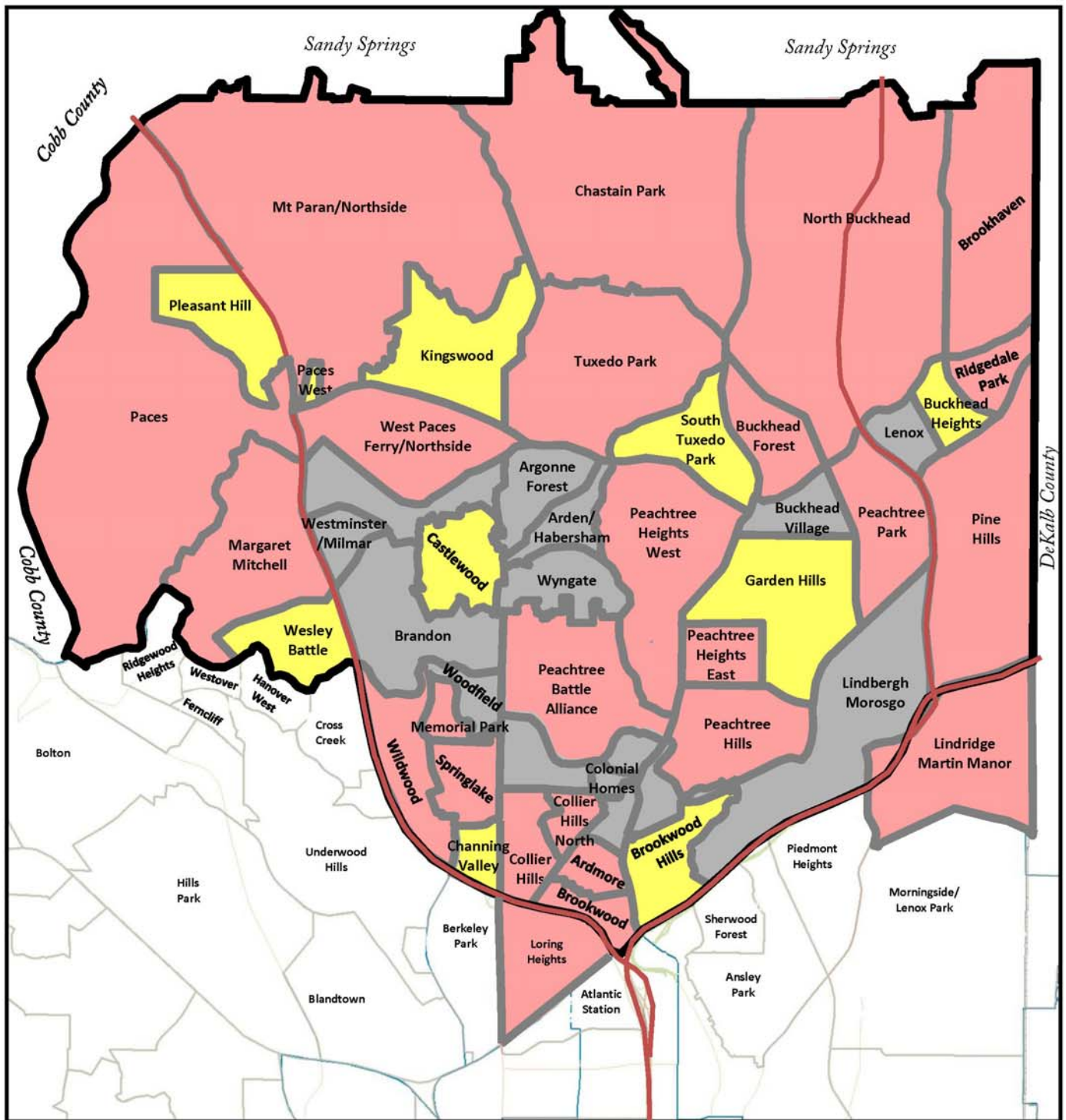
X. Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at about 8:45 PM.

***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
June 6, 2011

Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods

Paid Membership as of 5/09/11



LEGEND

Paid Membership as of 5/09/11

YES NO N/A

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BCN Organizational Status as of 05/12/11																
		BCN Dues			Representation at BCN Board Meetings											
	Neighborhood	2009	2010	2011	2008	2009	2010	2011								
					3 meetings	12 meetings	11 meetings	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov
1	Arden															
2	Ardmore Park	✓	✓	✓	100%	67%	91%	✓	✓	✓	✓					
3	Argonne Forest						9%									
4	Brookwood		✓	✓		17%	45%	✓	✓	✓	✓					
5	Brookwood Hills			Voted to join		8%		✓								
6	Buckhead Forest	✓	✓	✓	100%	75%	100%		✓							
7	Buckhead Heights					8%										
8	Castlewood	✓	✓			17%										
9	Channing Valley															
10	Chastain Park	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓					
11	Collier Hills	✓	✓	✓		67%	82%	✓	✓		✓					
12	Collier Hills North			✓		8%	9%		✓	✓						
13	Garden Hills	✓	✓			75%	91%		✓		✓					
14	Grant Estates	✓	✓		100%	83%	82%									
15	Historic Brookhaven	✓	✓	✓	33%	58%	91%			✓	✓					
16	Kingswood	✓			33%	8%	9%									
17	Lindridge Martin Manor	✓	✓	✓	33%	25%	55%	✓								
18	Loring Heights			✓						✓	✓					
19	Margaret Mitchell	✓	✓	✓		33%	64%	✓	✓	✓	✓					
20	Memorial Park	✓	✓	✓	67%	58%	91%	✓	✓	✓	✓					
21	Mt. Paran-Northside	✓	✓	✓	100%	75%	55%	✓	✓	✓						
22	North Buckhead	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓					
23	Paces	✓	✓	✓	67%	58%	55%	✓	✓	✓						
24	Paces West	✓	✓			17%										
25	Peachtree Battle Alliance	✓	✓	✓	100%	83%	64%	✓		✓						
26	Peachtree Heights East	✓	✓	✓	67%	50%		✓	✓							
27	Peachtree Heights West	✓	✓	✓	33%	25%	73%	✓	✓							
28	Peachtree Hills	✓	✓	✓	100%	75%	45%	✓	✓							
29	Peachtree Park	✓	✓	✓	67%	83%	55%		✓							
30	Pine Hills		✓	✓	33%	8%	91%	✓	✓	✓	✓					
31	Pleasant Hill															
32	Ridgedale Park	✓	✓	✓	100%	58%	73%		✓							
33	Springlake		✓	✓			55%	✓								
34	Tuxedo Park	✓	✓	✓	67%	75%	73%	✓								
35	Wesley Bohler	✓	✓			17%	9%									
36	West Paces Northside	✓	✓	✓	67%	67%	64%	✓		✓	✓					
37	Whitewater Creek	✓	✓	See Note	100%	75%	45%	Note: Now reported with Mt. Paran Northside								
38	Wildwood			✓	33%		27%		✓	✓	✓					
Neighborhood Totals		26	28	25	Avg: 16	Avg: 16	Avg: 18	20	19	16	13					