



The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods

Board Meeting

August 11, 2011

Peachtree Presbyterian Church, Room 2315

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

	Full Name	Neighborhood/Organization	Email Address
1	Major Robert Browning	APD Zone 2	rbrowning@atlantaGA.gov
2	Gordon Certain	North Buckhead	gcertain@comcast.net
3	Leslie Churchill	Margaret Mitchell	lschurchill@bellsouth.net
4	Kathy Collura	Peachtree Heights East	KathyCollura@bellsouth.net
5	Glenn Delk	Historic Brookhaven	glennedelk@mindspring.com
6	Tom Gordon	Ardmore Park	tgordon@mindspring.com
7	John Gordon	Mt. Paran-Northside	Unknown
8	Ron Grunwald	Loring Heights	Rgrunwald@bellsouth.net
9	Alena Harrison	West End	alena_harrison@hotmail.com
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	Gloria Love	Northside Neighbor	glove@mdjonline.com
14	Ronnie Martin	West Paces Northside	ronnie@demillo.com
15	Louis Mayeux	North Buckhead/Patch	Louis.Mayeux@patch.com
16	George Mirgorod	Pine Hills	gmirgorod@comcast.net
17	Elizabeth Pritchard	Peachtree Battle Alliance	eliz@epritcharddesigns.com
18	Lt. Steve Purvis	APD Zone 2 Night Shift Commander	spurvis@atlantaga.gov
19	Loulie Reese	Memorial Park	Loulie_tarbuton_reese@yahoo.com
20	Mercy Sandberg-Wright	Tuxedo Park	mercywright@msn.com
21	John Schaffner	Buckhead View	jfschaffner@gmail.com
22	Bob Schneider	Garden Hills	bschneider@gardenhills.net
23	Alex Smith	Wildwood	asmithconsulting@earthlink.net
24	Frank Toye	Chastain Park	ftoye@bellsouth.net
25	Dan Whisenhunt	Buckhead Reporter	danwhisenhunt@reporternewspapers.net
26	Barbara Williams	West End	lulageorge@att.net
27	Nancy Wylie	League of Women Voters	nancywylie@mindspring.com

Representation by Neighborhood

Neighborhood	Names
1	Ardmore Park Tom Gordon
2	Chastain Park Jim King, Frank Toye
3	Collier Hills Barbara Kennedy
4	Garden Hills Bob Schneider
5	Historic Brookhaven Glenn Delk
6	Loring Heights Ron Grunwald
7	Margaret Mitchell Leslie Churchill
8	Memorial Park Loulie Reese
9	Mt. Paran-Northside John Gordon
10	North Buckhead Gordon Certain, Walda Lavroff, Nancy Wylie
11	Peachtree Battle Alliance Elizabeth Pritchard
12	Peachtree Heights East Kathy Collura
13	Pine Hills George Mirgorod
14	Tuxedo Park Mercy Sandberg-Wright
15	West End Alena Harrison, Barbara Williams
16	West Paces Northside Ronnie Martin
17	Wildwood Alex Smith

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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

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	Elizabeth Prichard	elizpritchard@bellsouth.net
Watershed Department	Kristy Gillmann	phca_kristy@hotmail.com

I. Welcome

Jim King called the meeting to order at 6:45 PM.

II. Introductions

The attendees introduced themselves. A quorum was present.

III. Approval of July Minutes

Minutes for the July meeting were approved.

IV. Admit Any New Member Neighborhoods

No new neighborhoods asked for admission to BCN. Twenty-seven neighborhoods had paid 2011 dues as of this meeting. (A 28th neighborhood paid dues on August 26, as reflected on pages 5 and 6 of these minutes.)

V. Committee and Liaison Updates

- **Executive Committee** – No report.
- **Communications Committee** – **Bob Schneider** has worked with volunteer Mike Floyd to establish a permanent BCN web site. Bob has found a suitable host/software and should be able to start the migration soon.

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- **Education – Leslie Churchill** reported that Nancy Meister held a well-attended Q&A meeting to introduce new APS Superintendent Erroll Davis to area residents.
- **Parks – Gordon Certain** reported on an initial Mountain Way Park planning meeting attended by 30 North Buckhead residents and Paul Taylor of Atlanta's Park Design. A survey of 138 neighbors showed overwhelming support for proceeding with the creation of the park. Negotiations are anticipated with GDOT and the city to lease the land for use as a passive city park.

Elizabeth Prichard reported that Peachtree Battle Alliance has a new pocket park being created at 473 Woodward Way (at Alton). The property is in the floodplain and has been abandoned for over ten years. FEMA/DEMA bought the property, the city will own it and the Peachtree Battle Alliance it will maintain it. No improvements (such as benches) are permitted.

There were general complaints from attendees about inadequate park maintenance by Parks Department, especially in light of plans to add so much park land as part of the Beltline. It was noted that Parks staffing had been cut by at least half over the last few years. BCN reps were encouraged to bring up their complaints in person at the quarterly public meetings held by Parks Commissioner Dusenbury, which have been poorly attended of late. The next quarterly meeting is being held on November 16 at the Civic Center. (To be added to Parks' meeting announcement e-mail list, send an e-mail to Sharon Davis, sadavis@AtlantaGa.Gov.)

- **Property Taxes – George Mirgorod** had nothing new to report. He has three years' experience with the appeal process and offered to help others with the appeal process.
- **Public Safety –** No report. (See Major Browning's comments in IV, below.)
- **Redistricting – Jim King** stated that the Legislature was planning to release initial versions of their redistricting maps on August 12.
- **Transportation, Development and Infrastructure –**

Nancy Wylie reported that the Atlanta/Fulton League of Women Voters is focusing on the Transportation Investment Act (TIA) to help citizens to cast informed votes. The TIA Roundtable is voting by October 15 on a final list of projects and has selected a draft list. Public meetings are planned to get feedback on the draft list including one in Atlanta (September 15 at City Hall at 6PM) and two more in Fulton. The scope of projects affecting Buckhead is not clearly understood, especially the fixed-guideway transit to Cumberland from Midtown which may or may not use US41. We are encouraged to attend these sessions. See www.nbca.org/bcn/flyers/TIAMeetings.pdf. Representatives of the League are available to brief local groups – call Nancy at 404-256-1172.

Ron Grunwald spoke about Loring Heights' concern about businesses using local streets as cut-throughs at speeds they consider too high for narrow residential streets. They have asked the city to do "warrant studies" which could justify traffic calming if 15% of the traffic exceeds the speed limit by 10 MPH (which is not occurring). On the other hand, the state dictates minimum speed limits at no less than 25 MPH. Ron said they are considering options to overcome this impasse, perhaps by seeking a change in state law on minimum limits or by changing the city's warrant study policy.

Ron also spoke about a proposed blockage of Deering Road for six to nine months to accomplish repairs at the Amtrak station. He wanted other neighborhoods to be aware of this plan since it is likely to impact nearby local roads. Ron will let everyone know when meetings will be held on this project.

When asked by **George Mirgorod (?)** after the July meeting about plans for the new high school, **Bryant Poole** was quoted as saying that DGOT was considering the possible closing of the southbound I-75 exit at Mt. Paran and rerouting traffic onto West Paces Ferry. No one knew this plan was being considered.

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- **Watershed Department – Elizabeth Prichard** commented that the open inverted siphon on Woodward Way near Bobby Jones Golf Course, which has smelled since 1920, has finally been fixed and landscaped – a miracle! WSM is still working on other issues.

VI. Speaker – APD Major Robert Browning

Browning said he had recently attended the Senior Management School of Policing at the Kennedy Business School of Boston University, put on by the Police Executive Research Forum, Washington DC. These sessions, held three times a year, include 75-80 police commanders from the US and Canada. He was accompanied by Major Dalton of the COPS division and Major Tolleson of APD Management Information Systems.

Assistant Chief Andresen has retired. Major Chris Leighty is now commander of Zone 5. Randall Robinson, formerly of Zone 2, is now a major in charge of Special Enforcement.

On August 1, BCID started a program funding 10 to 12 off-duty officers to direct Buckhead traffic on a coordinated basis, sharing a common radio frequency. Their territory includes intersections on Wieuca at Phipps over to Habersham at Roswell.

The Video Information Center (camera system) is being expanded throughout the city. The system is being integrated using IP cameras which are monitored by veteran officers able to identify crimes from images on the monitors. Several neighborhoods commented that they were interested in getting cameras to monitor streets – Browning said they would have to get someone to monitor the cameras. Plus, there are legal issues. Jim King said that Castleberry Hills had experience with camera systems as does Atlantic Station, Midtown and Sandy Springs. He has been in contact with a camera vendor, Iron Sky, and hopes to set up a briefing for BCN soon.

Browning said that APD is looking into parties being held in Buckhead mansions and are pursuing permit violations and noise and parking issues, where appropriate.

Willy's at West Paces was robbed. A robber implicated in 18 other incidents was shot and killed by APD at the Burger King at 2424 Peachtree. Ten Waffle Houses have been robbed, but none yet in Buckhead – directed patrols have been put in place in Buckhead.

The new beats will go into effect by early October, depending on training graduations.

There has been a rash of car break-ins. They could be gang-related – not sure. There have been many vehicle thefts (292 in Zone 2) – some have been recovered, some not. Browning said to be alert to wreckers “just riding around” – “they will just pull up, put them [the vehicle being stolen] on the wrecker, and go with them”. See them, call 911.

There have been thefts involving purchases of high-end antiques with stolen/bad checks.

Browning said they are starting “See something, say something” – if you see anything out of the ordinary, call 911. If solicitors come to your front door, call 911. Graffiti? Call 546-2605 or e-mail Major Valerie Dalton vdalton@atlantaga.gov.

VII. New Business (if any) - None.

VIII. Announcements - None.

IX. Next Meeting – September 8, 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
September 5, 2011

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BCN Organizational Status as of 08/26/11																							
		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	Jul	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	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	Lindbergh											✓											
18	Lindridge Martin Manor	✓	✓	✓	33%	25%	55%	✓															
19	Loring Heights			✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
20	Margaret Mitchell	✓	✓	✓		33%	64%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓									
21	Memorial Park	✓	✓	✓	67%	58%	91%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
22	Mt. Paran-Northside	✓	✓	✓	100%	75%	55%	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓									
23	North Buckhead	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
24	Paces	✓	✓	✓	67%	58%	55%	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓										
25	Paces West	✓	✓			17%																	
26	PeachtreeBattle Alliance	✓	✓	✓	100%	83%	64%	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓									
27	Peachtree Heights East	✓	✓	✓	67%	50%		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓									
28	Peachtree Heights West	✓	✓	✓	33%	25%	73%	✓	✓			✓	✓										
29	Peachtree Hills	✓	✓	✓	100%	75%	45%	✓	✓														
30	Peachtree Park	✓	✓	✓	67%	83%	55%		✓			✓											
31	Pine Hills		✓	✓	33%	8%	91%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓									
32	Pleasant Hill																						
33	Ridgedale Park	✓	✓	✓	100%	58%	73%		✓					✓									
34	Springlake		✓	✓			55%	✓						✓									
35	Tuxedo Park	✓	✓	✓	67%	75%	73%	✓				✓	✓	✓									
36	Wesley Bohler	✓	✓			17%	9%							✓									
37	West Paces Northside	✓	✓	✓	67%	67%	64%	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
38	Whitewater Creek	✓	✓	N/A	100%	75%	45%		Note: Now reported with Mt. Paran Northside														
39	Wildwood			✓	33%		27%		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓									
Neighborhood Totals		26	28	28	Avg: 16	Avg: 16	Avg: 18	20	19	16	13	20	18	16									