



# The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods

## Board Meeting

April 12, 2012

Peachtree Presbyterian Church, Room 2315

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

### Attendees

	<b>Full Name</b>	<b>Neighborhood/Organization</b>	<b>Email Address</b>
1	Yolanda Adrean	City Council District 8	yadrean@atlantaga.gov
2	Amanda Baxter	Brookwood Hills	aczabor@gmail.com
3	Josh Belinfante	Candidate for State Senate 6	joshforsenate@gmail.com
4	Andrea Bennett	North Buckhead	andrea0599@gmail.com
5	Gordon Certain	North Buckhead	gcertain@comcast.net
6	Leslie Churchill	Margaret Mitchell	lschurchill@bellsouth.net
7	Kathy Collura	Peachtree Heights East	KathyCollura@bellsouth.net
8	Neal Creech	Wildwood	nealecreech@hcb.com
9	Glenn Delk	Historic Brookhaven	glennedelk@mindspring.com
10	Clare Draper IV	Normandy/Argonne	unknown
11	Clare Draper V	Normandy/Argonne	unknown
12	Tom Eaton (?)	Wildwood	unknown
13	Tom Gordon	Ardmore Park	tgordon@mindspring.com
14	Don Hemrick	Paces Battle	dohemrick@aol.com
15	Ellen Kaplan	Pine Hills	kaplanemail@yahoo.com
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	Gloria Love	Northside Neighbor	glove@mdjonline.com
20	Francine Lowe	Pine Hills	Francine@lowetravel.net
21	George Mirgorod	Pine Hills	gmirgorod@comcast.net
22	Roger Moister	Collier Hills North	Moisters2@yahoo.com
23	Jennifer Moyers	Mt. Paran-Northside	jennifermoyers@beacham.com
24	Claire Murray	Chastain Park	cmurray@wwhgd.com
25	Ann O'Connell	Mt. Paran-Northside	annoconnell1@bellsouth.net
26	Kirk Oppenlander	Chastain Park	oppie@mindspring.com
27	John Pensec	Channing Valley	jpensec@mac.com
28	Ken Piernik	Peachtree Park	kenneth.piernik@alere.com
29	Melissa Prewitt	North Buckhead	mprewitt@marketingmasterpieces.biz
30	Elizabeth Pritchard	Peachtree Battle Alliance	eliz@epritcharddesigns.com
31	Buff Quillian	Peachtree Heights West	buffquillianphw@gmail.com
32	Loulie Reese	Memorial Park	Loulie_tarbutton_reese@yahoo.com
33	Mercy Sandberg-Wright	Tuxedo Park	mercywright@msn.com
34	John Schaffner	Buckhead View	jfschaffner@gmail.com
35	Jacklie Spratlin (?)	Mt. Paran-Northside	unknown
36	Tom Tidwell	West Paces Northside	tom@tidwell-law.com
37	Debra Wathen	Paces	6wathens@bellsouth.net
38	Tom Weyandt	Senior Policy Advisor for Transportation, Office of the Mayor of Atlanta	TIAComments@atlantaga.gov.
39	Dan Whisenhunt	Buckhead Reporter	danwhisenhunt@reporternewspapers.net
40	Hillary Yarmowich	Pine Hills	hsyarmo@bellsouth.net

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## Representation by Neighborhood

<b>Neighborhood</b>	<b>Attendees</b>
1 Ardmore Park	Tom Gordon
2 Brookwood Hills	Amanda Baxter
3 Channing Valley	John Pensec
4 Chastain Park	Jim King, Kirk Oppenlander, Claire Murray
5 Collier Hills	Barbara Kennedy
6 Collier Hills North	Roger Moister
7 Historic Brookhaven	Glenn Delk
8 Margaret Mitchell	Leslie Churchill
9 Memorial Park	Loulie Reese
10 Mt. Paran-Northside	Ann O'Connell, Jennifer Moyers, Jackie Spratlin
11 Normandy/Argonne	Clare Draper IV, Clare Draper V
12 North Buckhead	Gordon Certain, Walda Lavroff, Andrea Bennett, Melissa Prewitt
13 Paces	Debra Wathen
14 Paces Battle	Don Hemrick
15 Peachtree Battle Alliance	Elizabeth Pritchard
16 Peachtree Heights East	Kathy Collura
17 Peachtree Heights West	Buff Quillian
18 Peachtree Park	Ken Piernik
19 Pine Hills	George Mirgorod, Ellen Kaplan, Francine Lowe, Hillary Yarmowich
20 Tuxedo Park	Mercy Sandberg-Wright
21 West Paces Northside	Tom Tidwell
22 Wildwood	Neal Creech, Tom Eaton (?)

### BCN 2011/12 Officers (Executive Committee)

<b>Office</b>	<b>Officer</b>	<b>Neighborhood</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
Chairman	Jim King	Chastain Park	jimking@mindspring.com
Vice-Chairman	Elizabeth Pritchard	Peachtree Battle Alliance	eliz@epritcharddesigns.com
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
Member at Large	Ann O'Connell	Mt. Paran Northside	annoconnell1@bellsouth.net

### BCN Standing Committees

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

### BCN 2011/12 Liaisons

<b>Topic</b>	<b>Liaison</b>	<b>E-mail</b>
Education	Leslie Churchill	lschurchill@bellsouth.net
Membership	Elizabeth Pritchard	eliz@epritcharddesigns.com
Neighborhood Governance/Topics	Kathy Collura	KathyCollura@bellsouth.net
Parks	Gordon Certain	gcertain@comcast.net
Property Taxes	George Mirgorod	gmirgorod@comcast.net
Public Safety	Barbara Kennedy	bar2010@aol.com
	Tad Linder	tlinder@lindersecurity.com
	Kim Kahwach	KAJensen@bellsouth.net
Redistricting	Jim King	jimking@mindspring.com
Transportation, Development and Infrastructure	Diane Cox	brookwoodcivic@gmail.com
	Ron Grunwald	rgrunwald@bellsouth.net
	Deborah Wathen	6wathens@bellsouth.net
	Kristy Gillmann	phca_kristy@hotmail.com

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## I. Welcome

**Jim King** called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM.

## II. Introductions

The attendees introduced themselves. A quorum was present.

## III. Approval of March Minutes

Minutes for the March meeting were approved.

## IV. Admit New Member Neighborhoods

Twenty-eight neighborhoods paid 2011 dues. As of this March meeting, twenty-six neighborhoods had paid 2012 dues. No new neighborhoods asked to be admitted.

## V. Neighborhood Governance Issue

**Gordon Certain** suggested that **Erica Danylchak**, who has worked with Gordon in documenting the history of North Buckhead, be a future speaker. Erica is Executive Director of the Buckhead Heritage Society. It was agreed that she would be invited to a future meeting.

## VI. Guest Speaker – Tom Weyandt

**Tom Weyandt**, Senior Policy Advisor for Transportation, Office of the Mayor of Atlanta, spoke about the Transportation Investment Act, sometimes called the TSPLOST. The Act provides an opportunity for the ten-county metro area to vote for a ten year one cent sales tax and a package of transportation improvements. The referendum will be held on July 31. The vote will be decided by tallying the votes at the metro region level, which is one of the reasons the referendum is technically not a SPLOST. Tom, as a City employee doing City business by speaking to BCN, was legally prohibited from advocating for or against the approval of the act. His talk was intended to be educational.



### City of Atlanta Projects

- Submitted About \$3.3 billion in City Sponsored Projects
  - Atlanta Beltline/Streetcar
  - MARTA State of Good Repair (SOGR)
  - Various Road, Bridge and Signals Systems Upgrades
  - Interchange Projects
- Supported Additional Transit
  - I-75 NW Corridor to Cobb County
  - Clifton Corridor to Emory/CDC Area
  - Renewal of Clayton County Bus Service
  - Regional Mobility Call Center

In 1956, Georgia had the highest gasoline tax in the nation. Today, we have one of the lowest in spite of the fact that the state is one of the fastest growing in the nation and in spite of great improvements in automobile mileage. So, we have had relatively low revenues and relatively high funding needs. Tom said that Metro Atlanta has the ninth worst traffic congestion in the country. Georgia ranks 48<sup>th</sup> in per capita transportation spending. The ARC has a web site which BCN neighborhoods were encouraged to visit – it is under the Transportation tab at [atlantaregional.com](http://atlantaregional.com).

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The sales tax would start on January 1, 2013 and will last for ten years or until \$8.5 billion (then-year dollars) has been raised, whichever happens sooner. 85% of the funds raised by the tax will fund specific projects listed at [www.metroatlantatransportationvote.com](http://www.metroatlantatransportationvote.com).

The remaining 15% of the funds will be allocated to pay for local needs which will be designated by local governments. The formula-based allocation of the 15% to localities will be computed using population and center-line road mileage. Under the provisions of the state law, however, no money may be used to operate MARTA. The tax cannot be extended without taking another vote. All money raised in a region must be spent in that region.

### Direct Results for City

- Atlanta Beltline/Streetcar – about \$602 million
- MARTA SOGR - \$600 million
- Road and Bridge Projects – about \$198 million
  - Pryor Street @ CSX and MARTA
  - Central Avenue @ CSX and MARTA
  - Courtland Street @ CSX and MARTA
  - I-285 @ Greenbriar Interchange
  - Piedmont/Roswell Corridor Upgrade
  - All High Priority Corridor Signal Upgrades
  - Piedmont Avenue and MLK Corridor Improvements
- 15% Local Discretionary Funds – \$96.3 million

MARTA has about a \$1.5 billion backlog in “state of good repair” maintenance needs, including things like fixing the escalators and fixing PA systems. The TIA list for the Atlanta region provides funding for \$600 million of that MARTA maintenance backlog. The list for the City of Atlanta includes \$602 billion for streetcars and other items shown to the left. Of these, the principal project affecting Buckhead is the Piedmont/Roswell Corridor Upgrade. Other projects affecting Buckhead are Cobb’s Galleria to Arts Station transit and the Lindbergh to Clifton/Emory/CDC MARTA extension. Transit receives over half for the metro region’s TIA funding.

Tom indicated that the City gets direct benefits of \$896 million in projects, 97.9% of the tax amount collected within the City. In addition, MARTA gets \$600 million in funding. So the City makes out rather well. He also indicated that after the TIA projects are completed key parts of the City (including Buckhead) will be more quickly accessible to customers. Extensive streetcar networks are planned to connect the Beltline, MARTA and the central parts of the City. 75% of the residents of the City are within ½-mile of at least one of the projects funded by the 85% of the tax.

### Analysis of Investments

- City of Atlanta Generates about \$915 million
- City of Atlanta Receives about \$896 million – **97.9% return**
- Including MARTA SOGR - \$1.5 billion
- Transit Receives Approximately **52%** of Total TIA Funds
- Selected Projects Directly Benefitting City of Atlanta
  - NW Corridor to Cobb - most in City of Atlanta
  - Clifton Corridor to Emory/CDC - much in City of Atlanta
  - Regional Mobility Call Center – serves City residents
  - I-285 @ Cascade Interchange – unincorporated Fulton County
  - I-285 @ I-20 West Interchange – Douglas County priority in City

The City’s “15% project” list is being developed right now. They also plan to provide each council district with a small amount of funding each year and will reserve some money each year for matching funding for unforeseen opportunities. If we have desires or comments about the project priorities for the projects on the 15% list, send them to Tom at [TIAComments@atlantaga.gov](mailto:TIAComments@atlantaga.gov). They will start out with a five-year list and update it every year.

Tom said we would each have to decide whether the benefits provided by the transportation tax exceed its cost and vote accordingly.



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### VII. Committee and Liaison Updates

- **Communications Committee** – Bob Schneider could not attend the meeting. He plans to connect the new web site to the BCN URL [www.buckheadcouncil.org](http://www.buckheadcouncil.org).
- **Education** – **Tom Tidwell** reported for Leslie Churchill. He reported that APS approved the redistricting plan as proposed most recently except for the surprise transfer of southern Pine Hills from Garden Hills to Sarah Smith. He said it was announced the day before Spring Break and Sarah Smith supporters were “up in arms” about it. While APS says the transfer to Smith will be about 100 students, Smith people think it will be a lot more.

E Rivers will be a new building. Brandon will probably not get the expansion that they have wanted.

APS chose a sixth-grade academy for the middle school as opposed to two middle school campuses. The problem with two middle schools is they are not likely to be equally diverse – one campus would likely be 30% white and 70% non-white and the other campus would be the reverse. There will probably be continuing efforts for a two campus format since the changes will not be made until 2015.

Tom said that only seven schools were closed city-wide (fewer than expected), so expenses will remain high as will class sizes.

**Glenn Delk** introduced **Claire Murray** (Chastain Park), whom he asked to represent the position of the two-campus middle school format. Eight hundred parents have signed a petition, an effort of “Meet in the Middle”. Their group started out with ten parents who didn’t want to lose their neighborhood middle school. Her group is convinced that “two smaller, equally diverse schools” is possible. She would like to come back to BCN in the future (May?) with a concrete proposal of how the schools could be set up. They are awaiting demographic information they have requested.

**Jim King** said his association hosted a meeting of proponents of the two middle school approaches. He said they seemed equally divided and commented that no matter what happened, some of them would be disappointed. He encouraged them to work together for a solution they could all support.

Glenn, commenting on the overall APS redistricting process, noted that Superintendent Davis said closing a school could save \$500,000 a year. So if 10 schools were closed, the savings would be less than one percent of the system’s \$600 million budget. He continued, “I am just amazed that they created all of this animosity over less than a one-percent annual savings. It doesn’t make any sense.” He said the reason to ask Claire to come and talk to BCN is, when you have 800 parents, they could start their own school. He said that Davis is not listening to them and the board is apparently not listening to them. He said that he doesn’t think the sixth grade academy decision was made for financial reasons – he doesn’t think any financial analyses about it were made. Jim added that charter schools could be an answer. He added another topic came up at his association’s meeting: why can’t we have K-8? K-8 was proposed in other parts of the city. Jim said he suggested two middle schools: one for boys and one for girls. He indicated there were so many possibilities that were considered. He said APS kept saying they had to look at the numbers but he felt that if it costs a little more to educate our kids appropriately, then we ought to spend the money. He said “it has all been gamesmanship and it is not right.”

- **Executive Committee** – No report.
- **Membership** – No Report.
- **Parks** – **Gordon Certain** said that Little Nancy Creek Park’s playground will open on April 21. He added that when it is open, the northern 15% of the city will have two city playgrounds rather than one.

He reported that his neighborhood had done an opinion survey about the GA 400 Trail involving 320 respondents. He said the community was divided: 16% hate the idea of the Trail and about 70% love it. He thinks that part of the difference is due to education (distrust of the unknown)

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and partly that the trail is literally people's backyards – attention needs to be paid to their concerns.

- **Property Taxes** – No report.
- **Public Safety** – No report.
- **Redistricting** – No report.
- **Transportation, Development and Infrastructure** – **Jennifer Moyers** is part of the group that has been meeting with GDOT about the Mt. Paran Northside intersection. Two lanes are proposed southbound off of I-75. One lane will flow freely onto northbound Northside Parkway. There will be a stop light that will regulate traffic on the other lane destined for Mt. Paran; when the signal on Mt. Paran stops westbound traffic, the lane exiting I-75 can proceed – this will eliminate the weaving. This change will be implemented in 2013. GDOT modeled the solution and it seems to work well. It should be faster and safer. A map and description are [here](#).

**Debra Wathen** said **Pace Academy** plans to raze and rebuild its campus on West Paces Ferry. She said during construction, the normal exit from Pace Academy will be the construction entrance and the regular entrance will be used for all traffic to and from the school. This could affect traffic on West Paces Ferry Road for fifteen months. The classrooms will be in trailers on the field behind the school. Debra hopes that an alternative traffic plan can be developed.

**Yolanda Adrean** reported that construction on Northside Drive will start this summer.

### VIII. Community Concerns / New Business

#### IX. Announcements

Peachtree Hills' Art Festival will be on June 9 and 10.

#### X. Next Meeting – May 10, 2012

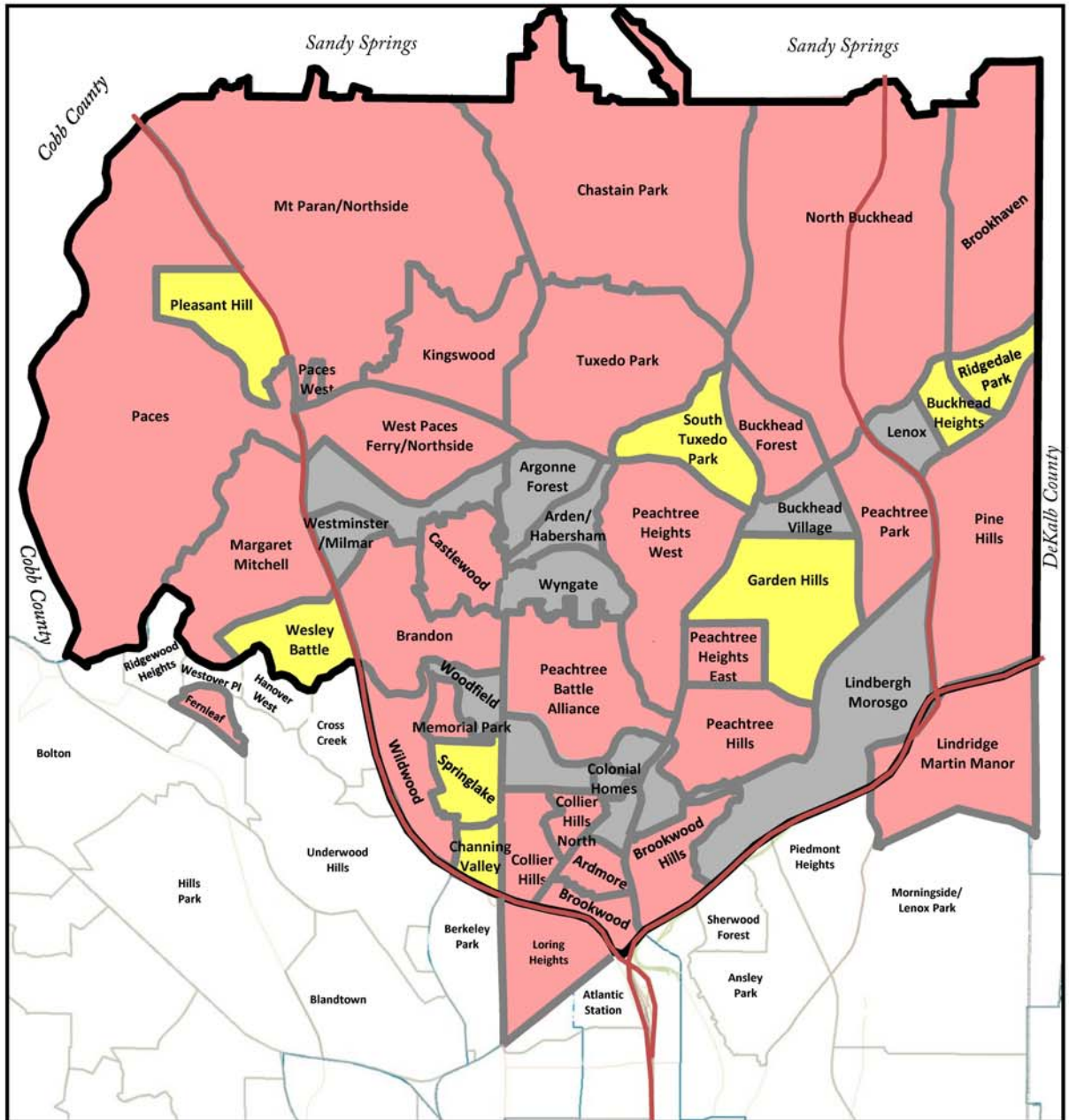
#### XI. Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at about 8:30 PM.

***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  
May 7, 2012

# Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods

Paid Membership as of 04/26/12



## LEGEND

Paid Membership as of 04/26/12

YES  NO  N/A

4/26/2012

