

The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods

Board Meeting

October 11, 2012
Peachtree Presbyterian Church, Room 2315
6:30 – 8:30 PM
Meeting Minutes

Attendees

	Full Name	Neighborhood/Organization	Email Address								
1	Gordon Certain	North Buckhead	gcertain@comcast.net								
2	Leslie Churchill	Margaret Mitchell	Ischurchill@bellsouth.net								
3	Ron Camacho	Cherokee Park (SS)	rrcfocus@aol.com								
4	Diane Cox	Brookwood	dianecox@acpatl.com								
5	Margot Morris Dawkins	Chastain Park	Dawkhawk@aol.com								
6	Glenn Delk	Historic Brookhaven	glenndelk@mindspring.com								
7	Tom Gordon	Ardmore Park	tgordon@mindspring.com								
8	Tiffany Harlow	Zone 2 Community Prosecutor	tiffany.harlow@fultoncountyga.gov								
9	Ellen Kaplan	Pine Hills	kaplanemail@yahoo.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	Ed Lindsey	GA House, Dist. 54, Majority Whip	elindsey@gmlj.com								
14	Lynn Brown McKinney	Candidate GA House, Dist 54	brownencounters@gmail.com								
15	Claire Murray	Chastain Park	cmurray@wwhgd.com								
16	Ann O'Connell	Mt. Paran-Northside	annoconnell1@bellsouth.net								
17	Alden Potts	Argonne Forest	aldenpotts@dorseyalston.com								
18	Elizabeth Pritchard	Peachtree Battle Alliance	eliz@epritcharddesigns.com								
19	Buff Quillian	Peachtree Heights West	buffquillianphw@gmail.com								
20	John Schaffner	Buckhead View	jfschaffner@gmail.com								
21	Bob Schneider	Garden Hills	bobschneider@me.com								
22	Katie Tolleson	Collier Hills North	ktolleon1@aol.com								
23	Kelly Trotter	Peachtree Heights West	Kelly.Trotter@comcast.net								
24	Dan Whisenhunt	Buckhead Reporter	danwhisenhunt@reporternewspapers.net								
25	Hillary Yarmowich	Pine Hills	hsyarmo@bellsouth.net								
26	Caroline Young	Northside Neighbor	cyoung@neighbornewspapers.com								
	Representation by Neighborhood										

Representation by Neighborhood

	Neighborhood	Attendees
1	Ardmore Park	Tom Gordon
2	Argonne Forest	Alden Potts
3	Brookwood	Diane Cox
4	Chastain Park	Jim King, Margot Dawkins, Claire Murray
5	Cherokee Park (SS)	Ron Camacho
6	Collier Hills	Barbara Kennedy
7	Collier Hills North	Katie Tolleson
8	Garden Hills	Bob Schneider
9	Historic Brookhaven	Glenn Delk
10	Margaret Mitchell	Leslie Churchill
11	Mt. Paran-Northside	Ann O'Connell
12	North Buckhead	Gordon Certain, Walda Lavroff
13	Peachtree Battle Alliance	Elizabeth Pritchard
14	Peachtree Heights West	Buff Quillian, Kelly Trotter
15	Pine Hills	Ellen Kaplan, Hillary Yarmowich

BCN 2011/12 Officers (Executive Committee)

Office	Officer	Neighborhood	E-mail
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

Committee	Chair	E-mail
Executive Committee	Jim King	jimking@mindspring.com
Communications Committee	Bob Schneider	bschneider@gardenhills.net
	BCN 2011/12 Liaisons	

Topic	Liaison	E-mail										
Education	Leslie Churchill	Ischurchill@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	gmirg@me.com										
Public Safety	Barbara Kennedy Tad Linder Kim Kahwach	bar2010@aol.com tlinder@lindersecurity.com KAJensen@bellsouth.net										
Redistricting	Jim King	jimking@mindspring.com										
Transportation, Development and Infrastructure												
	Diane Cox Ron Grunwald Deborah Wathen Kristy Gillmann	brookwoodcivic@gmail.com rgrunwald@bellsouth.net 6wathens@bellsouth.net kristygillmann@gmail.com										

I. Welcome & Introductions

Jim King called the meeting to order at about 6:45 PM. The attendees introduced themselves. A quorum was not present.

II. Approval of August Minutes

Minutes for the September meeting were not ready for review and will be submitted next month.

III. Admit New Member Neighborhoods

As of this September meeting, 31 neighborhoods had paid 2012 dues. No new neighborhoods requested membership.

IV. Neighborhood Governance Issues

No report this month.

V. Guest Speaker - Ron Camacho, Cherokee Park Civic Association, Sandy Springs

Ron Camacho is past president of the Cherokee Park Civic Association. Cherokee Park is the Sandy Springs neighborhood that adjoins the Chastain Park neighborhood. Ron has been active in many

zoning issues along the Roswell Road corridor.

Jim King laid out the background for Ron's presentation. A large development much like the recently defeated Lindbergh SPI-15 rezoning has been proposed in Sandy Springs on the Atlanta city line. Like the Lindbergh project, the site involves a 21-acre site intended for a "mixed-use" development. Like Lindbergh, the actual proposal involves a combination of commercial and residential uses next to each other and is arguably not mixed use. Unlike Lindbergh, the development has triggered the ARC's DVI (development of regional importance) designation and formalities such as a traffic study and a review by GRTA have been required. The site is situated on Roswell Road with a driveway onto West Wieuca Road. The application is for a rezoning. Approximately 436 apartments are on the site now. The proposal is for them to be removed and be replaced by 700 apartments, a seven-level parking deck, a grocery store, an assortment of free-standing retail outlets and a lot of surface parking. The current (October 25) site plan superimposed on a Google map is shown at the right.



Four major neighborhoods, two in Sandy Springs and two in Atlanta are working together on understanding this project as are BCN, the Sandy Springs Council of Neighborhoods and NPU-B. The Meadowbrook neighborhood which involves parts of North Buckhead and High Point is also represented. All neighborhoods involved are open to appropriate

redevelopment of the site which now contains two old apartment complexes.

Cherokee Park is the most impacted, in that in addition, to facing traffic issues, it directly abuts the development. As proposed, structures as tall as 84' will overlook Cherokee Park single-family backyards as will a grocery store loading dock.

Ron said Cherokee Park is working with Sandy Springs to try to get a more up-scale development, reduce its density, increase greenspace and buffers between the development and existing homes. He noted that the intensity and size of the development exceeds the guidance of the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (comparable to the Atlanta CDP). He expects, based on the developer's traffic study submitted to GRTA, that the development will increase congestion of West Wieuca, Lake Forrest, Windsor Parkway, and would encourage cut-through traffic in surrounding neighborhoods. He also expressed concerns about safety at nearby schools (Galloway and High Point) and at Chastain Park athletic events and concerts.

Ron showed changes he thought should be made, such as capping structures at four stories. The wanted the grocery moved closer to Roswell Road, move half of the retail parking under the grocery store, and other changes. Ron felt the Sandy Springs Design Review Board appreciated their suggestions.

Jim talked about the suggestion to make the project streetscape consistent with the wider sidewalks on the Atlanta end of Roswell and to provide sidewalks from the project along the north side of West Wieuca Road to facilitate access to Chastain Park by the project's residents.

Gordon Certain talked about the traffic issues in the area. The area is characterized by a lack of traffic grid. The improvements proposed by the developer all deal with side streets and not with Roswell Road itself. He was concerned that by alleviating delays for traffic feeding Roswell Road, the traffic load on Roswell will be increased. No intelligent signaling is being proposed in an area which is an opportunity for traffic control innovation. The Roswell Road traffic signals on both sides of the city limits are already under the control of Sandy Springs, so some jurisdictional negotiations wouldn't be necessary.

Gordon's second concern is that traffic modeling doesn't always match reality. We encountered this when traffic engineers studying Piedmont Road at Habersham were unable to get their models to produce results as bad as were observed in day to day experience. In other words, the traffic models were too optimistic. The concern with Roswell Road and this project is that the developer's traffic study shows improvements in intersection performance in spite of a 20+% increase in Roswell traffic. Is this result because real improvements are being made through better road utilization, or is it because the models are too optimistic? The answer is probably the latter since no capacity improvements are listed for Roswell in the developer's traffic study.

Ron encouraged BCN to be more involved in encouraging up-scale developments along our main corridors. He offered to return to BCN to update us the project progresses.

VI. Committee and Liaison Updates

- Communications Committee No report.
- Education Jim King discussed the removal of North Atlanta High School's interim principal Mark MyGrant and staff, saying that little was known about the motivation for the removal, but the community was exasperated and had "had enough". He thought the community was ready to look at "any and all actions" for dealing with the situation. He recounted BCN's long involvement with education issues ranging from charter schools to the APS cheating scandal, our meetings with NAACP leaders and asking the Fulton County DA's Public Integrity unit to investigate before the governor acted, our meeting with eight of the nine Board of Education members just before their factions sued each other, and so forth. He commented that the current superintendent has worn out his welcome. He said he thought that NAHS could be a charter school.

With that a very long, freeform discussion of school problems and potential solutions began. It explored a variety of existing and proposed legislative actions. These ranged from the current Constitutional Amendment #1 on state-authorized charter schools, a "parent trigger" approach, a reorganization of roles in which the BOE would contract with private providers to deliver school services and the APS would not itself operate schools, vouchers, Arizona-style education spending accounts, etc. Several expressed the belief that changes were required so that Buckhead residents would be able to have more operational control over schools in their area.

Ed Lindsey spoke at length about some ongoing and proposed state legislation affecting public schools. He said that he had not pushed his "parent trigger" approach for authorizing "conversion charter" schools while the current constitutional amendment on charter schools was being considered. He thought that the parent trigger could be approved by the legislature without a constitutional amendment. He thought the conversion charter concept could involve both individual schools as well as the whole cluster, including all elementary schools feeding a high school. He outlined how the parent trigger could apply both to chronically under performing schools and to established schools which were performing well but not meeting the expectations of their community because of policies of the central system's administration.

An interesting observation made by **Glenn Delk**: that APS spends more than \$200 million a year on mid-level management services and only spends 48 cents of each dollar in the classroom. He said that APS is spending \$14 thousand a year per student. He thought that parents need to stand up and demand control of these expenditures. He said that eight out of ten high school students in Georgia were not proficient in the four major subjects.

During this discussion, Jim proposed the idea that, should Milton County be recreated, Buckhead could become its own county. Under his proposal, Buckhead would remain within the City of Atlanta, just as parts of Fulton and DeKalb are parts of the City. But, by being its own county, it would have greater control of its taxes and school operations. (This was not the same as the previous idea of a City of Buckhead which would involve leaving Atlanta but staying in Fulton.) Ed commented that there were practical difficulties to making Buckhead a county, including the fact that under the current constitution it would require an affirmative majority vote by residents of the existing Fulton County.

Lynn Brown McKinney spoke as a Pine Hills resident and an APS school parent against cutting up Atlanta and the schools. She feels it is wrong to "not fix the existing problems and just leave". She also spoke against the Constitutional Amendment on charter schools. She wants everyone in Atlanta to have a great education and the choice to attend public traditional schools, public charter schools, or private schools. She quoted Glenn Delk that public education is a right and she wants to ensure that everyone has access to that right. She said that creating the County of Buckhead will not help the urgent challenge we have now to fix our schools. She was concerned about charters taking too much money out of the existing public school system. She said that traditional public schools were going to educate the vast majority of our students. She added that parent control of their schools was critical.

Glenn offered the Atlanta Housing Authority as a model for how public education could operate. In the 1990s the AHA concluded that it didn't need to own and operate public housing facilities. Rather, it concluded it could do a better job by procuring public housing from the best private providers. This, Glenn said, has been highly successful. AHA sets standards and conducts the competitive bidding and selection process and doesn't own a single apartment complex. Glenn said the same thing could be done by APS. This educational approach is called the "portfolio strategy" and it is employed in some form by 25 cities In the US. He said it would take no state action, just a vote by five members of the Atlanta BOE.

Glenn said the Gates Foundation is one of the biggest funders of the portfolio strategy and that they have funded the Center for Reinventing Public Education at the University of Washington. (See www.crpe.org/portfolio). He said that Robin Lake is the executive director of the center and that she is working with the 25 cities. He thinks that she would come to a town hall forum here. We could invite everyone in the city including the BOE and those who disagree with the portfolio strategy and maybe get someone like WSB to televise it.

Once again, the subject came up that other parts of the city have similar problems to ours and that BCN should work with them. In this case it would be to send a message to APS. Jim said when we started we considered being the Atlanta Council of Neighborhoods, but that was too big a scope, so we settled on Buckhead. Since we got started we have suggested that South Atlanta start their own neighborhood council with the ultimate hope of getting three to five councils representing neighborhoods throughout the city and working together. Glenn added that in this case we should ask neighborhoods from all over the city to join with us and then, and only then, go to the school board. He said the parents on the Southside want exactly the same thing that the folks on the Northside want. He thought we could use social media and other means to get organized across the city. Ed pointed out that there are a number of avenues that we could follow: the BOE elections are in 2013 and the General Assembly going back into session in January and action could be taken there.

Toward the end of the session, the plan for BOE to vote in October on whether to extend Superintendent Erroll Davis came up. If not renewed, his term would end in June and a search would need to start to find a replacement. Glenn Delk made a motion for BCN to ask Atlanta's BOE not to extend his contract. However, a quorum was not present. Jim asked that it be voted on by email. Subsequent email voting was conducted after the meeting on that motion and on an amended motion that the contract not be extended at this time. Both email votes failed because a substantial number of BOE (about 10) representatives failed not only to vote but apparently didn't even open the email announcing the vote. BCN's bylaws require that 100% of BCN's directors participate in an email vote or it is not valid.

- **Executive Committee** No report.
- Membership No Report.
- Parks No Report.
- **Property Taxes** No Report.
- Public Safety No Report.
- **Redistricting** No Report.
- Transportation, Development and Infrastructure No Report.

VII. Community Concerns / New Business

No report.

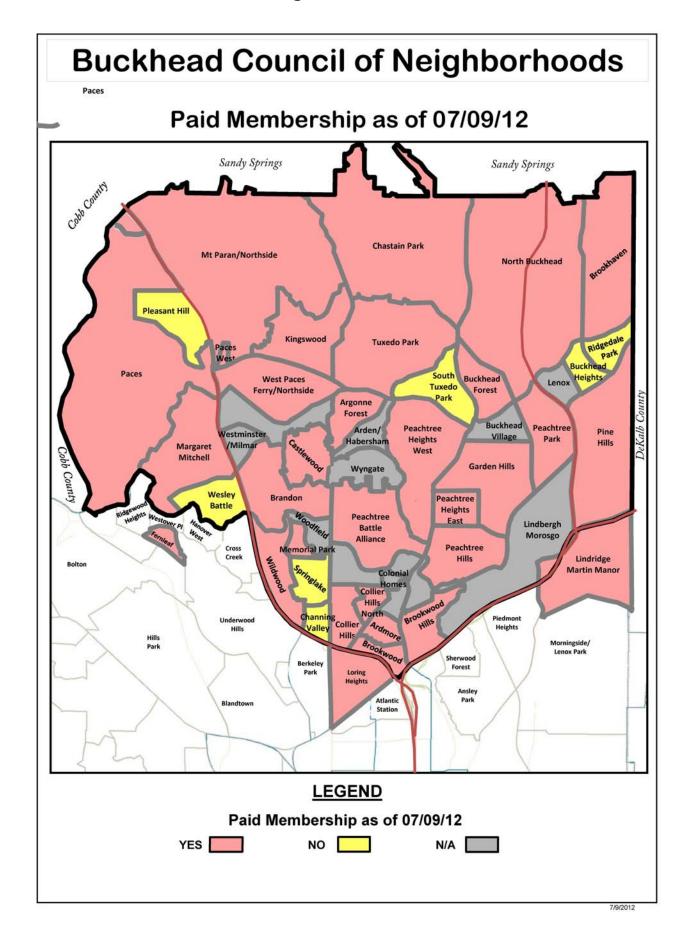
VIII. Announcements

IX. Next Meeting - November 8, 2012 (Annual Meeting)

X. Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at about 8:15 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 November 5, 2012



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2	Ardmore Park	✓	✓	✓	\	100%	67%	91%	92%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
3	Argonne Forest				✓										✓		✓	✓	✓		
4	Brandon				>																
5	Brookwood		✓	✓	✓		17%	45%	82%	✓	1	1		✓	✓				✓		
6	Brookwood Hills			✓	✓		8%		45%				V				✓				
7	Buckhead Forest	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	75%	100%	18%	1	1			✓							
8	Buckhead Heights						8%														
9	Castlewood	✓	✓		✓		17%		27%												
10	Channing Valley								18%				√								
11	Chastain Park	✓	√	√	✓	100%	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	√	√	√	1	1	1	√	✓		
12	Collier Hills	✓	√	√	√		67%	82%	91%	✓	1	√	√	√	✓	1	1	√	✓		
13	Collier Hills North			√	√		8%	9%	27%			1	√				V	√	✓		
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15	Garden Hills	1	1	√	√		75%	91%	63%	1	1	√		√	/	√		√	/		
16	Grant Estates	√	√	√		100%	83%	82%													
17	Historic Brookhaven	1	·	· ✓	√	33%	58%	91%	63%	1	1	√	√	√		1			√		
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20	Lindridge Martin Manor	1	1	1	1	33%	25%	55%	9%								√				
21	Loring Heights	Ť		1	·	3070	2070	0070	82%	1	1	√		√	√	√	.	√			
22	Margaret Mitchell	1	1	√	√		33%	64%	91%	→	√	, ✓	√	, ✓	_				✓		
23	Memorial Park	./	1	▼	▼	67%	58%	91%	91%	▼	√	▼	▼	▼	✓	✓		✓			
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29	Peachtree Battle Alliance	√	1	V	√	100%	83%	64%	72%	✓	√	<u>√</u>	√	√	√		√		✓		
30	Peachtree Heights East	√	1	√	√	67%	50%	700/	63%		✓	√	√	√	✓	√	√	√			
31	Peachtree Heights West	√	√	V	V	33%	25%	73%	63%	√	√	<u>√</u>	✓	√	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
32	Peachtree Hills	√	√	V	1	100%	75%	45%	36%	√	√	√		✓							
33	Peachtree Park	✓	√	V	V	67%	83%	55%	36%	√	√	✓	√			√	√	✓	Ļ		
34	Pine Hills		√	✓	√	33%	8%	91%	91%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
35	Pleasant Hill																				
36	Ridgedale Park	1	1	✓		100%	58%	73%	18%												
37	Springlake		1	✓				55%	18%												
38	Tuxedo Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	67%	75%	73%	63%	✓	✓		✓								
39	Wesley Bohler	✓	✓				17%	9%	9%												
40	West Paces Northside	✓	✓	✓	✓	67%	67%	64%	82%	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓					
41	Wildwood			✓	>	33%		27%	72%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			
42	Wyngate	L														✓					
	Neighborhood Totals	26	28	28	31	Avg: 16	Avg: 16	Avg: 18	Avg: 19	22	23	21	20	19	18	14	16	16	14		