



The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods

Board Meeting

November 8, 2012

Peachtree Presbyterian Church, Room 2315

6:30 – 8:30 PM

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

	Full Name	Neighborhood/Organization	Email Address
1	Yolanda Adrean	City Council District 8	yadrean@atlantaga.gov
2	Hans Bendeck	Peachtree Hills	phcapresident@gmail.com
3	Gordon Certain	North Buckhead	gcertain@comcast.net
4	Lindsey Churchill	Fernleaf	lindseychurchill@gmail.com
5	Kathy Collura	Peachtree Heights East	KathyCollura@bellsouth.net
6	Diane Cox	Brookwood	dianecox@acpatl.com
7	Glenn Delk	Historic Brookhaven	glennedelk@mindspring.com
8	Sandy Dlugozima	Buckhead Forest	sandyd@direcpath.tv
9	Jim Elgar	Loring Heights	jimelgar@gmail.com
10	Jeremy Faughtenberry	Loring Heights	jFaughtenberry@gmail.com
11	Tom Gordon	Ardmore Park	tgordon@mindspring.com
12	William "Bill" Hargett	Paces West HOA	bhargett@oxford-properties.com
13	Barbara Kennedy	Collier Hills	bar2010@aol.com
14	Jim King	Chastain Park	jimking@mindspring.com
15	Walda Lavroff	North Buckhead	waldalavroff@comcast.net
16	Tad Linder	Castlewood	tlinder@lindersecurity.com
17	Jennifer Moyers	Mt. Paran-Northside	jennifermoyers@beacham.com
18	Buff Quillian	Peachtree Heights West	buffquillianphw@gmail.com
19	Loulie Reese	Memorial Park	Loulie_tarbutton_reese@yahoo.com
20	John Schaffner	Buckhead View	jfschaffner@gmail.com
21	Bob Schneider	Garden Hills	bobschneider@me.com
22	Debra Wathen	Paces	6wathens@bellsouth.net
23	Dan Whisenhunt	Buckhead Reporter	danwhisenhunt@reporternewspapers.net
24	Caroline Young	Northside Neighbor	cyoung@neighbornewspapers.com

Representation by Neighborhood

	Neighborhood	Attendees
1	Ardmore Park	Tom Gordon
2	Brookwood	Diane Cox
3	Buckhead Forest	Sandy Dlugozima
4	Castlewood	Tad Linder
5	Chastain Park	Jim King
6	Collier Hills	Barbara Kennedy
7	Fernleaf	Lindsey Churchill
8	Garden Hills	Bob Schneider
9	Historic Brookhaven	Glenn Delk
10	Loring Heights	Jeremy Faughtenberry, Jim Elgar
11	Memorial Park	Loulie Reese
12	Mt. Paran-Northside	Jennifer Moyers
13	North Buckhead	Gordon Certain, Walda Lavroff
14	Paces	Debra Wathen
15	Paces West HOA	William "Bill" Hargett
16	Peachtree Heights East	Kathy Collura

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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	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	gmirg@me.com
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	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 present.

II. Approval of August Minutes

Minutes for the September and October meetings were approved.

III. Admit New Member Neighborhoods

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

IV. Neighborhood Governance Issues

The expected speaker for the Cherokee Library was unavailable to attend this meeting. The presentation will be rescheduled.

V. Guest Speakers

Hon. Hunter Hill, GA State Senator - Elect

Hunter could not attend due to a last-minute family obligation. He will be invited to a future meeting.

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City Council Update

Yolanda Adrean, District 8 City Council, and **Jim Elgar**, representing City Council President Cesar Mitchell, were attendees. **Jim King** asked if they wanted to provide an update on the City Council.

- **Yolanda Adrean** spoke about alternatives to financing transportation improvements, now that the Transportation Improvement Act vote failed. She outlined her plan, which the City has had on the legislative priority list for three years, to have the Legislature update the law to permit the collection of fractional percent sales taxes. Currently, sales taxes in Georgia must be collected in integer percent amounts yet the need for a given purpose may not be exactly be a multiple of a whole percent. She felt that such a change could help provide a means to fund road improvements.

Yolanda also is exploring allocation of motor fuel taxes. She said that a penny of the tax currently goes into the state general fund. She thinks we should ask that motor fuel taxes be used exclusively for roads. She would also like to see the municipal sharing formula for the gas taxes to be reconsidered to provide the city more than the \$2 to \$3 million it gets each year. She wants us to talk to our state legislators. She would also like to have an increased, "floating" motor fuel tax.

Money for repaving Northside Drive is available and the work will be done after the holidays.

Yolanda also remembered the two APD helicopter operators who were recently killed in a crash.

- **Jim Elgar** outlined a free Princeton Review-sponsored program. For the city, the program is coordinated through Council President Cesar Mitchell's office. It helps students to decide, based on a practice test, whether to take the ACT or the SAT.

VI. Annual Election of Officers

A motion was made, seconded and approved to re-elect all current officers except the Vice Chair. The current Vice Chair, Elizabeth Pritchard, is leaving the BCN board and is not eligible to continue in office. Suggested candidates for Vice Chair included Tom Tidwell and Ron Grunwald, neither of whom was in attendance – a motion was made, seconded and approved to table selection of Vice Chair until the December meeting.

A motion was made, seconded and approved to make Glenn Delk the BCN Parliamentarian.

These actions resulted in the following BCN officers for 2012/2013 term:

Office	Officer
Chairman	Jim King
Vice-Chairman	(OPEN)
Secretary	Gordon Certain
Treasurer	Barbara Kennedy
Communications	Bob Schneider
Member at Large	George Mirgorod
Member at Large	Ann O'Connell
Parliamentarian	Glenn Delk

Also deferred to December was whether Tom Tidwell might replace Leslie Churchill as the Education Liaison.

VII. Committee and Liaison Updates

- **Communications Committee** – No report.

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- **Education – Glenn Delk** discussed the status of Erroll Davis' tenure at APS and related issues.

He said a forensic accountant reviewed the status of APS schools as compared to the rest of the state using only CRCT test scores. At the elementary level, 40 of 53 schools scored in the 30th percentile or lower. At the middle school level, 15 of 17 schools scored 30 or lower. At the high school level, 9 scored below 30 in English and 10 scored below 30 in math. He said we as Atlanta taxpayers are paying roughly \$14,000 per student for those results. He added that the \$14,000 was operating cost and excluded facilities. He said this poor performance affects our property tax values, you can't get people to relocate to the city, and there are no jobs for these students after school. An attendee commented that this is when we're supposed to be gearing up for all those technical jobs that are coming. **Barbara Kennedy** asked, "What do you want to see happen?" He said, given the vote on the constitutional amendment for charter schools, we should begin acting with a sense of urgency and ask the Atlanta BOE to consider writing an RFP to invite the best charter operators in the world to come in and compete with Mr. Davis. Let's see what the parents want. He thought that when the parents see these statistics, they are going to want someone other than the current operator. Barbara: "Will they see those statistics?" Glenn: Yes, we'll organize them in a PowerPoint and make them available. He said the results were taken straight off the state DOE web site and that there was no "fudging" – Mr. Davis cannot claim they are inaccurate.

Jim King recalled that we had previously talked about reaching out to others in the city, educating them on charter schools and other options. He knew that we had reached out to a few people but couldn't remember the details. Glenn said he had talked to the Center for Reinventing Public Education in Washington and they are interested in coming to Atlanta if we invite them. Jim thought we ought to work toward inviting them to educate the public and ourselves.

[**Debra Wathen?**] asked "Why do you think charter schools are the solution to the problem as opposed to doing something to effect change within APS?" Glenn said he didn't think charter schools were the silver bullet but thought charters give parents more options. He thinks that parents and students need to own up to their own education. Right now we have a system where we're forcing them to go to schools like this (referring to the graph showing the many poor-performing APS schools). He asked for a show of hands for how many would want to send their kids or grandkids to lower-performing APS schools – that's what we're doing to these poor kids. He thinks if you give parents meaningful choices, you'll see an improvement in educational performance. He said APS is already being outperformed by Drew Charter and KIPP and by almost all the charter schools. The charters are taking the same population with the same problems and they are reversing the "hockey stick" (graph of low performance).

Gordon Certain: "Can you provide a similar chart for the APS charters?" Glenn said he would.

[**? Unidentified Female**] asked, "Why don't we ask the Governor to throw out the Atlanta school board?" Glenn responded that the simpler solution is to ask the Atlanta Board of Education to put out for bid the operation of the system following the model of the portfolio model (discussed last meeting). Glenn said about 30 US cities have adopted the portfolio model of governing public education. In such cases, the school board's role changes from being both the authorizer and operator to being the authorizer and monitor of academic performance – the school system competes with for-profit or non-profit operators. He cited Chicago, New York, Washington DC, Nashville, as trying some form of portfolio. He thinks that approach is the only way we are going to quickly improve public education in Atlanta. He wants to set up a competition between Mr. Davis, running whatever schools the parents decide to send their kids to, and other quality operators – use the same metrics and see who's doing better at the end of five years.

Gordon commented: "On your chart, I suspect that there's a demographic influence in the schools based on where they are situated." Glenn said, "Not necessarily." Gordon said, "I suspect there is – can you do a chart with national figures for demography compared to Atlanta?" Glenn said we have comparable examples here in Atlanta for low-income minority students attending charter schools and traditional public schools – and the charters are far out-performing the traditional schools.

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Glenn said that of 17 APS middle schools, the 15 low-performing schools were scoring at 22 or lower percentile on a statewide scale. The two that did well are Sutton and Inman. For high schools, with North Atlanta and Grady excluded, the highest was only 24%. These are percentiles for schools in a state that ranks in the bottom 20% of the country, in a country that ranks in the bottom 20% of the world.

Lindsey Churchill commented: "Gordon has a fair point on the demographics. Take a look at those charts, which I've also looked at. It's fair to point out that close to 90% of children attending APS are disadvantaged, are qualified for free or reduced lunch, and are overwhelmingly minority. The children from that group that happen to go to a charter school are the same children whose parents are involved in their education, have the wherewithal to understand that there's a different option and sign their kids up for it, which means that that takes them out, a little bit, of the group with no access for their children and the knowledge that there's another option. Another study that was published recently by someone who was analyzing North Atlanta High School showed that when you analyze the students based on income level of their parents, our students of APS perform as well as any students going to any of the top schools in the state."

Glenn responded to Lindsey, "Are you saying that only those who can afford to buy a house in the right ZIP Code should be able to choose where their kids go to school?" Lindsey: "Absolutely not. I think" Glenn, interrupting: "Well, that's what we're doing." Lindsey: "No, I think it's fair to say that when we're talking about schools we have to remember that children do well when their parents expect them to do well and expect something more out of them. It is not solely a failing of the school system to" Glenn: "I didn't say it was a failing of the school system, but many of these charter operators are proving that you're wrong about that and the best example is KIPP. And Elizabeth Pritchard would tell you that about KIPP, and I know that personal experience because my older daughter teaches at Anacostia KIPP in Washington DC, in the worst sections – ... many times the parents are not involved at all – but KIPP provides that structure. And they are far outperforming the DC schools."

...

This gives the flavor of the discussion which went on for another 25+ minutes, often with considerable passion. Though a specific vote wasn't taken, the sentiment that seemed to have the most support was that parents of students in underperforming schools should have a choice of schools with an emphasis the availability of non-traditional options, particularly charters.

More generally, the feeling was that a city-wide dialogue is needed and that the BCN should help initiate that dialogue. Jim King proposed the following motion: "**Open a discussion with other neighborhoods around the city to look at school choice in the Atlanta public school system.**" That motion was seconded and approved unanimously. Yolanda Adrean encouraged BCN to ask other leaders throughout the city for a proposed venue and format and not to dictate.

- **Executive Committee** – No report.
- **Membership** – No Report.
- **Parks** – **Gordon Certain** reminded everyone of the Parks Commissioner's quarterly meeting.
- **Property Taxes** – No Report.
- **Public Safety** – The loss of the two APD helicopter officers was remembered again. **Tad Linder** mentioned that several dozen cars had been broken into. He stressed that nothing of value should be left in cars and that the door not be locked to reduce the likelihood of broken windows.
- **Redistricting** – No Report.
- **Transportation, Development and Infrastructure** – **Yolanda Adrean** said that the developers of the Sandy Springs development on Roswell at West Wieuca (discussed last meeting) had asked for an extension in submitting GRTA documentation. She thinks there will be plenty of time to consider that application. She said that she and Sandy Springs Councilmember Karen McEnery were having weekly contacts about the project.

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Debra Wathen said her group had met with GDOT and COA engineers to discuss school traffic. NPU-A neighborhoods and schools need to have a discussion to discuss traffic in the neighborhood. Among possibilities to be discussed are staggered school hours. Let Debra know if you want to participate.

VIII. Community Concerns / New Business

Proposed Bylaws Change – Improving Email Voting

Gordon Certain discussed a problem situation involved in BCN's attempts to conduct email votes. The problem is that the BCN Bylaws require that 100% of BCN directors participate in an email vote for it to count. In the two attempted email votes, about a third of the directors didn't participate even to the extent of abstaining. In the weeks before this meeting, Gordon circulated a proposed alternative procedure to the BCN Executive Committee. He incorporated some feedback into the draft and handed it out to the BCN Board in the form of a motion for their consideration. (See www.nbca.org/BCN/Minutes/EmailMotion.pdf.)

Gordon said that the existing rules keep us from being able to respond to an emergency situation and that our only alternative is to call a special board meeting. The need for email voting doesn't arise often, but when it arises we should have a system that works.

The proposed method involves six steps which might be completed in two days, but would usually take longer. These are the proposed steps:

1. Email/On-line Vote Requested
2. Chair Considers Request
3. Board Members Notified of Motion
4. Board Discussion/Amendments
5. Voting By Board Members
6. Approval/Disapproval

Since the required 2/3-vote needed to amend the bylaws was not present, voting on the change was deferred to December. Directors were encouraged to review the proposed procedure and offer comments to Gordon by email.

Jim King suggested that we might be able to get good interaction of the board if we used NextDoor to communicate during an "email" vote. Yolanda Adrean said that LinkedIn has a very good closed loop for board discussions – the messages go just to the group and tabs are available to separate subjects. Plus the emails go out to recipients through normal email addresses, which she says makes it very easy.

IX. Announcements

Yolanda Adrean said that if you don't have a 96-gallon blue recycling bin, you will be receiving one in December. She said that Atlanta is among the worst among cities in recycling – only 30% is recycled while other cities recycle a lot more. She said that citizens of age 69+ can get backyard pickup – call 404-330-6333.

X. Next Meeting – December 13, 2012

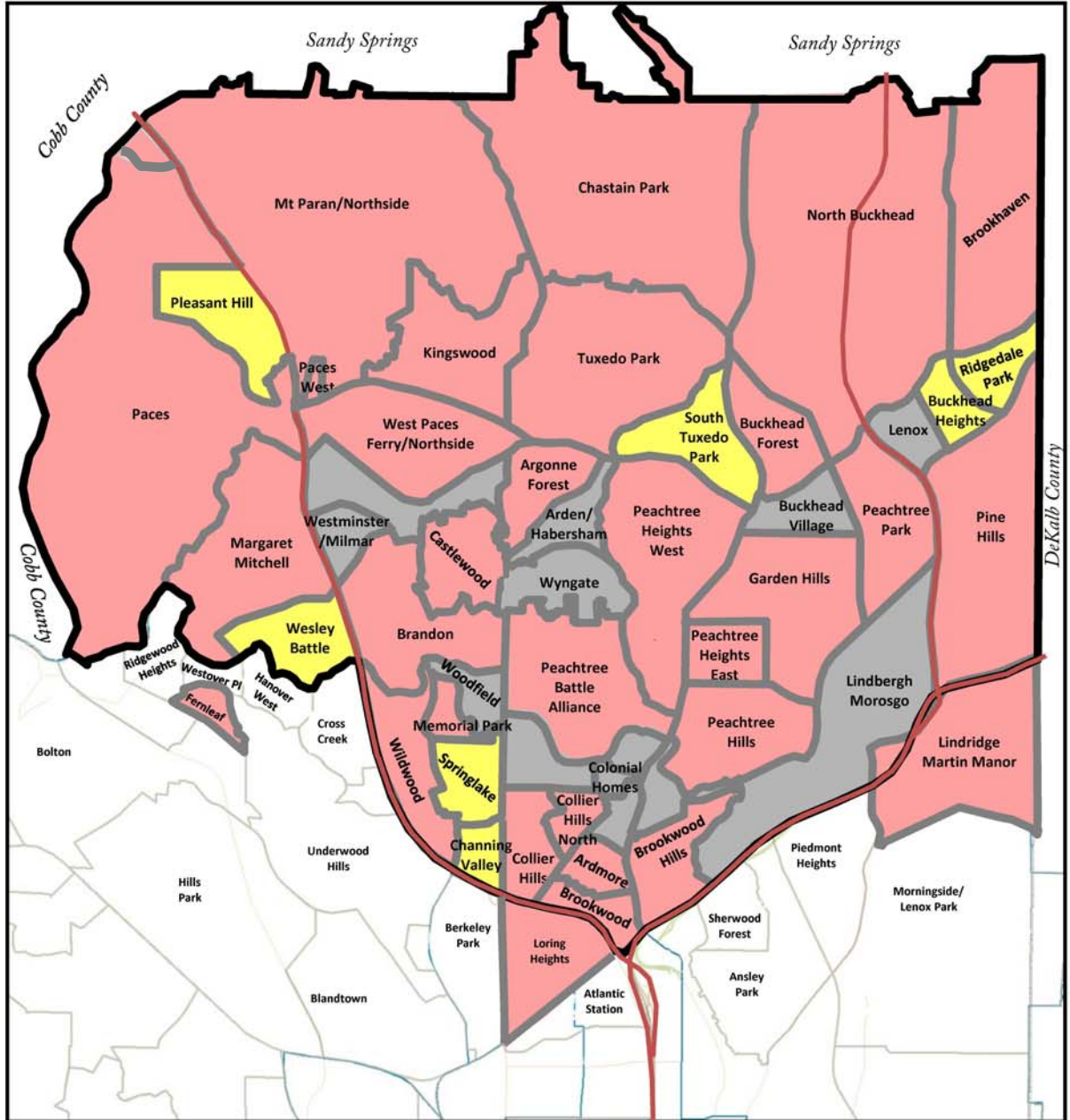
XI. Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at about 8:30 PM.

***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
December 6, 2012

BCN's web page is at www.BuckheadCouncil.org

Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods



LEGEND

Paid Membership as of 07/09/12

YES NO N/A

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BCN Organizational Status as of 11/08/2012

		BCN Dues				Representation at BCN Board Meetings																	
	Neighborhood	2009	2010	2011	2012	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012													
						3 meetings	12 meetings	11 meetings	11 meetings	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec		
1	Arden/Habersham																						
2	Ardmore Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	67%	91%	92%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	✓
3	Argonne Forest				✓										✓		✓	✓	✓				
4	Brandon				✓																		
5	Brookwood		✓	✓	✓		17%	45%	82%	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓						✓	✓	
6	Brookwood Hills			✓	✓		8%		45%				✓				✓						
7	Buckhead Forest	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	75%	100%	18%	✓	✓			✓									✓
8	Buckhead Heights						8%																
9	Castlewood	✓	✓		✓		17%		27%														✓
10	Channing Valley								18%				✓										
11	Chastain Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
12	Collier Hills	✓	✓	✓	✓		67%	82%	91%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
13	Collier Hills North			✓	✓		8%	9%	27%				✓	✓				✓	✓	✓			
14	Fernleaf				✓					✓	✓	✓			✓						✓		
15	Garden Hills	✓	✓	✓	✓		75%	91%	63%	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	
16	Grant Estates	✓	✓	✓		100%	83%	82%															
17	Historic Brookhaven	✓	✓	✓	✓	33%	58%	91%	63%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓	✓	
18	Kingswood	✓			✓	33%	8%	9%	9%														
19	Lindbergh								9%														
20	Lindridge Martin Manor	✓	✓	✓	✓	33%	25%	55%	9%													✓	
21	Loring Heights			✓	✓				82%	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓			✓
22	Margaret Mitchell	✓	✓	✓	✓		33%	64%	91%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓								✓	
23	Memorial Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	67%	58%	91%	91%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓			✓
24	Mt. Paran-Northside	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	75%	55%	82%	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
25	North Buckhead	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
26	Paces	✓	✓	✓	✓	67%	58%	55%	72%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓		✓
27	Paces Battle								18%			✓	✓										
28	Paces West	✓	✓		✓		7%		9%														✓
29	PeachtreeBattle Alliance	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	83%	64%	72%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓		✓
30	Peachtree Heights East	✓	✓	✓	✓	67%	50%		63%		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓
31	Peachtree Heights West	✓	✓	✓	✓	33%	25%	73%	63%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
32	Peachtree Hills	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	75%	45%	36%	✓	✓	✓		✓									✓
33	Peachtree Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	67%	83%	55%	36%	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓					
34	Pine Hills		✓	✓	✓	33%	8%	91%	91%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
35	Pleasant Hill																						
36	Ridgedale Park	✓	✓	✓		100%	58%	73%	18%														
37	Springlake		✓	✓				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																						✓
Neighborhood Totals		26	28	28	31	Avg: 16	Avg: 16	Avg: 18	Avg: 19	22	23	21	20	19	18	14	16	16	14	16			