



The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods

Board Meeting

December 13, 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	Kathy Collura	Peachtree Heights East	KathyCollura@bellsouth.net
3	Helen Cunningham	Buckhead Christian Ministry	helencunningham@bcmatlanta.org
4	Glenn Delk	Historic Brookhaven	glennedelk@mindspring.com
5	Sandy Dlugozima	Buckhead Forest	sandyd@direcpath.tv
6	Jim Elgar	Representing Ceasar Mitchell	jimelgar@gmail.com
7	Dudley Franklin	Buckhead Christian Ministry	dudley@bcmatlanta.org
8	Tom Gordon	Ardmore Park	tgordon@mindspring.com
9	Ron Grunwald	Loring Heights	Rgrunwald@bellsouth.net
10	Hunter Hill	State Senate District 6	Hunter@VoteHunterHill.com
11	Barbara Kennedy	Collier Hills	bar2010@aol.com
12	Jim King	Chastain Park	jimking@mindspring.com
13	Alex McGee	Brookwood Hills	amcgee@mckennalong.com
14	George Mirgorod	Pine Hills	gmirg@me.com
15	Ann O'Connell	Mt. Paran-Northside	annoconnell1@bellsouth.net
16	Buff Quillian	Peachtree Heights West	buffquillianphw@gmail.com
17	John Schaffner	Buckhead View	jfschaffner@gmail.com
18	Bob Schneider	Garden Hills	bobschneider@me.com
19	Tom Tidwell	West Paces Northside	tom@tidwell-law.com
20	Katie Tolleson	Collier Hills North	ktolleon1@aol.com
21	Frank Toye	Chastain Park	ftoye@bellsouth.net
22	Dan Whisenhunt	Buckhead Reporter	danwhisenhunt@reporternewspapers.net
23	Caroline Young	Northside Neighbor	cyoung@neighbornewspapers.com

Representation by Neighborhood

	Neighborhood	Attendees
1	Ardmore Park	Tom Gordon
2	Brookwood Hills	Alex McGee
3	Buckhead Forest	Sandy Dlugozima
4	Chastain Park	Jim King, Frank Toye
5	Collier Hills	Barbara Kennedy
6	Collier Hills North	Katie Tolleson
7	Garden Hills	Bob Schneider
8	Historic Brookhaven	Glenn Delk
9	Loring Heights	Ron Grunwald, Jim Elgar
10	Mt. Paran-Northside	Ann O'Connell
11	North Buckhead	Gordon Certain
12	Peachtree Heights East	Kathy Collura
13	Peachtree Heights West	Buff Quillian
14	Pine Hills	George Mirgorod
15	West Paces Northside	Tom Tidwell

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BCN 2012/13 Officers (Executive Committee)

Office	Officer	Neighborhood	E-mail
Chairman	Jim King	Chastain Park	jimking@mindspring.com
Vice-Chairman	(Open)		
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
Parliamentarian	Glenn Delk	Historic Brookhaven	glennedelk@mindspring.com

BCN Standing Committees

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

BCN 2012/13 Liaisons

Topic	Liaison	E-mail
Education	Leslie Churchill	lschurchill@bellsouth.net
Membership	(Open)	
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 not present.

II. Approval of November Minutes

Minutes for the November meetings were not approved due to an absence of a quorum.

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: Neighborhood Surveys

Kathy Collura presented tips for conducting neighborhood surveys. She suggested neighborhoods consider doing annual surveys to help plan and establish neighborhood priorities.

She said the most important consideration before starting is to know what you want to achieve from the survey. She said to avoid generic surveys. Ask both what should be the association's priorities and what the association is doing about them. Ask for demographic information (time in neighborhood, age grouping, family status, rent/own, etc.) Permit write-in comments. Use on-line service with analytic tools (Survey Monkey, Zoomerang, QuestionPro, and Survey Gizmo). Finally, once surveys have been

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taken, mention that you are basing association actions on survey results: *"you told us in our survey that ... so we are ..."*. See www.nbca.org/BCN/Minutes/BCN_Survey_Tips.pdf for all of Kathy's tips.

V. Special Guest Speaker - Hon. Hunter Hill, GA State Senator-Elect

Hunter reintroduced himself, having attended BCN earlier in the year. He stressed that he wanted to be accessible to us. His email is Hunter@VoteHunterHill.com. Once he is sworn in, Hunter will be listed on the Legislature's web site and will have an additional email address. His district includes Smyrna, Vinings, Buckhead and a portion of Sandy Springs. He said he got more votes in Fulton than in Cobb. He lives in Cobb County between Vinings and Smyrna.

In response to a question about his position on Milton County, Hunter said he is "not for it right now" because it doesn't include all of the areas interested in being included (Buckhead), and already having 157 counties, we need to learn how to work with governments already in place. He thinks we need to bring North and South Fulton together, to reform it rather than splitting it up. He said that Fulton has become 95% "municipalized" but there has been no reduction in the cost of running the county. He thought the county should get out of the functions that cities perform.

Hunter commented that with the failure of the TSPLOST vote, state transportation priorities need to be discussed. Top on the list is an improved GA 400/I-285 interchange and HOT lanes for I-75. Transportation was one of the top three committee assignments that Hunter has requested.

VI. Main Speaker - Ms. Helen Cunningham, Executive Director of Buckhead Christian Ministries

Helen Cunningham was joined by Dudley Franklin who is BCM's Development Director. Helen showed a short video about BCM and passed out a flyer (www.nbca.org/BCN/Minutes/BCM_Flyer.pdf). BCM is a 501(c)(3) organization sponsored by 27 Buckhead churches and has operated here for 25 years. BCM is located at 2847 Piedmont Road and has a thrift shop (BUCKHEAD THRIFTique) at 800 Miami Circle, Ste. 160. BCM can be contacted at buckheadchristianministry.org or (404) 239-0058.

BCM's services to about 8,000 residents in the Buckhead community each month include the following.

- **The 70/30 Project** stabilizes working families who are at high risk of homelessness. This program is unique in Atlanta because it combines financial assistance, education, financial mentoring and personalized case management. Last year, 14 families graduated from the program, collectively retiring over \$48,800 in debt.
- **The Money Management Course** teaches participants everything from decision making and goal setting to how to budget and improve their credit. During the 20 week course, students alternately attend classes and meet one-on-one with financial coaches.
- **The Transitional Housing Program** assists homeless families' transition to financial stability by providing an apartment, money management education and customized support services. In 2011, 15 families graduated and moved into permanent housing.
- **New Worker Support** helps people start new jobs by purchasing uniforms and covering transportation costs until they receive their first pay check. In 2011, 124 people went back to work with BCM's help.
- **The C. Spencer Godfrey Food Pantry** distributed over 18,000 bags of groceries and more than 3,000 snack bags to people in need in 2011.
- **Buckhead THRIFTique** provides free and affordable clothing to the community and opportunities to volunteer. Last year, this thrift store distributed over \$110,000 in free clothing to individuals in need.

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- **Emergency Financial Assistance** provides people in crisis with one-time assistance paying rent, mortgage or utility bills. Last year BCM prevented homelessness for 1,680 local workers and their children.

VII. Committee and Liaison Updates

- **Communications Committee** – No report.
- **Education** – **Tom Tidwell** mentioned that Superintendent Davis' contract has been extended for 18 months. The search for a new superintendent is supposed to start in January.
Glenn Delk reported that three states (Florida, Massachusetts and North Carolina) ranked in the top five in an international fourth grade test of science, math and reading. (Performance wasn't quite as good at the eighth grade level.) Florida made the most dramatic improvement – 40% of Florida students choose where they want to go to school. He said the change in Mass. was due to high standards, not attendance choice. While we may be treading water, other states have shown it is possible to compete with the rest of the world.
- **Executive Committee** – No report.
- **Membership** – No Report.
- **Parks** – **Gordon Certain** reported that the Parks Department has new standardized signs. He also said the Park Pride "park visioning" process will start for Mountain Way Commo early next year.
- **Property Taxes** – No Report.
- **Public Safety** – **Barbara Kennedy** mentioned the silver thieves which have afflicted Buckhead. She also mentioned burglars who kick in doors and quickly grab valuables. **Gordon Certain** mentioned North Buckhead had had nine Burglaries in two weeks.
- **Redistricting** – No Report.
- **Transportation, Development and Infrastructure** – **Ron Grunwald** said the AMTRAK closure of Deering will last for about six months. **Gordon Certain** mentioned the ribbon-cutting ceremony for Phase II of the Peachtree Boulevard project.

VIII. Community Concerns / New Business

Vice-Chairman Position

Ron Grunwald and **Tom Tidwell** had previously volunteered to be Vice Chair. Ron has started a new job and thought it would be better not to serve in 2013 unless no one was available. The agreement was that Tom would be available in 2013 and Ron in 2014 – this needs to be affirmed at our next meeting when a quorum might be available.

Proposed Bylaws Change – Improving Email Voting

Gordon Certain handed out comments received regarding email voting bylaws revisions – see [Email voting motion - with comments.pdf](#). The required 2/3 quorum was not present to vote to amend the bylaws. The current bylaws require a 100% participation rate for an email vote to count – 100% has never happened. **Jim King** suggested as an alternative simply reducing the email vote quorum to 2/3 of the board. Gordon responded that still wouldn't address the online, non-concurrent environment where Robert's Rules don't fit. **Tom Tidwell** thought that two days should be allotted for discussion, not just one – Gordon and Jim agreed. The feedback generally suggested that the proposed change was complicated and might be simplified. We will try to get a 2/3 quorum at January's meeting.

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IX. Community Concerns

City Council Pay Raises

Glenn Delk spoke questioning a 50%+ raise the City Council had voted for itself. **Jim Elgar** outlined the process that was followed. Glenn felt the raise and resultant per hour pay rate was too high for part time workers. He felt if they didn't want to be paid part time pay while working full time hours, that they should consider working fewer hours.

Gordon Certain responded that he had written an editorial for the AJC (12/13/12, page A20, http://blogs.ajc.com/atlanta-forward/2012/12/12/atlanta-city-council-pay-raises/?cxntfid=blogs_atlanta_forward) supporting the pay raise. He supported the pay raise saying the 16 council members were effectively the board of directors for a \$1.5 billion corporation and that it is ridiculous to pay them part-time pay. Glenn said he had a different viewpoint – he thought the less government, the better. Gordon felt that the higher pay encouraged people who are more qualified to run for the Council, explaining that the pension fiasco that almost bankrupted the city could have been avoided if Councilmembers had been more skilled. Jim confirmed that it has been hard getting qualified people to run for the council when they find out what is being paid.

Glenn felt that the City Charter didn't require all the tasks that Councilmembers now do and that therefore they shouldn't be paid for them. **Tom Gordon** asked who in the room would quit what they're doing now to run for Council and be paid \$39,400 (the pre-raise salary) – few/none said they would.

X. Announcements

XI. Next Meeting – January 10, 2013

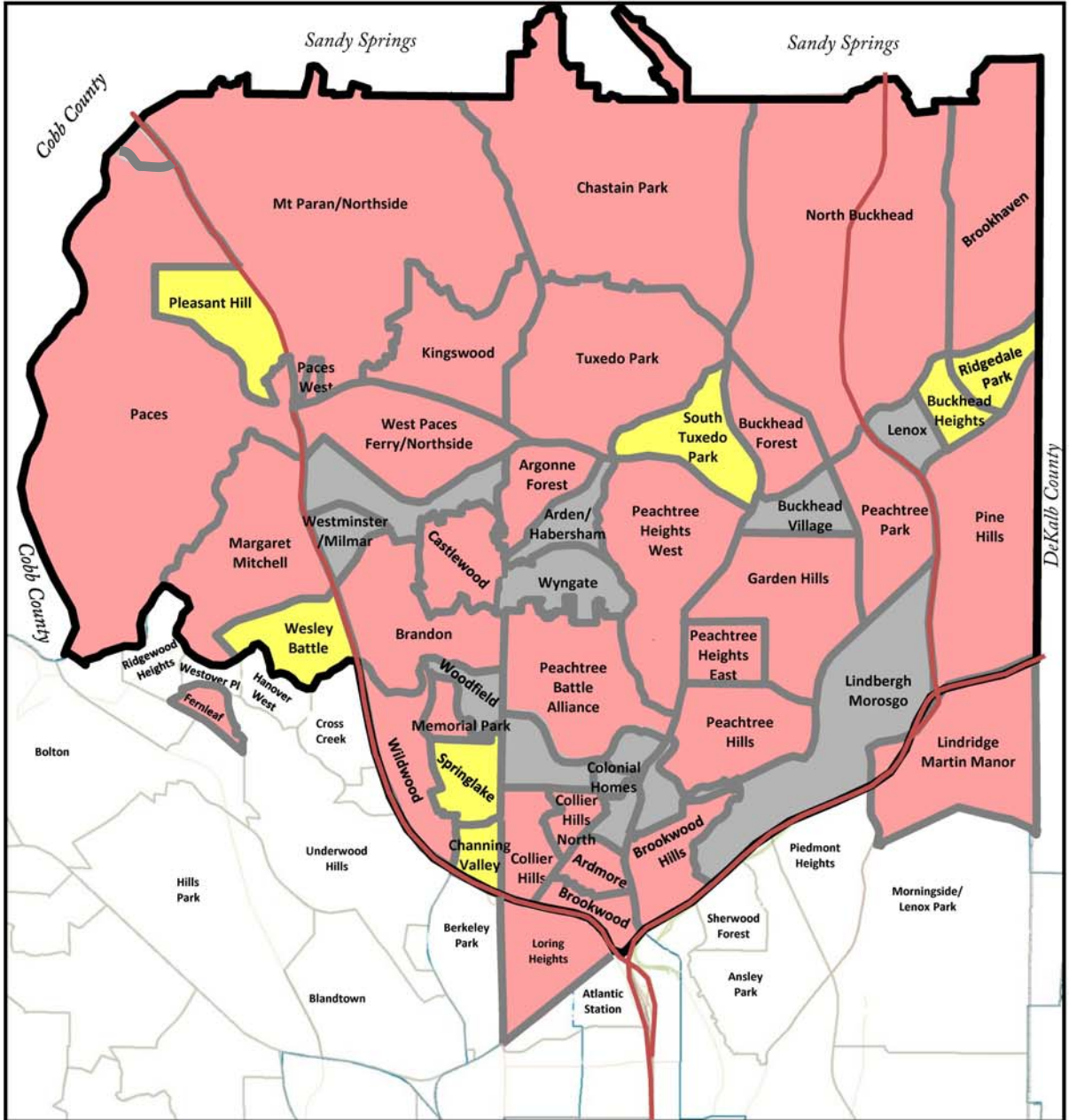
XII. Adjourn - The meeting adjourned at about 8:30 PM.

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
January 8, 2013

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

7/9/2012

BCN Organizational Status as of 12/13/2012

	Neighborhood	BCN Dues				Representation at BCN Board Meetings																		
		2009	2010	2011	2012	2008 3 meetings	2009 12 meetings	2010 11 meetings	2011 11 meetings	2012														
										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	30	Avg: 16	Avg: 16	Avg: 18	Avg: 19	22	23	21	20	19	18	14	16	16	14	16	15			