

### The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods

### **Board Meeting**

January 10, 2013
Peachtree Presbyterian Church
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	Gordon Certain	North Buckhead	gcertain@comcast.net
3	Lindsey Churchill	Fernleaf	lindseychurchill@gmail.com
4	Charles Cobb	Brandon	ccobb22@yaho.com
5	Glenn Delk	Historic Brookhaven	glenndelk@mindspring.com
6	Jeremy Faughtenberry	Loring Heights	jFaughtenberry@gmail.com
7	Tom Gordon	Ardmore Park	tgordon@mindspring.com
8	Tiffany Harlow	Zone 2 Community Prosecutor	tiffany.harlow@fultoncountyga.gov
9	Major Van Hobbs	APD Zone 2 Commander	vhobbs@atlantaga.gov
10	Jim King	Chastain Park	jimking@mind <mark>sprin</mark> g.com
11	Walda Lavroff	North Buckhead	waldalavroff@comcast.net
12	Alex McGee	Brookwood Hills	amcgee@mckennalong.com
13	George Mirgorod	Pine Hills	gmirg@me.com
14	Ann O'Connell	Mt. Paran-Northside	oconnell.ann.m@gmail.com
15	Carlos Perez	AECOM/Design & Planning	carlos.f.perez@aecom.com
16	Garth Peters	Memorial Park & B'head Coalition	gpeters@thebuckheadcoalition.org
17	Mercy Sandberg-Wright	Tuxedo Park	mercywright@msn.com
18	John Schaffner	Buckhead View	jfschaffner@gmail.com
19	Denise Starling	Livable Buckhead, Inc.	denise@batma.org
20	Tom Tidwell	West Paces Northside	tom@tidwell-law.com
21	Katie Tolleson	Collier Hills North	ktolleon1@aol.com
22	Mary Anne Walser	Channing Valley	<u>mwalser@kw.com</u>
23	Joanna Water (?)	Visitor	Unknown
24	Debra Wathen	Paces	6wathens@bellsouth.net
25	Jody Collins Weatherly	Peachtree Heights West	jody@weatherly.com
26	Dan Whisenhunt	Buckhead Reporter	danwhisenhunt@reporternewspapers.net
27	Jack Whittaker	Buckhead Forest	jwhittak123@yahoo.com
28	Caroline Young	Northside Neighbor	cyoung@neighbornewspapers.com

### Representation by Neighborhood

# Ardmore Park Brandon Brookwood Hills Buckhead Forest Channing Valley Chastain Park Collier Hills North Fernleaf

Neighborhood

9 Historic Brookhaven10 Loring Heights

11 Memorial Park12 Mt. Paran-Northside

13 North Buckhead

14 Paces

15 Peachtree Heights West16 Pine Hills

17 Tuxedo Park18 West Paces Northside

Attendees
Tom Gordon
Charles Cobb
Alex McGee
Jack Whittaker

Mary Anne Walser Jim King Katie Tolleson Lindsey Churchill

Glenn Delk

Jeremy Faughtenberry

Garth Peters Ann O'Connell

Gordon Certain, Walda Lavroff

Debra Wathen

Jody Collins Weatherly George Mirgorod

Mercy Sandberg-Wright

Tom Tidwell

### BCN Board Meeting Minutes – January 10, 2013

### BCN 2012/13 Officers (Executive Committee)

Office	Officer	Neighborhood	E-mail
Chairman	Jim King	Chastain Park	jimking@mindspring.com
Vice-Chairman	Tom Tidwell	West Paces Northside	tom@tidwell-law.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
Parliamentarian	Glenn Delk	Historic Brookhaven	glenndelk@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	Ischurchill@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 Tad Linder Kim Kahwach	bar2010@aol.com tlinder@lindersecurity.com KAJensen@bellsouth.net								
Redistricting	Jim King	jimking@mindspring.com								
Transportation, Development and Infrastr	ucture									
	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 6:40 PM. The attendees introduced themselves. A quorum was present.

### II. Approval of December Minutes

Minutes for the November and December meetings were approved.

### III. Admit New Member Neighborhoods

Channing Valley, represented by Mary Anne Walser, requested membership and was admitted to BCN.

### IV. Neighborhood Governance Issues: none

### V. Special Guest Speaker – Major Van Hobbs, APD Zone 2 Commander

Major Hobbs said that Zone 2 had an 8% crime increase for 2012. Of the eight Part 1 crime categories, the Zone was up in three: Larceny from Auto, Burglary, and Aggravated Assault. Less than 10% of the Aggravated Assaults were stranger-on-stranger; the rest were domestic.

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Hobbs said the largest crime category and largest increase was Larceny from Auto, with over 2100 in 2012. He said Zone 2 has over 200,000 parking spaces. In a 30-day study in the early fall, Hobbs said they found that 73% of the victims did not live in Zone 2. They are now tracking the percentages weekly. Of 30 victims last week, 21 didn't live in Zone 2 and were mostly out of state. Hobbs is proposing a new program resembling the "Click It or Ticket" seatbelt campaign: "Remove It or Lose It". He hopes the entire state will support the campaign. His goal is to reduce "car break-ins", as he calls them, by 20% in 2013.

Hobbs talked about the two carjackings at the library on Northside Parkway. They are "working" some leads. As for the robbery near Houston's on Northside, he said an arrest had been made. They are also tracking a series of commercial burglaries in the Peachtree/Piedmont area. In response Zone 2 will be stopping cars on main corridors. The intention is not that everyone who is stopped will get a ticket, but to let the "bad guys" know that if they drive into the Zone they may be stopped. (Attendee Tiffany Harlow, the Zone 2 Community Prosecutor, commented to Hobbs that she had been pulled over on her way to tonight's meeting.) We will see more blue lights.

Asked what citizens can do to avoid crime, he said be aware of your surroundings. People walk around talking on their cell phones, listening to their music while jogging, not looking around while taking groceries out of their cars. If you are distracted, you are more likely to be targeted. If you see something that doesn't "look right", pay attention to it and call APD and let them investigate it.

There was a discussion of video camera as a means of protecting neighborhoods. Hobbs mentioned that Lt. Browning, who is over the Video Integration Center had briefed the CAC meeting two days earlier. She has 722 cameras and wants over a thousand by April. He said she is the one who can address questions about neighborhood cameras. George Mirgorod commented that six residents in Pine Hills have cameras monitoring their streets.

There was a discussion about the closure of Deering Road and the traffic issues it has caused.

## VI. Main Speakers Denise Starling, Livable Buckhead, Inc. Carlos Perez, AECOM

Denise briefed BCN last year about the "Buckhead Collection", the BCN greenspace initiative in Council District 7. The project was undertaken because the 7<sup>th</sup> district has the lowest amount of parks land per capita in the city. She said that the surveys in the early planning of the effort identified trails and other connections as the number one need. So, one of the key projects in that effort is the GA 400 Trail, which is the topic of this meeting's discussion. The trail will extend along GA 400 from North Buckhead, south through Peachtree Park, past Miami Circle, past The Dump, and will connect other trails in the area at Peachtree Creek near I-85.

Carlos made a polished PowerPoint presentation about the Trail. The following summarizes what Carlos covered. It is from Denise's article on the Trail from the December North Buckhead Newsletter.

Buckhead residents have many reasons they love their community. Beautiful homes, great schools, premier restaurants and shopping are all frequently cited as reasons that people choose to live here. In the very near future, the GA400 Trail will also make that list.

The GA400 Trail is unlike any trail project in Atlanta. It winds through historic neighborhoods, natural areas, and the urban environment, connecting the elements of this community and making them more accessible than ever before. Families will soon be able to trade their 20-minute wait in the carpool line for a relaxing, 10-minute walk to school. Visitors staying at Buckhead hotels will be able to take an evening stroll to a top-notch restaurant, stopping in a gallery or two along the way. Neighbors will have new



Near Loridans Drive at redesigned sound wall

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ways to get to know one another — by jogging together, taking an evening walk or joining a garden club to beautify and care for a portion of the trail. All of this thanks to the GA400 Trail.

Earlier this year, Livable Buckhead and partners the Buckhead Community Improvement District and the PATH Foundation shared the vision for the GA400 trail.

Over the course of the summer that vision was refined using input from a variety of community organizations. The resulting preliminary design promises an attractive, safe and environmentally responsible trail that will be a tremendous asset for Buckhead, connecting neighborhoods to parks, schools, the business district, and the Atlanta BeltLine.

GA400 Trail along Lenox Road (Buckhead Loop) This view is looking east from the north side of Lenox Road. The wide path (resulting from narrower traffic lanes) permits safe pedestrian use of the area roughly across from "On The Border" restaurant.

Key aspects of GA400 Trail's preliminary design:

### · Environmentally Responsive

Great care is being taken to create this trail in the most environmentally responsible way possible. Maintaining trees has been of particular concern. The design team has determined that only six percent of the more than 8,750 trees along the corridor will be directly affected. The vast majority of the affected trees are small, new-growth trees that are not a great loss to the landscape. The design team is investigating several options for preserving the larger trees in the affected area, and has made their protection a high priority. Overall, the trail will be a net positive for the local environment — invasive plants will be removed and replaced with native, low-maintenance plants; water quality will be enhanced by maximizing filtration and removing pollutants; and air quality will be improved by giving people the opportunity to walk or bike short distances instead of getting into their cars.

### · Safety, Security & Privacy

We all want a safe, secure GA400 Trail — it's critical to the success of this project. One way that is being addressed is by designing the trail according to Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) principles. Just as homeowners keep bushes trimmed and install outdoor lighting to deter crime on their own properties, CPTED incorporates similar steps to increase safety and security along the trail. The trail will have security cameras at key access points and it is likely that emergency call boxes will be installed as well. APD's Zone 2 Precinct has been involved in the preliminary design phase and has already started making plans for incorporating the trail into its patrols. However, the most effective means of protecting safety on the trail is by ensuring that the community uses the trail. A trail that is attractive, well-maintained and frequently used by the community is a safer trail and less appealing to potential criminals.

### · Economic, Health and Community Benefits

The GA400 Trail will be a tremendous asset, offering multiple benefits for residents and businesses. The trail encourages social interaction by creating a safe, attractive public space where the community can gather; fosters health and wellness by providing a convenient place for exercise and outdoor recreation; and provides opportunities for local businesses that are located along the trail.

The GA400 Trail design team is completing a second round of public meetings, presenting the preliminary design to various community groups. After these presentations are complete, the trail will move into the final design phase, which is expected to be complete in spring 2013.

During Q&A, Denise addressed security questions. An important point she made was that the Trail will be an official City park. That makes hours of access to the area enforceable by the police. Currently, if a person is loitering in areas along the path of GA 400, the police cannot stop them.

Regarding maintenance of the Trail: While the City will provide basic services, the PATH Foundation, Buckhead CID, and LBI will provide supplemental maintenance.

Regarding parking: While there will be some on-street parking in the area of the future Mountain Way Common park, visitors will be directed to the parking decks in the commercial core at Tower Place. There will also be parking within walking distance at Morosgo can Miami Circle.

Regarding construction sequence: The first stage of construction will be from Lenox Road to Old Ivy Road. Regarding financing: State, local and private capital will be used. No federal money is involved.

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### VII. Committee and Liaison Updates

- Communications Committee No report.
- Education Glenn Delk reported that Ed Lindsey had introduced new "Parent Trigger" legislation. The difference in this bill is that it would apply to all schools, whether they are classified as failing or not. Glenn said that would enable Buckhead schools, for instance, to elect to become charters.

**Walda Lavroff** reported that on a recent trip with the Institute of Shipboard Education, one of the lecturers was retired **Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Conner**. O'Conner was familiar with the school cheating scandal in Atlanta and had recently visited here. She asked Walda to help spread the word about a web site that she and her sponsors had created called <a href="icivics.org">iCivics.org</a>. It is intended to educate students on the functions of the judicial, legislative and executive branches of our governments. O'Conner believes that our population (young and old) is so poorly informed about civics that they do not know how to ask the right questions. Walda said the site should appeal to all ages.

- Executive Committee No report.
- **Membership** No Report. It was noted that the position of membership liaison was open no one volunteered.
- Parks No report.
- **Property Taxes** No Report.
- **Public Safety Tiffany Harlow** reported that there were 257 trials for the DA's office in 2012 for which there were 231 convictions. The Community Prosecution unit was successful in 4 out of 5 trials.
- Redistricting No Report.
- Transportation, Development and Infrastructure Debra Wathen said that there had been no word on the Mt. Paran interchange.

### VIII. Community Concerns / New Business

### Vice-Chairman Confirmation

**Tom Tidwell** had previously volunteered to be Vice Chair but a quorum was not present. Tom was confirmed as Vice Chair at this meeting.

### **Email Voting Motion in relation to Bylaws**

**Gordon Certain** handed out simplified, four point email voting procedures (download <a href="here">here</a>). He noted that it had been almost a year since we had the two-thirds quorum needed to approve a bylaws change. He suggested that this bylaws change be done on paper, much like the petitions we used to get the GA 400 Interchange at I-85 approved. There was support for that approach. We will send the proposed bylaws change by email and collect the approvals, either by email or in writing. If it takes several months to collect the signatures, that's fine.

### IX. Community Concerns

**Alex Smith** asked **Yolanda Adrean** what residents do when they have received a second big blue recycle bin. Yolanda suggested that they call 404-330-6333. She said the city didn't have an accurate list of who had them and who didn't. Just call and they will be picked up. She added

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that it is important that residents recycle because the Atlanta recycling rate is about 30%, which is "abysmal". When you recycle, you get money and when you throw away trash, you have to pay.

Yolanda was asked about condominiums, which don't get recycling service. She said "that needs to change". **Walda Lavroff** added, "I thought you were going to do something." She added that the condominiums don't do it because "the city charges them too much." **John Schaffner** commented that his homeowners association pays for recycling service.

### X. Announcements

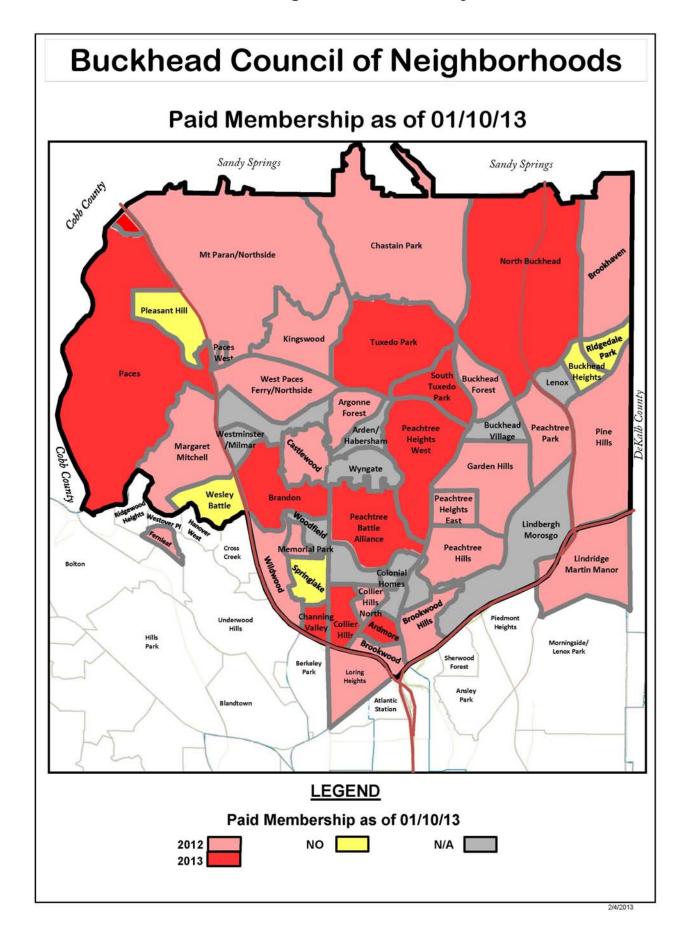
XI. Next Meeting - February 7, 2013

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 February 4, 2013

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



BCN Organizational Status as of 1/10/2013																							
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1	Arden/Habersham																						٦
2	Ardmore Park	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	100%	67%	91%	92%	83%	<b>V</b>											
3	Argonne Forest				✓						33%												٦
4	Brandon				✓	✓						1											٦
5	Brookwood		✓	✓	✓			17%	45%	82%	58%												٦
6	Brookwood Hills			✓	✓			8%		45%	25%	1											٦
7	Buckhead Forest	✓	✓	✓	✓		100%	75%	100%	18%	42%	1											
8	Buckhead Heights							8%															٦
9	Castlewood	✓	✓		✓			17%		27%	8%												
10	Channing Valley					✓				18%	8%	<b>√</b>											٦
11	Chastain Park	✓	✓	✓	✓		100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	<b>✓</b>											٦
12	Collier Hills	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>		67%	82%	91%	200%												_
13	Collier Hills North			<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>			8%	9%	27%	50%	<b>✓</b>											
14	Fernleaf				<b>√</b>						42%	<b>√</b>											_
15	Garden Hills	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>			75%	91%	63%	75%												
16	Grant Estates	<b>√</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>√</b>		<b>√</b>	100%	83%	82%														_
17	Historic Brookhaven	1	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>	<b>√</b>		33%	58%	91%	63%	75%	<b>V</b>											_
18	Kingswood	1			<b>√</b>		33%	8%	9%	9%										_			
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38	Tuxedo Park	<b>√</b>	<b>∨</b>	<b>∨</b>	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	67%	75%	73%	63%	25%	<b>✓</b>				_					_	$\dashv$	_
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