



# The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods

## Board Meeting

December 10, 2015

Peachtree Presbyterian Church

6:45 – 8:15 PM

Meeting Minutes

### Attendees

	<u>Full Name</u>	<u>Neighborhood/Organization</u>	<u>Email Address</u>
1	Gordon Certain	North Buckhead	gcertain@comcast.net
2	Jim Garcia	North Buckhead	jim.g@reagan.com
3	Cathy Helms	Collier Hills North	cahelms1@gmail.com
4	Ben Howard	Buckhead Condo Alliance	benhoward@gatech.edu
5	Mark McDonald	Ardmore Park	markcmcd@gmail.com
6	Jennifer Rose	Mt. Paran-Northside	jenprose@gmail.com
7	Mercy Sandberg-Wright	Tuxedo Park	mercywright@msn.com
8	John Schaffner	Buckhead View	jfschaffner@gmail.com
9	Tom Tidwell	West Paces Northside	tom@tidwell-law.com
10	Jody Collins Weatherly	Peachtree Heights West	jody@jodyweatherly.com
11	Fred Wooten	Buckhead Village	fredwooten130@yahoo.com

### Attendance by Neighborhood

	<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Attendees</u>
1	Ardmore Park	Mark McDonald
2	Buckhead Condo	Ben Howard
3	Buckhead Village	Fred Wooten
	Collier Hills North	Cathy Helms
5	Mt. Paran-Northside	Jennifer Rose
6	North Buckhead	Gordon Certain, Jim Garcia
7	Peachtree Heights	Jody Collins Weatherly
8	Tuxedo Park	Mercy Sandberg-Wright
9	West Paces Northside	Tom Tidwell

### BCN 2014/15 Officers (Executive Committee)

<u>Office</u>	<u>Officer</u>	<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Email</u>
Chairman	Tom Tidwell	West Paces Northside	tom@tidwell-law.com
Vice-Chairman	Ron Grunwald	Loring Heights	rgrunwald@bellsouth.net
Secretary	Gordon Certain	North Buckhead	gcertain@comcast.net
Treasurer	Debra Wathen	Paces	6wathens@bellsouth.net
Communications	Jeff Clark	Garden Hills	jeffbclark@gmail.com
Parliamentarian	[open]		

### BCN Standing Committees

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair</u>	<u>Email</u>
Executive Committee	Tom Tidwell	tom@tidwell-law.com
Education	Tom Tidwell	tom@tidwell-law.com
Development and Infrastructure	Ron Grunwald	rgrunwald@bellsouth.net
Transportation	Debra Wathen	6wathens@bellsouth.net
	Elizabeth Scattergood	betsy.scattergood@gmail.com

**Other** (Legislative, NPU, Parks, Voter Education/Registration, etc.)

# BCN Board Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2015

## I. Welcome & Introductions

Tom Tidwell called the meeting to order at about 6:45 PM. A quorum was not present.

## II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the November meeting were approved.

## III. Admit New Member Neighborhoods

No neighborhoods asked to be considered for BCN membership.

## IV. BCN Standing Committees

- **Communications** – No report
- **Education** – No report
- **Development/Infrastructure** – No report
- **Transportation** – Gordon Certain presented the results of two surveys conducted by BCN.

**Peachtree Road Streetcar Survey.** Survey respondents numbered 161, about half of which were from North Buckhead, where the survey originally started. The remainder was from other parts of Buckhead. Results were summarized by ZIP Code, as shown below. The complete survey report is available at [www.nbca.org/sc](http://www.nbca.org/sc). The issues were whether residents supported the future extension of a rail-based streetcar route along Peachtree Road to the Buckhead MARTA station and beyond at a cost of \$376 million and whether to continue to set up a city organization mirroring MARTA to operate the streetcar system. The results were 84% opposition to the Peachtree streetcar route and 80% opposition to the MARTA-mirroring organization.

Survey Statistics							
Proposed Peachtree Road Streetcar							
Conducted August 17 through November 1, 2015							
		Q.1 - Atlanta's Beltline agency has proposed a future streetcar route on Peachtree Road from the Midtown area up through the Buckhead Village as far as to the Buckhead MARTA Station in North Buckhead, maybe farther.			Q.2 - The Peachtree Road streetcar proposal is part of a larger Beltline proposal to set up a second taxpayer-financed transit system in the City of Atlanta at an added cost of several billion dollars. (The Beltline projected a \$3.6 billion cost in 2014.)		
		Do you favor such a rail-based streetcar system operating on Peachtree Road?			Do you favor having a second transit system in addition to MARTA?		
ZIP	N	YES	NO	Undecided	YES	NO	Undecided
30305	41	10%	90%		12%	83%	5%
30309	14	36%	64%		43%	57%	
30318	4	25%	75%			100%	
30319	4		100%		50%	50%	
30324	1		100%			100%	
30326	10	10%	90%		10%	90%	
30327	8		100%			100%	
30342	79	15%	82%	3%	15%	78%	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>15%</b>	<b>84%</b>	<b>1%</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>4%</b>

Figure 1 – Summary of BCN's Streetcar survey report published on November 11, 2015.

Following the publication of BCN's report, the Atlanta City Council voted unanimously to remove the Peachtree Road route from the Atlanta Streetcar plan which it then approved.

## **Peachtree Road Restriping Survey.**

The second survey involved GDOT's recent proposal to restripe Peachtree Road from I-85 to Pharr Road. A very strong survey response was collected in a short period. BCN reps decided in the November 14 meeting to have their residents join the original North Buckhead survey. In a

## BCN Board Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2015

three-day period about one thousand additional responses were captured, increasing total responses to 1,084. Results of this BCN survey were delivered to GDOT on the fourth day.

Like the Streetcar survey, responses were reported by ZIP Code, but additional reports were made isolating opinions of those who often ride bikes, and other similar factors. While GDOT intended its proposal to be a single unified plan, for purposes of understanding what aspects of the plan were important and why, the BCN survey asked for opinions separately for the two configurations. That plan provided two configurations for Peachtree:

- The northern segment from **Pharr Road to Peachtree Battle Avenue** to I-85 with five through lanes (two northbound, three southbound), a central two-way left turn lane (TWLTL), and no bike lanes. **Overall, responses were balanced for and against the northern segment with 43% for, 43% against and 14% undecided.**
- The southern segment from **Peachtree Battle Avenue to Deering Road (I-85)** with four through lanes (two northbound, two southbound), a central two-way left turn lane (TWLTL), and two 4-foot bike lanes. **Overall, responses were against the southern segment with 14% for, 83% against and 3% undecided.**

Pharr to Peachtree Battle Segment							
Bike Habits	LIKE	DISLIKE	UNDECIDED	Grand Total	% LIKE	% DISLIKE	% UNDECIDED
Rides bike regula	93	99	40	232	40%	43%	17%
Doesn't	370	368	108	846	44%	43%	13%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>463</b>	<b>467</b>	<b>148</b>	<b>1078</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>14%</b>

Peachtree Battle to Deering Segment							
Bike Habits	LIKE	DISLIKE	UNDECIDED	Grand Total	% LIKE	% DISLIKE	% UNDECIDED
Rides bike regula	49	178	5	232	21%	77%	2%
Doesn't	107	714	25	846	13%	84%	3%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>156</b>	<b>892</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>1078</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>83%</b>	<b>3%</b>

Figure 2 – Comparison of those who do and don't ride bikes regularly.

Probing deeper, the survey report explored the opinions of those who said they rode bikes regularly versus those who don't. That view, Figure 2 (above), showed slight differences.

Detail of "Rides Bikes Regularly" Pharr to Peachtree Battle Segment							
Bike Habits	LIKE	DISLIKE	UNDECIDED	Grand Total	% LIKE	% DISLIKE	% UNDECIDED
Would ride bike on Peachtree	22	13	9	44	50%	30%	20%
Wouldn't bike on Peachtree (or not sure)	71	86	31	188	38%	46%	16%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>40%</b>	<b>43%</b>	<b>17%</b>

Detail of "Bikes Regularly" Peachtree Battle to Deering Segment							
Bike Habits	LIKE	DISLIKE	UNDECIDED	Grand Total	% LIKE	% DISLIKE	% UNDECIDED
Would ride bike on Peachtree	43	1	0	44	98%	2%	0%
Wouldn't bike on Peachtree (or not sure)	6	177	5	188	3%	94%	3%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>232</b>	<b>21%</b>	<b>77%</b>	<b>2%</b>

Figure3 – Bike riders only: Would vs. would not ride on Peachtree Road.

Probing even deeper, Figure 3 (above), we finally get clarity. The 80% of regular bike riders who said they were unwilling to ride on Peachtree strongly opposed GDOT's bike lanes. The remaining fraction of bike riders brave enough to ride on Peachtree Road seem to love GDOT's proposed bike lanes. The conclusion is that if GDOT wants to please the great majority of bike riders, don't

## **BCN Board Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2015**

put bike lanes on Peachtree Road. This suggests that alternative bike routes paralleling Peachtree Road (such as via Dellwood Drive) might be considered. We understand that GDOT has abandoned this most recent proposal based on strong public sentiment such as shown in BCN's survey.

The entire BCN survey report is available at [www.nbca.org/Survey1115.htm](http://www.nbca.org/Survey1115.htm).

### **V. BCN Elections and 2016 Goals**

Regarding BCN elections, Tom Tidwell reviewed the requirements. BCN's Bylaws require that its board elect a chairman, secretary and treasurer. In addition, it may have a vice chairman and communications officer. It was agreed that the slate of candidates would be determined at this meeting and would be voted online via an email announcement. No non-incumbents volunteered to run for these or other BCN offices. The proposed slate, endorsed at this meeting, was as follows.

- **Chair – Tom Tidwell (incumbent)**
- **Vice Chair – Ron Grunwald (incumbent)**
- **Secretary – Gordon Certain (incumbent)**
- **Treasurer – Debra Wathen (incumbent)**
- **Communications – Jeff Clark (incumbent)**

Last year BCN started the year with an Executive Committee session to discuss goals. That meeting resulted in the creation of committees (Transportation, Education, and so forth). The one goal set then that was accomplished was communications – we have upgraded the email system, web site and Facebook page. Tom encouraged representatives to “get all your people on Facebook”. Tom felt like we made some impact in 2015. Elected officials listened to BCN regarding its position on the proposed Moores Mill extension and on our streetcar and Peachtree restriping surveys.

Tom said that in January he would ask the BCN board to formalize the way it takes policy positions. We need to get neighborhoods whose representatives didn't attend a board meeting express their thoughts on policy positions. The formalized method will involve an email announcement of the issue in advance of the board meeting, so neighborhood residents and be informed and the issue can be discussed and a consensus be developed. Gordon Certain suggested that the email notification period should be a month long since the various neighborhood associations meet at different times during the month.

Tom also outlined the need for legislative outreach with one or two sessions during 2016. It was suggested that a legislative package, much like the city prepares each year, be developed by BCN and provided to the city before they complete theirs.

Citing the efforts of Gordon Certain and Jeff Clark as examples, Tom encouraged others in BCN to get involved beyond just sending information out to their neighborhood associations. BCN needs, for instance, to increase our interactions with our elected representatives and government officials, getting them to know who we are. If BCN participants want to volunteer, there is room for them.

### **VI. Community Concerns/New Business/Announcements**

No report

### **VII. Next Meeting** February 11, 2016

### **IX. Adjourn** - The meeting adjourned at about 8:00 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.*

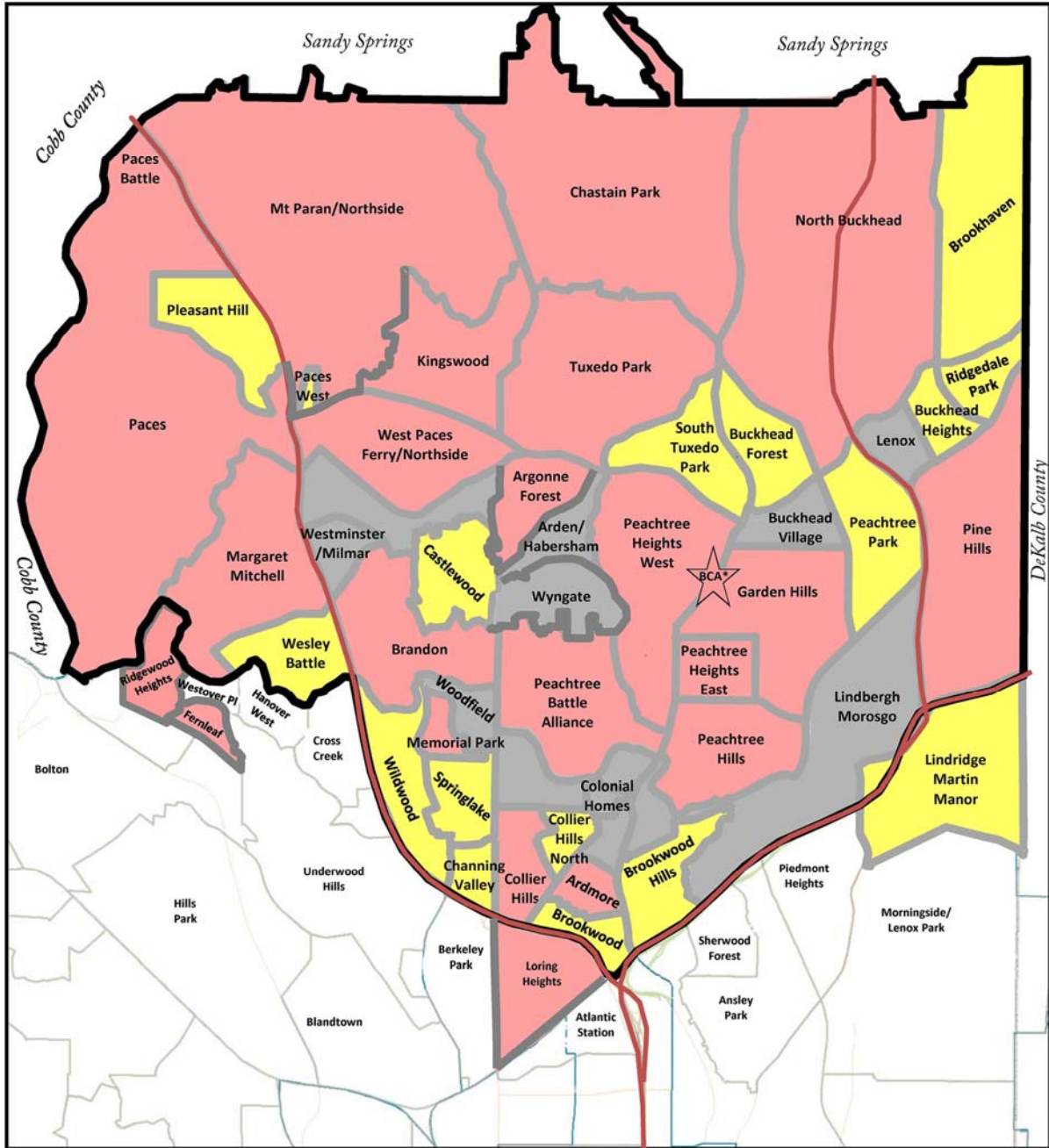
Prepared by Gordon Certain, BCN Secretary  
January 10, 2016

BCN's completely remodeled web page is at [www.BuckheadCouncil.org](http://www.BuckheadCouncil.org).  
*The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization.*



# Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods

## Paid Membership as of 11/12/15



\* BCA = Buckhead Condo Alliance

### LEGEND

#### Paid Membership as of 11/12/15



**BCN Board Meeting Minutes – December 10, 2015**

<b>BCN Status as of November 12, 2015</b>																							
		Dues		Data	Neighborhood Representation at Board Meetings																		
Neighborhood		2014	2015	2015 Survey	2013	2014	2015																
					12 meetings	10 regular meetings	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec					
1	Arden/Habersham																						
2	Ardmore Park	✓	✓	✓	92%	60%	✓	✓	✓		✓						✓	✓				✓	
3	Argonne Forest	✓	✓		42%	60%	✓			✓								✓					
4	Brandon	✓	✓		50%	50%																	
5	Brookwood																						
6	Brookwood Hills	✓			42%	30%																✓	
7	BuckheadCondoAlliance	✓	✓	✓	N/A	50%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓			✓	
8	Buckhead Forest	✓			33%	0%																	
9	Buckhead Heights																						
10	Buckhead Village				8%	10%															✓		✓
11	Castlewood																						
12	Channing Valley				50%	10%																	
13	Chastain Park	✓	✓		100%	30%					✓												
14	Collier Hills		✓		83%	20%													✓	✓	✓		
15	Collier Hills North	✓			50%	10%															✓		✓
16	Fernleaf	✓	✓	✓	17%	10%																	
17	Garden Hills	✓	✓	✓	83%	60%	✓	✓		✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓			
18	Grant Estates	✓			25%	0%															✓	✓	
19	Historic Brookhaven	✓			58%	30%					✓												
20	Kingswood	✓	✓																		✓	✓	
21	Lindbergh																						
22	Lindridge Martin Manor						✓																
23	Loring Heights	✓	✓	✓	42%	30%	✓	✓		✓							✓	✓	✓	✓			
24	Margaret Mitchell		✓		8%	0%					✓							✓					
25	Memorial Park	✓		✓	75%	40%	✓		✓		✓							✓		✓			
26	Mt. Paran-Northside	✓	✓		75%	40%																✓	✓
27	North Buckhead	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓						✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
28	Paces	✓	✓	✓	50%	60%	✓		✓	✓	✓										✓	✓	
29	Paces Battle																						
30	Paces West																						
31	Peachtree Battle Alliance	✓	✓		83%	30%															✓	✓	✓
32	Peachtree Heights East	✓	✓	✓	75%	20%	✓		✓		✓										✓	✓	✓
33	Peachtree Heights West	✓	✓	✓	75%	70%		✓	✓		✓										✓	✓	✓
34	Peachtree Hills	✓	✓		8%	0%																✓	
35	Peachtree Park	✓				10%																	
36	Pine Hills	✓	✓	✓	42%	70%	✓		✓	✓											✓	✓	✓
37	Pleasant Hill																						
38	Ridgedale Park																						
39	Ridgewood Heights		✓									✓											✓
40	Springlake					10%			✓	✓													
41	Tuxedo Park	✓	✓		50%	50%	✓	✓	✓		✓										✓	✓	✓
42	Wesley Bohler																					✓	
43	West Paces Northside	✓	✓	✓	92%	70%	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓										✓	✓	✓
44	Wildwood																						
45	Wyngate																						
<b>Totals</b>		<b>26</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Avg:15</b>	<b>Avg:10</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>14</b>						<b>8</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>		