



The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods

Board Meeting

April 14, 2016

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	Jeff Clark	Garden Hills	jeffbclark@gmail.com
3	Joe Earle	Buckhead Reporter	joeearle@reporternewspapers.net
4	Richard W. Hall	Tuxedo Park	richrdwhall@yahoo.com
5	Robert Helget	Peachtree Heights West	bbhelget@bellsouth.net
6	Major Van Hobbs	APD Zone 2 Commander	vhobbs@atlantaga.gov
7	Ben Howard	Buckhead Condo Alliance	benhoward@gatech.edu
8	Garth Peters	Memorial Park & Buckhead Coalition	gpeters@thebuckheadcoalition.org
9	John Schaffner	Buckhead View	jfschaffner@gmail.com
10	Denise Starling	Livable Buckhead, Inc.	denise@batma.org
11	Tom Tidwell	West Paces Northside	tom@tidwell-law.com
12	Debra Wathen	Paces	6wathens@bellsouth.net

Attendance by Neighborhood

	<u>Neighborhood</u>	<u>Attendees</u>
1	Buckhead Condo	Ben Howard
2	Garden Hills	Jeff Clark
3	Memorial Park	Garth Peters
4	North Buckhead	Gordon Certain
5	Paces	Debra Wathen
6	Peachtree Heights	Robert Helget
7	Tuxedo Park	Richard W. Hall
8	West Paces	Tom Tidwell

BCN 2015/16 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

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 Elizabeth Scattergood	6wathens@bellsouth.net betsy.scattergood@gmail.com

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

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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 March meeting were approved.

III. Admit New Member Neighborhoods

No neighborhoods asked to be considered for BCN membership.

A BCN Neighborhood Census form was again distributed at the meeting. **All BCN neighborhoods are requested to complete the form.** The form ensures that BCN has contact information for each neighborhood and explicit identification of each neighborhood's BCN representative and alternates. (See the back page of these minutes to verify that your neighborhood has completed the census.)

IV. BCN Standing Committee Reports

- **Communications** – No report.
- **Education** – No report.
- **Transportation** – No report.

V. Speakers

Major Van Hobbs

Major Hobbs, Zone 2 Precinct Commander, started off the presentation talking about development.



While development is great, good for the economy, and brings people into Atlanta, the challenge the police department faces is the petty nuisance crimes associated with development. These include the larcenies, shoplifting, and car break-ins. The main crime we're up with this year, like last year, is auto theft. Over 40% of the cars stolen in our zone either have the keys in them or they're running. He cited the case of a guy who was putting air in his car's tires, with the motor running, and the next thing he knew was the air hose being pulled by the moving car. Hobbs said he doesn't get it – he lives in a very rural area and he always locks his car. APD is visiting gas stations as a strike team – just watching – hopefully getting people to pay attention and clearing the people out that don't need to be there.

Hobbs said Councilmember Adrean is doing a lot of work with cameras and license plate readers. He said they have already had some successes with all the new cameras. He outlined a case where there were reports of a person taking pictures of houses from the sidewalk, which is not illegal. APD researched the identity of the car and narrowed it down to seven possible cars out of the 1,600 recorded by the area's cameras. And they waited, doing nothing since they are sensitive to privacy issues. A

couple of weeks later, the homeowners started receiving mail with pictures of their homes from a realtor who suggested that if they ever considered selling their home to keep the realtor in mind.

In another case, however, a car pulled into a driveway at about 4 AM. An occupant got out and started pulling car door handles. Flood lights came on and alarms went off and the homeowner's cameras got pictures. With those images, APD went to their tag readers they got the identity of the car and its tag. They determined it was a rental car. At 8 AM, APD was at the rental agency when it opened. They

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determined who rented the car and where they lived. They also found out the rental company had a tracker installed in the car. APD started tracking the car, which was up in Gwinnett County at the time and then in Alpharetta. They determined it was in parking lots. Why in parking lots? To break into cars. Alpharetta police were activated as was Georgia Highway Patrol who didn't stop them because they knew where they were going. APD took four people into custody and found a lot of stolen items and weapons in the car. They were in jail by 1 PM. The camera technology worked exactly as it was supposed to.

Are cameras a deterrent to crime? No, not yet. But he said once the word gets out, the less criminals are going to want to come into areas with cameras – that's APD's goal. He said that Councilmember Adrean is working to get more cameras as is the Buckhead CID. He said the Atlanta Police Foundation has a master plan for where cameras should go, but with development going on, the plan will need to be tweaked. He said the APD Video Integration VIC has about 5,700 cameras on line.

Bob Helget asked if all the cameras with blue lights tag readers? No, those are the cameras that are watching the streets and linked to the VIC so they can zoom and pan. The tag readers are smaller boxy things you might see on the back of patrol cars. He said tag readers are usually permanently installed in main ingress/egress routes to areas leading to main roads. Hobbs said that while tag readers are set up to log every tag that passes, the APD is also able to provide the readers with specific tag numbers so that car passes the reader, an alert is issued.

The card readers can also build databases of car tag numbers that pass it every day, indicating that the car belongs in the neighborhood. This enables them to filter out new tags coming into an area, so APD can be provided with a list of perhaps 20 tags of interest rather than a list of thousands.

Ton Tidwell asked if APD plans a PR campaign to inform the public about how the camera system is being deployed in a manner that respects the public's privacy. Hobbs said, yes, their Public Affairs unit is gearing up to inform the public and the media of how the system is being used. They want the public to know that they are not keeping information forever; it is kept relatively briefly and is then erased.

Another attendee asked Hobbs about cheap (\$24) tag covers available online which make it difficult for tag readers to decipher tag numbers. Won't criminals simply use covers to escape being tracked? Hobbs says their traffic guys will pull cars over if they can't read the tag number. He said the university tag frames that obscure even the county name are a violation. If there is something wrong with the visibility of a tag, that's a clue that something might not be right.

Denise Starling, Livable Buckhead

Denise Starling is Executive Director of Livable Buckhead, Inc. (LBI) PATH400 is a Livable Buckhead project. She said that LBI's mission is to support the area's sustainability, with greenspace being an important component. In 2009/10 the City of Atlanta did an analysis of park space by city council district and determined that Council District 7 was the lowest "parked" district in the city. A 25-person stakeholder committee was organized to determine a plan to address that greenspace deficiency. It was determined that 106 acres of parks needed to be added in District 7. That goal will include a variety of different type of parks, not just greenspace. Since 2012, 34 acres of park land have been added. LBI has been directly involved by buying land that is then turned over to the City of Atlanta. She said they are working on acquiring a parcel in the Peachtree Park neighborhood right now. Another example is the Tower Place conservation easement was slated to be developed as a 20+ story hotel; Regent Partners places the land into a perpetual park easement. PATH400, however, has added the majority of the 34 acres. Ultimately, the plan is to get parks spread out over the district so that all residents will be within walking distance of a park. PATH400 was envisioned as a way to provide connectivity to these parks.

LBI brought the Buckhead CID into the project as a funder and the Path Foundation in for their construction expertise. These three entities together manage the project. Various government agencies are involved. The land predominately belongs to the Georgia DOT. GDOT granted the City of Atlanta a special permit to allow it to use the land as a park.

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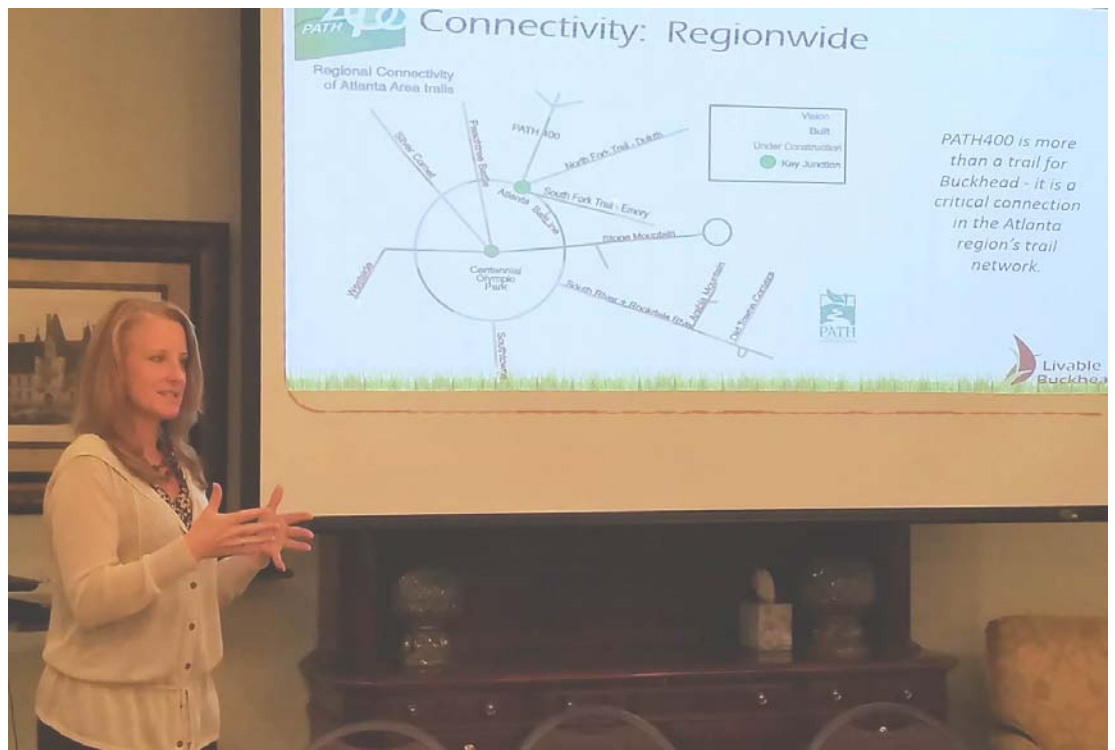
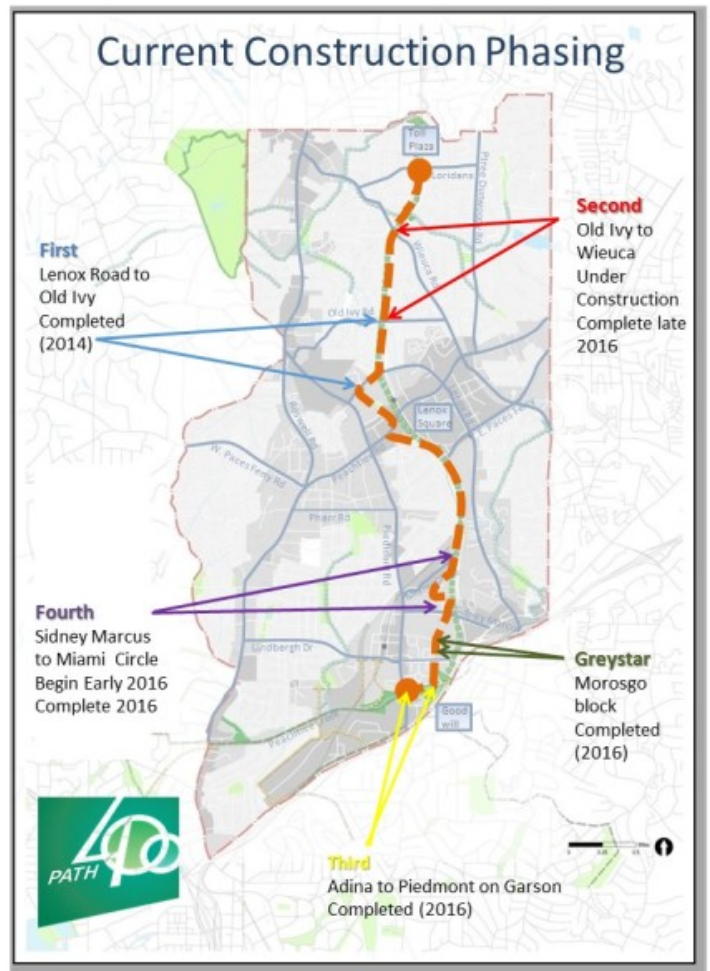
The initial plan for PATH400 extended from the area near the I-85/GA400 interchange north 5.2 miles to Lorida Drive. So far, several segments have been completed. The initial segment which opened in early 2015 extended along Lenox Road from the signal at Tower Place Drive intersection to GA400 to Old Ivy Road. The second segment is under construction and will extend from Old Ivy Road to Wieuca Road. Short segments at Greystar and between Adina Drive and Piedmont Road have been completed in 2016. A fourth segment from Sidney Marcus Boulevard to Miami Circle will be completed later in 2016.

Other phases are planned when funding is arranged. These include a Wieuca Road to Mountain Way segment which will connect to the Mountain Way Common park which is currently being developed. Later, a segment from Mountain Way to Lorida Drive will complete the initial plan, intersecting with a new park which includes the Lowery Stevens Cemetery which dates from 1852, making it one of the oldest family cemeteries in the City of Atlanta.

Connectivity from PATH400 to the Beltline project is planned. PATH400 ends where Adena Drive terminates on the east side of Piedmont Road. The Beltline path beginning on the west side of Piedmont Road will provide connectivity to the west.

Other connections to the east are planned. The South Fork Trail which now terminates on the other side of Peachtree Creek from PATH400's terminus and will connect to the Emory campus and beyond. A similar connection is planned for the North Fork Trail which will extend to Duluth.

[We have also learned that the Nancy Creek Trail system in DeKalb County has announced plans to connect from the Dunwoody area through the Nancy Creek valley to PATH400.]



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Recently, plans were authorized for a major expansion of PATH400 along GA400 through Sandy Springs. The new GA400/I-285 interchange has been designed in a trail-friendly manner to facilitate PATH400's extension well to the north of I-285. LBI will be deeply involved in this expansion of PATH400 into Sandy Springs.



PATH400 will certainly provide a significant improvement to Buckhead's pedestrian and bicycle traffic mobility and recreation.

VI. Community Concerns/New Business/Announcements

No report.

VII. Next Meeting May 12, 2016

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

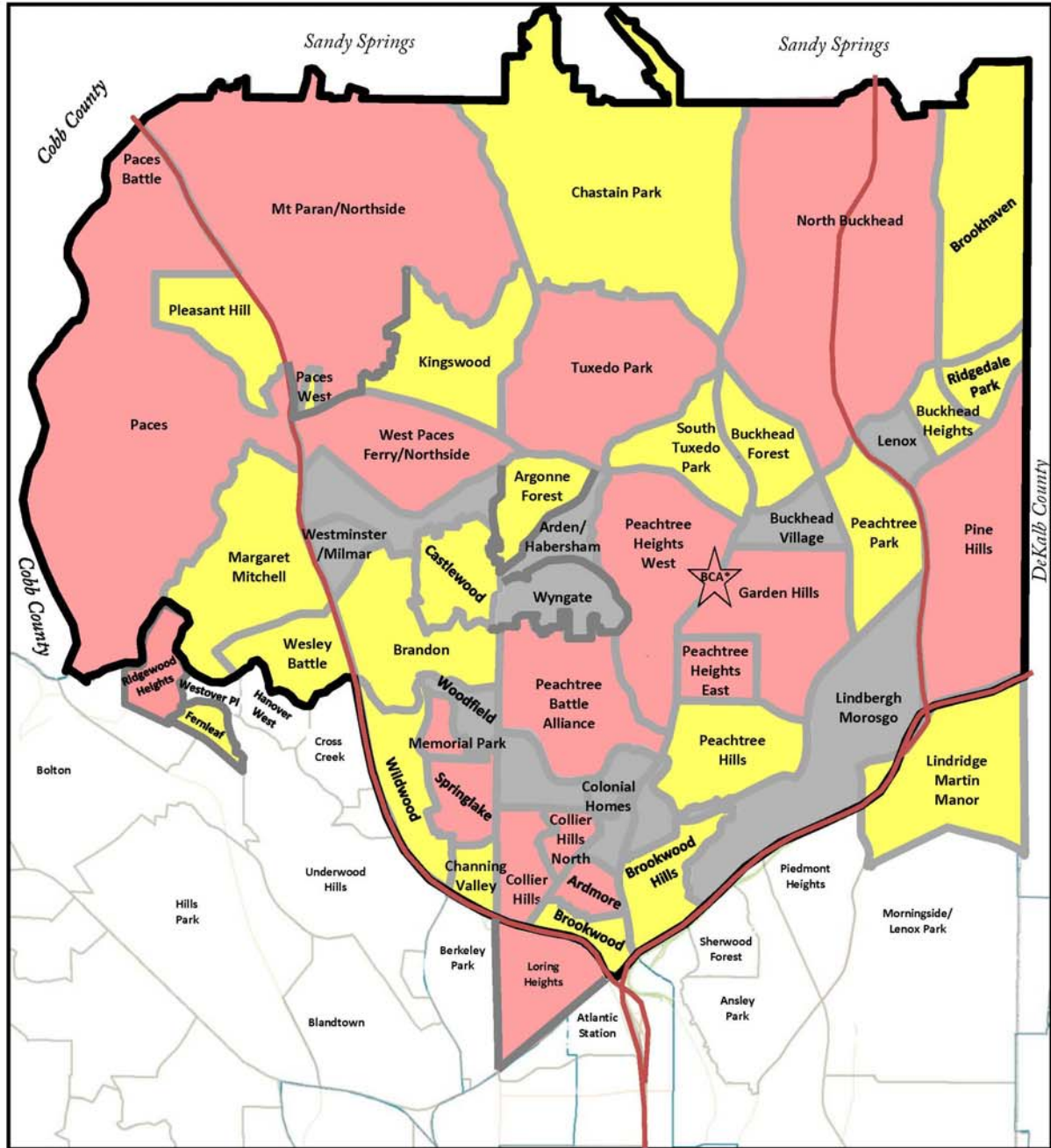
Note: *The opinions expressed by the speakers and individual neighborhood representatives in these minutes do not necessarily represent those of BCN or its member neighborhoods.*

Prepared by Gordon Certain, BCN Secretary
May 7, 2016

BCN's web page is at www.BuckheadCouncil.org.
The Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods is a 501(c)(4) nonprofit organization.

Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods

Paid Membership as of 05/07/16



* BCA = Buckhead Condo Alliance

LEGEND

Paid Membership as of 05/07/16

YES NO N/A

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		BCN Status as of May 7, 2016																					
		Dues		Data	Neighborhood Representation at Board Meetings																		
Neighborhood		2015	2016	2016 Census	2014	2015	2016																
					10 meetings	10 meetings	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec					
1	Arden/Habersham																						
2	Ardmore Park	✓	✓	✓	60%	70%	✓		✓														
3	Argonne Forest	✓			60%	30%																	
4	Brandon	✓			50%	0%																	
5	Brookwood																						
6	Brookwood Hills				30%	10%																	
7	BuckheadCondoAlliance	✓	✓		50%	90%	✓	✓		✓													
8	Buckhead Forest				0%	0%																	
9	Buckhead Heights																						
10	Buckhead Village				10%	20%			✓														
11	Castlewood																						
12	Channing Valley				10%	0%																	
13	Chastain Park	✓			30%	10%	✓		✓														
14	Collier Hills	✓	✓	✓	20%	30%	✓	✓	✓														
15	Collier Hills North		✓	✓	10%	20%	✓	✓	✓														
16	Fernleaf	✓			10%	0%																	
17	Garden Hills	✓	✓	✓	60%	80%		✓		✓													
18	Grant Estates				0%	20%																	
19	Historic Brookhaven			✓	30%	10%		✓															
20	Kingswood	✓				20%																	
21	Lindbergh																						
22	Lindridge Martin Manor					10%																	
23	Loring Heights	✓	✓	✓	30%	70%	✓	✓	✓														
24	Margaret Mitchell	✓			0%	20%																	
25	Memorial Park	✓	✓	✓	40%	50%			✓	✓													
26	Mt. Paran-Northside	✓	✓		40%	20%	✓	✓	✓														
27	North Buckhead	✓	✓	✓	100%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓													
28	Paces	✓	✓		60%	60%	✓	✓	✓	✓													
29	Paces Battle																						
30	Paces West																						
31	Peachtree Battle Alliance	✓	✓	✓	30%	40%		✓	✓														
32	Peachtree Heights East	✓	✓		20%	60%																	
33	Peachtree Heights West	✓	✓	✓	70%	80%	✓	✓															
34	Peachtree Hills	✓			0%	10%																	
35	Peachtree Park				10%	10%																	
36	Pine Hills	✓	✓		70%	60%	✓		✓														
37	Pleasant Hill																						
38	Ridgedale Park							✓															
39	Ridgewood Heights	✓				20%																	
40	Springlake		✓		10%	20%		✓															
41	Tuxedo Park	✓	✓		50%	50%	✓	✓															
42	Wesley Bohler					10%																	
43	West Paces Northside	✓	✓	✓	70%	100%	✓	✓	✓	✓													
44	Wildwood																						
45	Wyngate																						
Totals		21	17	11	Avg:10	Avg:10	16	16	13	6													