

Berkeley Park Bulletin

March 2010

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President's Report

by Michael Wagoner

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Can you believe Spring is almost here? Time sure does fly, but there are some great things coming to Berkeley Park. I am happy to announce Jeffrey Rogerson has agreed to take over the Beautification Committee, so look for future announcements regarding clean up days and planting schedules. Talking about announcements, keep your eyes open for the new Berkeley Park neighborhood signs. They should be ready within the next week or so and will feature the monthly meeting announcement on one side, and a dry erase section on the opposite side so we can work to better communicate with the entire neighborhood. Please let me know if you would be interested in holding onto, and maintaining responsibility over one of these new signs. In last month's meeting, we also approved funds to purchase additional BPNA flags. We are currently shopping the prices, but expect they will cost between \$80-\$100. Please let me know if you would be interested in reserving one.

I am also pleased to announce after a tremendous amount of work, Bellemeade has received 31 point repairs, storm drain repairs, new curbing and ramps, as well as lane striping and cross-walks. There are still some loose ends, but for the most part the project is complete. If anyone has any additional ideas for public works projects, I invite you to the next meeting for a discussion.

In closing, we were honored to have ADA King attend our last meeting. As you should know, Zone 2 does not have a community prosecutor, so ADA King volunteers his time to assist us with our needs. ADA King provided information on 2 related issues: Leroy Brown and the illegal rooming houses. As the DA's Office, APD, and Code and Zoning investigated the report of convicted child molester, Leroy Brown

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roaming our streets, they uncovered the fact that the information within the City/County/State systems were not in sync, and in fact Leroy Brown should be nowhere near Berkeley Park due to it's proximity to schools and churches. We have not received any additional sightings, so it is assumed that he has moved on. If you do see him, please call 911 and let them know he has an outstanding warrant. During this investigation they found that Dan Wang was operating illegal rooming houses without a business license. He has been fined on 6 properties (4 in Berkeley Park and 2 in Home Park) and forced to comply, meaning the houses need to be cleared out until he obtains the proper licenses. It has been confirmed that all 6 of these properties are now vacant and Mr. Wang is attempting to sell them. We also learned there are 8 additional citations pending.

Overall, not a bad month. Still looking for volunteers to gather property and neighbor information (see below for details).

Michael Wagoner
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Next Meeting:

Monday, March 15, 2010
Senior Center
1705 Commerce Drive
7:00 pm

NPU-D Report

by Jim Martin
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The February-23 rd NPU-D meeting was another short one. The only business item on the agenda was a special use permit for billiard tables at the Corner Tavern on Huff Rd. We approved this with little discussion and no dissent.

The rezoning application for 1746 Defoors that we voted to deny in January after a somewhat chaotic discussion was unanimously denied by the zoning review board (ZRB) on February 4 th . Unlike at the NPU-D meeting, the ZRB had very little patience with the applicant's irrelevant and incorrect assertions regarding his need for a rezoning.

The appeal of the rescission of the building permit for the Starship adult novelty store at the corner of Northside and Deering was heard in Superior Court on February 22 nd . Background on this case is in the February, April, and May 2009 newsletters. On the 22 nd , Judge Marvin Arrington heard arguments by the Starship owners that the May 2009 decision of the Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA) upholding the rescission short be overturned. The city attorney argued that the decision was properly made based on the available information and thus there was no reason to overturn it. Judge Arrington took these arguments under advisement and will later render a written decision in the matter. There were four of

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us there to observe from the community. There did not seem to be any indication from his remarks how Judge Arrington was leaning in his opinion.

Rumors are again swirling that the city has plans to close Fire Station 23. Interim Chief Baker will not confirm these, but acknowledges that this option is on the table and, apparently, not much else is. The problem is that the city would like to open its new fire station (Station 11) in Atlantic Station in April, but there are not enough personnel in the department to staff existing stations without occasional brownouts. The fact that we are now faced with a major loss of city services shortly after a large tax increase that was rationalized with the need to provide these same services is not a purely coincidental irony. The new fire station, although unneeded, was built using money borrowed through the Atlantic Station Tax Allocation District (TAD). That money was borrowed through a bond issuance which is now being repaid with interest from the property taxes paid in Atlantic Station, which are not being paid into the general fund as our taxes are. Because of the way that it is structured, the TAD cannot pay for the staffing of the new station. That can only be paid for through the general fund (i.e. with our tax money). Thus we may be both paying higher taxes and losing our fire station in order to pay for Atlantic Station and the city's other TADs, which continue to borrow and squander money while the city struggles to remain solvent. More details on the city's TAD abuse are in the July 2009 BPNA newsletter. I suggested to Chief Baker that the best solution to the staffing problem would be to postpone the opening of Station 11 until new personnel are hired. That, unlike the closing of station 23, is apparently not on the table.

Announcements

Help Wanted!

Berkeley Park needs a few people who will talk to your neighbors about the Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association. We want to start an old fashioned door-to-door campaign to reach out to neighbors who might not know about the BPNA. If you can help, email Michael Wagoner at mwagoner@clcnetworks.com. We need 2-3 volunteers per street.

Professional Directory

Hello everyone; for those I've not met I'm Amy Hoover, I live at 716 Berkeley. I'm writing because I would like to put together a **BPNA Professional Directory** so we are aware of products or services that may be of use or value to each other. (For example, if you are a carpenter and I want an addition on my deck, I would like to call you first - but can't if I don't know this is what you do).

If you would all please respond at your convenience and ideally before the end of the month and let me know:

- 1) if you would like to be included,
- 2) your business name, website/email, and 2-line description of what you offer, and also
- 3) if you have a neighbor who isn't in the Association but would be a good addition to our directory, please put me in touch with him/her/them.

Send info to me at amyh@talentzoo.com.

Thanks everyone, I hope we can all start referring new customers to each other.

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BPNA Spring Clean-up

The weather will soon be getting warmer so it is a good time to do some clean-up and maintenance around Berkeley Park. We will be discussing some dates at the March meeting to have a clean-up day probably in mid to late April. Some of the tasks to be completed:

- Pick-up trash around all streets in the neighborhood
- Focus areas will include:
 - o Howell Mill vacant lot next to Social House
 - o Bellemeade
 - o Verner lot
 - o Berkeley Park signs (plantings, strawing/bark)
 - o Leaves on Holmes at Tallulah

There will be enough projects for all so bring a rake, a shovel, and gloves and we will get our neighborhood looking for another beautiful spring in Atlanta. We will provide dates in the next newsletter and/or send an email. If you have lawn bags or trash bags that would be helpful as well. We should have some of these supplies but would appreciate any additional supplies neighbors can provide

For information, contact Jeffrey Rogerson at Jeffrey.Rogerson@nice.com.

About Us

The Berkeley Park Bulletin is published monthly in print and at www.berkeleypark.org by the Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association, a non-profit organization. It is distributed to all Berkeley Park residents 3 times a year. To subscribe to the monthly edition, submit an article or Talk Back letter, or inquire about advertising, contact the editor, Maureen Hetrick, at 404-609-9873 or maureenfh@mindspring.com. We accept appropriate articles from all Berkeley Park residents or other interested community members at the discretion of the editor and as space permits.

Effective January 1, 2009, membership in the BPNA is \$20 per person (up to 3 adults per address are eligible to become members), and \$10 for seniors. To join the association, attend a monthly meeting and pay dues to the treasurer, [Nina-Daniela McCormack](#), or the president, [Michael Wagoner](#). If you cannot attend a meeting but wish to join, or for more information, email us at info@berkeleypark.org.

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