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## April 2010

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### President's Report

by Michael Wagoner

[mwagoner@clcnetworks.com](mailto:mwagoner@clcnetworks.com)

404-391-3573

April is here and so is the sun, and it's time to start talking about the Annual BPNA Chili Cook-Off. Last year the event was held on Sunday June 14th, and there was an overall sense that maybe it was a bit too hot for chili. That said, the suggestion was made to make the chili cook-off a fall event, and in the spring we would host a traditional cook out with burgers, dogs, sides and ice cream. The date currently being considered is the weekend of June 5th/6th. I would like to create a social committee to handle all of the details, so please let me know if you are interested.

Overall, things have been quiet in Berkeley Park, so there's really not much to discuss. Keep your ears open for the details on this month's Beautification Day, and keep your eyes open for our new BPNA signs. In an effort to include our local restaurants in Berkeley Park's initiatives, we will use the dry erase portion of our new signs to announce a traveling meeting location. April's meeting location will be Mama Niki's in the Kroger Shopping Center. The BPNA will provide pizza, beer, and soft drinks to those who attend. There is one catch however, if you live within Berkeley Park, you must pay your 2010 dues to partake in the freebies.

Have a great April and see you at Mama Niki's.

Michael Wagoner

President- Berkeley Park Neighborhood Association

404-391-3573

[www.berkeleypark.org](http://www.berkeleypark.org)

**Next Meeting:**

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**Monday, April 19, 2010  
Mama Niki's Pizza  
Kroger Shopping Center  
1715 Howell Mill Road  
7:00 pm**

## NPU-D Report

by Jim Martin

[james.martin@me.gatech.edu](mailto:james.martin@me.gatech.edu)

The March-23 rd NPU-D meeting was more fun than usual. We didn't have any real business on our agenda (other than an ordinance to add new fees for the use of the cyclorama), but we had a visit from Mayor Reed who spoke about the importance of the census and answered questions for about 30 minutes. We also had an unusually good turnout by city staff members (undoubtedly related to the mayor's attendance). So there was lots of interesting discussion. Despite the fact that all of this was announced well ahead of time, there was not a very good turnout from the community, which was somewhat surprising given the many issues that we currently face.

The big positive outcome of the meeting was that there appears to be a new sense of initiative in the Mayor's Office of Constituent Services with the new administration. During most of the previous administration, we had been wondering why this office existed at all. The answer appears to be that it can kick-start other city departments into responding to citizens' complaints. Within two days of our meeting, these folks had the office of code enforcement cite the owner of a local business for multiple infractions, which were discussed at the meeting and had not previously received any attention from the city. Given the newfound zeal of this office, now would be a great time to bring forward complaints that have been ignored in the past. These should include code and zoning violations, for which I am compiling a new NPU-D top 20 list. If you have any code and zoning complaints or other complaints requiring specific action from the city, please email them to me so that I can include them on the new list.

The mayor answered questions on a variety of topics including City Pensions, code and zoning enforcement, planned developments, railroads, and TADs. His answers were generally reassuring, but non-specific ("all option" are still "on the table" with regard to these issues). I asked him about the possibility that Fire Station 23 and/or Station 15 would be closed in order to provide staff for Station 11, which will be opening in Atlantic Station soon. He pledged that any decision to close a fire station would be based solely on public safety rather than political concerns. This seems somewhat at odds with the Atlanta Fire Department's position that the only staffing options that would be considered would be those that included staffing Station 11. It was implicit that this would be done regardless of public safety, although that wasn't stated that in exactly those words.

The Beltline planners have been holding a series of meetings regarding the preparation of their sub-area-8 master plan. This area includes all of Berkeley Park and Blandtown and portions of Loring Heights, Underwood Hills, and Hills Park. Although I am not a fan of the Beltline project, I have been attending these meetings because the resulting plan will be used to amend the city's comprehensive development plan (CDP). The CDP amendment will

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include future land use changes (which affect zoning) and recommended projects such as roads, parks, and trails. Regardless of the future of the Beltline, these changes could be a big benefit or detriment to the area depending on what they include and how they are written. For those who are fans of the Beltline, it is worth noting that planners are currently considering an alternative to the route that has been presented to the public. The alternative route would follow the Norfolk Southern tracks at the southern end of Berkeley Park rather than the CSX tracks that run through the neighborhood (the tracks adjacent to Forrest and Berkeley Streets). This change, if it is made, could be either good or bad for Berkeley Park. Although it would increase the distance from our homes to the proposed transit, it would also shift the pressure for dense development southward away from the core of the neighborhood. Regardless of the route that is chosen, the right of way would have to be shared with the freight rail line for the foreseeable future. Thus there will not be any reduction of rail traffic along either corridor.

## Announcements

### Calendar of Events

Thursday, April 15-23 -  
2010 Atlanta Film Festival  
Various locations  
<http://www.atlantafilmfestival.com/>

Friday, April 16– Sunday, April 18  
Atlanta Dogwood Festival  
Piedmont Park  
[www.dogwood.org](http://www.dogwood.org)

Saturday, April 17-18  
Sweetwater 420 Festival  
Candler Park  
[www.sweetwater420fest.com](http://www.sweetwater420fest.com)

Monday, April 19  
BPNA Meeting

Mama Niki's Pizza, 1715 Howell Mill Road  
7:00 pm  
<http://www.atlpizza.com/>

Friday, April 23 - Sunday, April 25—Inman Park  
Festival  
Inman Park - Euclid Ave. and Elizabeth St.  
Atlanta  
[www.inmanparkfestival.org](http://www.inmanparkfestival.org)

Tuesday, April 27 - NPU-D Meeting  
Agape Center - 2351 Bolton Rd.  
7:30 pm

Saturday, May 1 - Expansion Grand Opening  
Atlanta Botanical Garden  
[atlantabotanicalgarden.org](http://atlantabotanicalgarden.org)

## About Us

The Berkeley Park Bulletin is published monthly in print and at [www.berkeleypark.org](http://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](mailto: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.

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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](mailto:info@berkeleypark.org).

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