

Berkeley Park Bulletin

May 2010

In this Issue:

[Home](#)

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[Florist Atlanta](#)

[Vice President's Report](#)

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[Andrew T. Crawford](#)
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[NPU-D Report](#)

[Doctor's Express](#)

[Announcements](#)

[Tawn Chi / TC Properties](#)

[About Us](#)

[Jeff DePaola ReMax](#)

Vice President's Report

by Chandler McCormack

April's meeting was held at Mama Niki's Pizza in the Kroger Howell Mill Shopping Center. It was a nice change of pace and a fun meeting. Food and drinks were provided compliments of BPNA and Mama Niki's did a great job hosting.

The meeting included an update on crime reports in the areas surrounding Berkeley Park. Almost all of the crimes reported were crimes of opportunity related to theft of valuables left in automobiles. We can greatly reduce the occurrence of these crimes by not leaving valuables plain site. Items stolen from vehicles included purses, wallets, laptops and GPS devices. There was only a single incident reported which was actually within the boundaries of Berkeley Park.

James Martin provided an update on NPU items and changes there.

Amy Hoover proposed the creation of a social committee to help plan events for the neighborhood. These events include but aren't limited to a summer party, a fall chili cookoff and a year end holiday party. Anyone who is interested in being part of this effort should attend next month's meeting or email BPNA.

The neighborhood voted to move the annual Chili Cookoff from the summer to the fall. The date of the fall chili cookoff is TBD.

Less than a month from now we are planning a neighborhood summer party in the style of an old fashioned cookout. The cookout will be held Sunday June 6th from 12pm-4pm at the grassed lot located on the corner of Antone St and Forrest Street. Plans for live music, food and a pig roast are in the works. Please make sure to join us for a food, entertainment and great company!

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Next Meeting:

**Monday, May 17, 2010
Senior Center
1705 Commerce Dr.
7:00 pm**

Announcements

Volunteers wanted for BP Social Committee

Hi neighbors, we are in the process of asking for volunteers to help plan the 2010 social events in Berkeley Park! This year, we have a pot-luck bbq in the works for early June, the chili cookoff in the fall, and the holiday party in December. This would be a low time commitment, probably exclusively email exchanges after an initial meeting to say hi to each other and determine who would be best suited for which role on the committee. If you're interested in helping plan these events and maybe some less formal neighborhood get-togethers in between, please email amyh@talentzoo.com. I promise it will be fun!

City in the Arboretum Conference

If you care about trees and how they shape our communities, then join Trees Atlanta for an exciting and educational day of professional lectures, arboretum tours and tree giveaways as we embrace "Bringing the Arboretum Home" at our second annual City in the Arboretum conference. The program will build on information shared at our 2009 conference about establishing a neighborhood arboretum, but this year's gathering will appeal to new and old attendees alike.

We will explore how to create healthy and vibrant neighborhoods with trees as well as how neighborhoods may benefit from themed arboretum collections. You won't want to miss exciting presentations by noted horticulturists and landscape architects including Elizabeth Dean, Erica Glasener, Steve Sanchez, and the Trees Atlanta staff. Sessions include selecting/planting according collections and themes, creating arboretum programming and events, updates about new and exciting developments in the tree world and more. Breakfast and lunch will be served and continuing education credits are available. Learn more and register today at:

<http://treesatlanta.org/CityintheArboretumConference.aspx>.

2010 City in the Arboretum Conference: Bringing the Arboretum Home

May 22nd, 2010

8:30am-2:00pm

Trees Atlanta Kendeda Center

225 Chester Avenue, SE, Atlanta, GA 30316

\$30 for Trees Atlanta members, \$40 for non-members.

Online registration at <http://treesatlanta.org/CityintheArboretumConference.aspx>

Sponsored by The UPS Foundation

NPU-D Report

by Jim Martin

james.martin@me.gatech.edu

The April 27 th NPU-D meeting may have been the least eventful on record. There were only two business items on the printed agenda: a residential subdivision in Riverside and a liquor license for a new BBQ restaurant. The subdivision did not require a vote, and the liquor license was quickly and unanimously approved. We have a well deserved reputation for being the liquor-friendliest NPU in the city. The minutes from the meeting are appended to this article.

The meeting wrapped up before 8:30. We were supposed to have discussed two proposed ordinances dealing with towing fees and residential parking permits, but those were accidentally left off of our agenda by the city, so we skipped over them. It is unlikely that we would have had much to contribute to these anyway.

Just before the meeting wrapped up, Harry Leon announced that he had prevailed in his latest legal battle with CSX. This victory will not affect their handling of hazardous materials in the Howell rail yard. For that we will need city attorneys with fully formed spines. The issue in this case was CSX's contention that Harry had no standing to intervene in the enforcement process in the first place. They were essentially trying to force him to shut up by suing. The nature of this suit was both absurd and disturbing in its implications for democratic governance. CSX was never required to defend itself against Harry, as the enforcement issue was between Harry and the city. CSX's involvement in that case was largely motivated by their fear of having the matter go before a judge. This decision in Harry's favor sets a positive precedent for all of us to be involved in the city's code and zoning enforcement process.

For those who have not seen either the physical reality or the many related announcements, a section of Collier road adjoining Underwood Hills has been closed and will probably remain closed for most of May

(*Ed. Note: the roadwork was completed and the road re-opened on May 10*). The posted detour around this involves taking Defoors to Howell Mill, but those who proceed past the "detour" signs to the point of closure are diverted onto Seaboard Pl., Seaboard Ave, and Woodland Hills. This puts a lot of traffic (angry fast-moving traffic) onto these normally quiet residential streets, which are usually quite pedestrian friendly. A map showing the detour route is linked here. In a brighter note for pedestrians, the "yield to pedestrians in crosswalk" signs have finally been returned to the crosswalk at Howell Mill and White St where they were removed three years ago. I have not yet observed any cars actually yielding (in fact two of them accelerated toward me from 3 blocks away to force me back out of the crosswalk on the evening of May 4 th), but at least now I can point to the sign telling them exactly which law they are breaking. Some drivers may even learn an important lesson before taking another life here (a pedestrian was killed in that crosswalk about 6 years ago).

On May 3 rd the Beltline Subarea 8 planning group met again. For the first time there were some actual plans presented at this meeting. This primarily involved proposed street connections, which were pretty much like those that we have seen before. There was no discussion of land use changes, minimal consideration of the future of the waterworks site, and no consideration of the future of the Chattahoochee Rd corridor. The city has acknowledged the need to preserve industrial land uses in our area, but unfortunately the planners have thus far taken this to be

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a mandate for not planning. Apparently all of the planning with which they are experienced involves doing away with industrial uses, so this new ground for them. Perhaps plans presented at future meetings will give more serious consideration to the needs and desires of local industry.

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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