Three Goals For 2005

I'm looking forward to serving as CPNO President in 2005 and investing my energy in working toward healing the divisions we experienced in 2004. During the coming year we have the opportunity to continue the positive momentum of our organization while addressing areas that have created difficulties for some of our members. The other CPNO officers, both those continuing and those who are new, and I have been talking about the coming year and agree that the following three goals will help strengthen and move CPNO forward:

1. Continue and enhance the excellent calendar of events developed by Bert Bellinson, Mark Clement, and others. These include FallFest, 5K Road Race, and Tour of Homes. Others will be added as opportunity and resources allow.

2. Increase the number of residents participating in CPNO by welcoming their presence and being receptive to their concerns. We plan to activate a social/hospitality committee to proactively reach out to residents and invite their involvement. We want to assure an open, transparent, and concise process, by improving bylaws, operating procedures, and information flow, so that residents will have timely information on issues and agendas and know what to expect.

3. Face the fact that this is a critical time for our neighborhood, because of changes within and on its borders, and more effectively engage Candler Park residents in working to resolve these important issues. We recognize it is essential to respect diversity of opinion while striving to develop neighborhood consensus whenever possible. Some approaches to doing this include regular updates on major concerns and the development of working groups to explore and assess issues in detail and then bring their findings to the larger membership.

I welcome your comments on these goals and look forward to working with you to make our great neighborhood an even better place to live.

- Fred Rossini
Seasonal Crime Prevention Tips

Unfortunately at this time every year there is an increase in crime, particularly theft. As a matter of fact there have been quite a number of packages stolen from front porches in Lake Claire. I imagine the same is happening in Candler Park, although I haven't received any individual reports. Many of these types of petty theft go unreported. Also prevalent are break-ins and other types of theft. Bicycles are a common target.

Suggestions:
1. Ask a neighbor to bring in packages if you are going to be away from home for any length of time.
2. Get the post office to hold your mail if you're going to be out of town. The form to request the Post Office to hold mail can be accessed at http://www.usps.com/forms/_pdf/p8076.pdf.
3. Make sure you lock doors to your car and home, even if you'll be away for a moment.
4. Let neighbors know if you'll be away. Ask them to pick up the
5. Creative Loafing paper instead of leaving it in the yard.
6. Report suspicious activity. The Atlanta police want us to use 911 to report any activity. Very importantly, get a description of any persons including height, weight, race, sex, and clothing. The police know what questions to ask and won't hurt or hinder anyone who has legitimate reasons to be there.

- Gregg Reinhardt

Laughter in the Park by Deb Milbraith
Let There Be Peace In Candler Park

Standing here at the end of 2004, I've been taking a look back at what we've accomplished together as Candler Park neighbors in the past few years. Some of the projects are highly visible - the four-year traffic calming project on McLendon, the sign toppers that may already be in place by the time you read this.

Others are less visible but more important to the neighborhood - such as being able to showcase our "not just a zip code - a lifestyle" via FallFest, the Tour of Homes, the 5K, and the Candler Park Pool to thousands of folks both inside and outside our neighborhood borders (and to make all of those happen in the same year!).

That "lifestyle" slogan is more than a just clever phrase. It has been the reason why many of us have chosen Candler Park as our home. Sure, we've been called the neighborhood of aging hippies - but haven't we all felt that this is a remnant of neighborhoods past, a place of community, a place of peace?

I guess this is the gist of this "farewell message" - we all need to remember that Candler Park has always been a place where people work together. If you are concerned that you see that spirit eroding, don't take sides - get involved in a positive way. I'm not saying "Can't we all just get along?" I am saying, "Let's work side by side, even when we disagree."

If you don't agree with a proposed land use issue, don't create an angry group of neighbors and hire an attorney - ask for meetings and come up with an amicable compromise. If you don't like something the City is doing, don't start a petition - work with our Councilperson and hammer out a better solution. And if you disagree with something the CPNO is doing, don't just come to a meeting or two and make hateful comments from the floor, or anonymously snipe at people via the online bulletin board - get involved and help create some acceptable common ground.

We're living in a time when our nation's leaders rely on the language of war to create an "us and them" divisiveness. Perhaps it's not surprising that some of that has seeped into our daily lives. But we don't have to give in. We can combat it the way Candler Park has been doing for more than twenty years - with neighborliness. Yes, it requires more effort. The most meaningful things always do.

I'd like to thank those who have proved the workability of neighborliness through their willingness to serve: board members Mike Brandt, George Dusenbury, Rob Newman, Walt Weimar, Gregg Reinhardt, Roger Johnson, Heather Flaherty, and Mark Clement; our Messenger Editors Robin Bellinson and Mark Carson; untitled (but always there when needed) Curt Flaherty and Randy Pimsler; my indefatigable Candler Park volunteer and son Michael; and a special nod to our own neighborhood political cartoonist Deb Milbrath.

In fact, Deb penned a cartoon that has long helped me keep my perspective when I've worried our neighborliness would not prevail. It featured President Bill Clinton, feet atop his White House desk, with the caption, "Don't worry, Bert, this too shall pass." Deb's always been right. Rancorous issues may come and go, but we can always have peace in Candler Park if we try.

It has been my privilege to serve as your CPNO President.

- Bert Bellinson
Art In Freedom Park

Beginning spring 2005 the Freedom Park Conservancy will sponsor Art in Freedom Park. During this event over thirty local artists will present temporary artwork installations and art events in various media and styles at sites throughout Freedom Park. The purpose of Art in Freedom Park is to explore how public art can be integrated into the park and to educate surrounding neighborhoods about what public art is, what it can be, and the great possibilities it offers.

This artist initiated project is just the beginning of Art in Freedom Park - intended to transform the park into an urban gallery of contemporary outdoor artworks. The term "artist initiated" means the artists will be responsible for seeking funding to pay for their installations. The 2005 show will be followed by three bi-annual shows beginning in spring 2006 that will be funded by the Freedom Park Conservancy with support from other organizations.

The Art in Freedom Park Task Force has established curatorial directors consisting of representatives from surrounding neighborhoods and many diverse cultural and educational organizations. These organizations include EyeDrum, Metropolitan Public Art Coalition, Art Papers and others which will coordinate with the Freedom Park Conservancy to host and select a diverse group of artists for the spring 2005 exhibition. Artworks will be inclusive of all mediums and styles; artists will be chosen to reflect the diversity of the City and its artists. The Art in Freedom Park Task force, through its curatorial panel, will encourage ideas and artistic responses from the environmental, social, architectural, historic, geographic, political, visual, theatrical and whimsical sides of a space named for freedom.

All proposed artworks will be reviewed for approval by the Freedom Park Conservancy, the City of City of Atlanta's Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs in order to avoid any inappropriate projects and/or any installations that would raise concerns about safety to the many daily visitors and new audiences attracted to the Park by the excitement of the temporary artworks. Artists will be required to return installation sites back to their original condition after the exhibit is complete.

Anyone who is interested in learning more about the event should contact the Art in Freedom Park Task Force at artinfreedompark@yahoo.com.

-- Eric Dusenbury

CPNO Board Assistants

Would you like to support our neighbors who volunteer so they can better serve as officers of CPNO?
Would you like to learn more about the CPNO Board in order to serve in the future?
Would you like to help out but can't take on total responsibility for a position as a CPNO officer?
Want to share in the joy of working together to build community that includes all of us?
Here's your chance!
Assistants would be called on at the discretion of the Board Member, and it's OK to say "No" to a particular task or to volunteer only for a particular job. Thanks!

A sign-up sheet was passed around at the October and November Meetings in conjunction with the nomination and election process. Thanks to those who signed up. Names and contact information will be given to the appropriate CPNO Officer at the January Executive Committee Meeting. Additional participation is encouraged. Contact Julia Brooke at 404-373-3991. Leave your name, telephone number, email address as well as your area of interest related to a CPNO Board Position. (The positions are listed elsewhere in the Messenger.)

-- Julia Brooke
Another Entry in the 
‘Cleanupastayadog’ 
Saga

I would like to follow up on the article written by “Another Miserable Neighbor.” I’m not sure if he was trying to be funny or serious. Regardless… here is what I have to say.

All you dog owners out there... and there are so many of you... clean up your poop. How hard is it to clean up after your dog? Do you really think other people enjoy stepping in poop, walking all over our nice carpets, and never getting rid of the smell on your favorite pair of shoes? Well, the answer, my neighbors, is NO. And another thing... we also don’t enjoy listening to your dogs BARK. Really... I know it is a shock to hear but it is not a pleasant noise especially when they are left outside all day or night. You may think that it is entertaining the neighbors but it is not music to our ears.

So I leave you all with this simple message. Clean up your poop and don’t leave your dogs outside to bark all day.

-- The Real Scrooge
Freedom Park Conservancy Bylaws Update

Freedom Park Conservancy (FPC) has been working to revise its bylaws to allow the board greater diversity and expansion in membership and flexibility in operations to accomplish its mission – to promote the improvement and preservation of the park for a diverse public. The Board is grateful to Bylaw Task Force Members Andrea Rimer (FPC Secretary & Lake Claire Representative), Tim Carsow (FPC Vice-President) and Riccarda Heising (Druid Hills Civic Association Representative), all who have spent more hours than they should count to improve the organization’s bylaws.

The current bylaws state that a change in composition of the Conservancy’s board must be approved by 2/3 of the 7 neighborhood directors and the Carter Center. At the present time member neighborhood organizations include Lake Claire, Inman Park, Poncey-Highlands, Ponce Corridor East, Druid Hills, Virginia Highlands, and Candler Park. (The board totals 15 directors, including the neighborhoods, the Carter Center and 7 directors who do not represent a neighborhood interest.) A number of revisions have been proposed, many of which attempt to align the bylaws with how the organization has needed to operate. The most central matter, however, deals with balancing an increase in the number of “non-neighborhood” directors while maintaining the neighborhoods’ control over issues fundamental to the parks’ nature and scope.

At the December meeting, the Board voted against a proposed revision to increase the number of “non-neighborhood” directors from 7 to 10. In a vote of neighborhood representatives, this provision was specifically defeated by a vote of 4 to 3. Some directors who voted against the proposed bylaws remained concerned that this expansion would threaten neighborhood control. As the representative from Candler Park, I voted against the proposal because I think achieving consensus on this central matter is critical to the future health of the organization. Other matters related to the determination of successor organizations, term limits for officers, timing of elections, the nature of the executive committee and its meetings, the circulation of meeting agendas, fundraising responsibilities of board members etc. were negotiated until consensus was achieved, but no formal votes were taken. At this point, the Bylaws Task Force is exploring alternative board structures.

If you are relatively new to intown Atlanta, you may ask why this matter has the attention of so many. A quick (and some will say too quick) walk through the history of Freedom Park and the Parkway demonstrates why.

The history of the Conservancy, and therefore of Freedom Park and the Parkway, is long and complex – most likely no single perspective exists. A general timeline of events begins in 1958 years ago in 1946 with an initial design for the Stone Mountain Tollway through or near the neighborhoods listed above. As the state acquired land for this tollway and another planned highway (I-485), intense legal advocacy by neighborhoods in the early 1970s preceded the eventual removal of these highways from state transportation plans. Between 1974 and 1981 various groups and individuals submitted proposals for what to do with the acquired land. A transportation facility, a cultural and performing arts center and even a zoo were proposed.

Eventually the land was designated for the Carter Center and Presidential Library. Between 1982 and 1984, the state began to design a Presidential Parkway in the area, but at the same time, neighborhoods increased advocacy efforts to oppose this roadway as well. Grassroots organizations such as Citizens Against Unnecessary Thoroughfares in Older Neighborhoods (CAUTION) and Roadbusters formed. These groups, along with countless individuals, orchestrated numerous protests, demonstrations, and civil disobedience actions, some quite creative. Multiple lawsuits were filed through 1990, some reaching the U.S Supreme Court. All levels of government and various officials were involved opposing and/or supporting the Parkway at one time or another. Intense and frequent citizen protests, legal actions, and political maneuvering lasted until 1991 when a compromise began to emerge.

Freedom Park and Parkway resulted from this year of focused negotiations. Finally, in 1994, the Parkway and a small part of the park that ended at Moreland Avenue opened. In preparation for the 1996 Olympics, the Candler Park portion of the Park and trail was completed. The 1991 agreement was implemented in 1998 when the Department of Transportation transferred the land to the city in a 99 year lease. CAUTION, Inc. evolved into the Freedom Park Conservancy, and as such, is the Park’s steward.

Given this history, it is understandable why member neighborhoods are cautious to approve a proposal they view could potentially limit their control over land for which they fought so hard and long. However, members also recognize Board’s need to grow in size and diversity for the Park to fulfill its mission. FPC will continue to balance these needs. When the Task Force presents the Board with a new proposal for its structure, I will bring it before CPNO for comment.

-- Sarah Cook
FPC Representative for Candler Park
"Vice President For What?!?"

I have to admit that I did a double-take when I saw the official title for the position known informally as the Vice President for the Environment. According to Article VI of the Candler Park Neighborhood Association bylaws, I was about to throw my hat into the ring to become "Vice President for Environmental and Facility Improvements."

The official duties of the position are just as wordy: "The Vice President for Environmental and Facility Improvements shall coordinate and implement programs relating to the physical facilities located within the neighborhood, as well as to the physical appearance and environmentally sensitive aspects of the neighborhood, which responsibilities shall include the coordination of the Organization's ongoing efforts to improve the neighborhood's parks, recreation facilities and pathways."

Undaunted by that long-winded description, I offered myself as a candidate to succeed the able Robert Newman, who chose not to seek reelection after two terms in office. Needless to say, I was among the slate of officers elected at the November meeting, and I will have officially taken office by the time this newsletter goes to press.

This is the first of what I hope will become regular columns focusing on environmental issues in Candler Park. I have done a lot of listening since the election, and two of the most frequent environmental concerns among Candler Parkers have been the sad state of some of our sidewalks and the need to protect our neighborhood's wonderful old trees. Expect to read more about those issues in the coming months.

I want to hear your concerns, too. Feel free to call me at home (404-525-6151) or to reach me by email (bryansells@mindspring.com) with your ideas, comments and questions about environmental issues. I would also encourage you to participate in discussions about the Candler Park environment on our neighborhood bulletin board (www.candlerpark.org <http://www.candlerpark.org/>). Look there as well for volunteer opportunities and for instructions on how to sign up for environmental email alerts.

In any event, I look forward to an exciting year as Vice President for the environmental whatever. For me the job is quite simple: make Candler Park a better, greener place to live. Together, we can make that happen.

-- Bryan Sells

Sidewalk Sam Program

Citywide many of our sidewalks are in poor repair. You may not know that the owner of the property that abuts the sidewalk is responsible for its repair and has the liability if someone is injured because the sidewalk needs repair. See City of Atlanta Code of Ordinances Section 138-14 (d).

If you want to repair your sidewalk you may use a contractor qualified by Public Works. The contractor will be issued a permit and you will work directly with him/her. You may have the city complete the work. The city will estimate the job and provide you the cost and time schedule. At that time, you pay the city directly for the work. You can check with your neighborhood civic association to see if they have a reimbursement program for sidewalk repair.

I hope many of you in District 6 will have these repairs made voluntarily. The alternative is that the city will cite you and give you 10 days to respond. You will then have 30 days to complete the work.

-- Anne Fauver
CouncilMember, District 6
City Of Atlanta

Help The Messenger

There was great response to my last request for Messenger deliverers. There are still some opportunities to help out though for those that are feeling left out and longing to join the merry band of street walkers that deliver this newsletter.

Streets that need help are:
-- Clifton from Muriel to Clifton Terrace
-- any apartment building in the neighborhood (you have to live there to deliver.)

Some zone deliverers are needed. These people deliver packets of Messengers to the individual street deliverers.

Zone deliverers are needed:
-- the NorthWest corner of the neighborhood North of Mclendon and South of Sterling.
-- the Oakdale/Candler Park Drive area North of Mclendon
-- around Mell.

If you'd like to help out in these areas call me at 404-524-0634 or email at cpmmessenger@earthlink.net. Also, if you're reading this but picked the Messenger up at some neighborhood location, let me know where you live and we'll get the Messenger delivered to your door.

-- Mark Carson
LAND USE ISSUES

There are no land use issues scheduled to be voted on at the December CPNO meeting. Land use issues to be voted on at the February meeting must be submitted prior to January 26. Below are issues of which we should be aware.

Piedmont Park Parking Deck - a resolution regarding the proposed Piedmont Park garage deck, for which NPU-N will need a recommendation from Candler Park at its January 2005 meeting, should be expected from an advisory committee headed by Amy Stout (404-371-0505)

Moreland Avenue / L5P Development -- Candler Park residents along Josephine Street have recently considered the need for dialogue with principals or agents of proposed redevelopment, possibly as a strip shopping center, along the east side of Moreland Avenue, between Front Page News/Tijuana Garage on the north, and an existing coin laundromat on the south. Any residents interested in issues related to this project may learn more by contacting Jeb Brees at 404-434-2548.

NPU-N ISSUES

NPU-N meetings are held at 7PM, on the 4th Thursday of every month at Epworth Methodist Church. Candler Park residents are welcome to attend. Contact NPU-N representative Walt Weimar at 404-377-1411 regarding any regularly-scheduled voting or agenda matters.

There are no NPU issues for this month.

CRIME REPORT


1200 block Euclid Ave., 11/22, tire stolen from auto.
1300 block Euclid Ave., 11/22, Chevy C10 pickup stolen.
400 block Page Ave., 11/28, vehicle broken into, satellite stereo system stolen.
400 block Oakdale Rd., 11/29, bicycle stolen from porch.

500 block Candler St., 12/2, Honda Civic automobile stolen.
500 block Page Ave., 12/3, GM Safari automobile stolen.
Euclid Ave & Moreland Ave., 12/7, 8a, WM 5'6"-5'7", 160-170, skinny built, offered to help female victim move car off the curb, then stole purse and used credit card several times.

300 block Moreland Ave., 12/11, 7p, Car-jacking: Victim parked car when 2 B/M approached from behind with a gun. They took the automobile, cash and contents of the vehicle. Description: 2 B/M, 20-25, one stocky, the other average build, both dark brown skin. Honda Accord was stolen.

300 block Ferguson St., 12/17, Oldsmobile 98 Regency stolen.

CLASSIFIED ADS


FOR PERSONALIZED RELIABLE CLEANING SERVICE - with 15 years experience, call Pat Felty, 404-822-8043. From a neighborhood near and with neighborhood references.


ATLANTA HAS A GREAT NEW GUITAR STORE

SALES LESSONS SERVICE

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404 614 0345, TUES-FRI, NOON TO 6, SAT, 11 TO 5
EVENING LESSONS AVAILABLE
WWW.BOUTIQUEGUITAREXCHANGE.COM

CPNO Financial Results For 2004 and Proposed and Estimated For 2005

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<th>Messenger</th>
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<th>SignToppers</th>
<th>RoadRace</th>
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Proposed 2005 Expense (5500.00) (167.00) (1500.00) (21000.00) (1500.00) (0.00) (3500.00) (33167.00)
Estimated 2005 Income 7000.00 500.00 500.00 27000.00 3800.00 500.00 4500.00 43800.00
Estimated 2005 Net 1500.00 333.00 (1000.00) 6000.00 2300.00 500.00 1000.00 10633.00

2004 information includes the Treasurer's records through mid-December as well as two items approved at the December CPNO meeting:
-- $1000 to support the L5P mini-precinct
-- $7000 as a gift/loan to the Candler Park Pool Association

CPNO begins 2005 with a balance of less than $2000.