

**Minutes of NPU-B regular monthly meeting
Tuesday, January 5, 2016**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Andrea Bennett, NPU-B Chairperson.

Present: 15
Proxies: 2
Michael Graff to Bob Connelly
Jim Cosgrove to Kim Shorter

1. OPENING REMARKS / CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

Welcome, mission of NPU-B, and introductory remarks

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

NPU-B Action: A motion to approve minutes from the previous regular monthly meeting of the NPU-B passed by vote of 16-0-0.

*Michael Isaacs joined after the vote.

3. REPORTS FROM CITY DEPARTMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES, ELECTED OFFICIALS, AND OTHERS IN AUDIENCE

Atlanta Police Department (APD) Zone 2

Major Van H. Hobbs, Jr., Precinct Commander, Zone 2, VHobbs@AtlantaGA.gov

Major Hobbs reported there were a few high profile incidences this past month. Violent repeat defenders office will handle the Blackland home invasion. Very little information is available but the case is being worked. Several burglaries of silver in Buckhead and Sandy Springs recently. Zone 2 officers identified the car and found the person. Working on tying all cases together to make sure that he is sentenced appropriately. Pharr Road gas station – social media stated murder in broad daylight at the gas station. What actually happened was a person got pushed out of a car after a fight. The gentleman pushed out of the car was arrested for drug and gun possession. Social media noted that the uber driver assaulted him and left him by the creek; which was also untrue.

Working on reducing crimes by one crime per day in order to lower the existing low crime rates. This is a challenge with the new apartments and retail coming into the area. This year, the Zone is down in crimes for the month compared to last year.

Implying the additional density increases the crime. Is that generally true? This zone does not have violent crimes; they are primarily car break ins. With more dense residential developments, there will be more cars and there will likely be more car break ins. The City meets with new complexes to advise them to best practices but they aren't always followed. Additionally, with an increase in the shopping, there are increases in shoplifting.

There was a question about the new home security devises such as the cameras where you can see on your phone who is there. Major Hobbs noted that letting people know that you are there is important to deter crime. Additionally, you can alert the City that you will be out of town and they will patrol your area.

Active shooter at Lenox mall on the 31st around 8pm. Simulations and the police will be shooting blanks. This will happen after hours. It is typically a very loud event. There will be people posed

as victims during the activity to simulate real life events. There are several officers in Texas getting trained in order to provide civilian training on active shooter events. There will be an update on that next month.

Code Enforcement Section, APD Community Services Division
CodesRequests@AtlantaGA.gov

Jacob D. Mach, 404-326-0705 mobile, JDMach@AtlantaGA.gov

No Report. As a note, Jacob Mach is not with the Code Enforcement Section any longer.

Atlanta Fire Rescue Department (AFRD)

James McLemore, 404-546-4400 (or dial 404-546-4421 to reach station 21)

Mr. McLemore reiterated some cold weather best practices; keep heating appliances at least 3 feet away from anything flammable, have working smoke detectors, and never leave anything on when you leave the house. Next month he will be able to provide statistics on the type and volume of calls in the area.

Fulton County District Attorney Community Prosecutor's Office

Elizabeth Morrow Emanuel, Zone 2 Community Prosecutor (404-613-8407) or

ElizabethMorrow@FultonCountyGA.gov

No report.

MARTA Police Department (MPD) North Precinct (404-848-3902) www.itsmarta.com

Major Easterling provided an update in the chief's initiative on sexual assault. There were three incidences last year but all victims were found. MARTA's fiscal year starts in July and ends in June, so this is mid-year. The North Precinct is currently at -21% in Part 1 crimes. There was one attempted suicide at 5 Points; the person survived with one amputated arm. There were no issues New Years Eve. MARTA is getting ready to hold the citizens academy at police headquarters every Tuesday starting January 12th from 6pm to 8pm for 14 weeks at MARTA headquarters. Major Easterling has applications available and strongly recommends participating. MARTA just received their 4th gold star for following stated protocols. There was a question whether the "see say" app resulted in the reduction in crime. Major Easterling noted that the 4200 calls are primarily nuisance such as panhandling on the train and not as much related to crimes. MARTA police has a 98.75% clearance rate on crimes. Monday and Friday the north line has plain clothes officers that catch problems and then the perpetrators are suspended and cannot use the system. Violating suspension results in arrest for trespassing. Last week there were three cars broken into at Lindbergh – the criminal was caught in the car with shopping bags.

Department of Watershed Management (DWM) (404-982-1480) www.atlantawatershed.org

Kurlis Jones, Manager, Ambassador Program (404-546-3216) or krjones@atlantaGA.gov

James Mitchell (678-414-2166).

No Report.

Department of Public Works

Cheryl Hedgemon (404-330-6303) cbHedgemon@atlantaGA.gov

Verna Singleton, VSingleton@AtlantaGA.gov

No report.

Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) (404-546-6813)

www.atlantaGA.gov/iparcs

Stanton German, Manager, Peachtree Hills Recreation Center (PHRC), 308 Peachtree Hills Ave. SMGerman@AtlantaGA.gov or 404-237-2756.

Stanton noted that Peachtree Hills 2015 ended well. The City just hired a youth coordinator for the Centers of Hope program to create more opportunities for kids throughout the City. School starts back tomorrow. In the event of severe storms, many city facilities act as homeless shelters. Two updated recreation centers are opened. Peachtree Hills has grown with a 20% increase in attendance and the center is at capacity and he had to turn schools away for after school programs. For additional information and registration, visit www.AtlantaGA.gov/iparcs.

There is some land available. Amy Fong has tried to buy adjacent land and land across the street. The land keeps coming on and off the market. They want a bigger recreational center hub in Buckhead, but the land has to stay on the market long enough for the City to try to make a deal.

Buckhead Business Association

No Report.

Howard Shook, Councilmember, District 7

(404) 330-6050; hshook@atlantaga.gov; www.HowardShook.com
SLSilver@atlantaGA.gov

No report.

Buckhead Coalition

Garth Peters GPetersj@thebuckheadcoalition.org

No report.

City of Atlanta Office of the Solicitor: main office 404-658-6618

Alan Coleman acoleman@atlantaGA.gov

404-658-6658 office; 404-902-0934 mobile

L'Erin Barnes, Senior Assistant Solicitor, LFBarnes@AtlantaGA.gov (404-680-6498)

No report.

Livable Buckhead, Inc (LBI) - Denise Starling, Executive Director

www.livablebuckhead.org

Buckhead Community Improvement District (CID)

www.buckheadcid.com

Buckhead Area Transportation Management Association (BATMA)

www.batma.org

No report.

Mayor's Office of Cultural Affairs

Dominique Hite. 404-546-7939. ddhite@atlantaga.gov

The Neighborhood Arts Grants and Contracts for Art Services Grants is available. The goal is to focus on encouraging artistic development and reimagining places. The grant can be for arts supplies and artist fees (but not directly for artists) with a \$2,400 maximum. The due date is Wednesday, March 9th before 5pm and hard copy applications only will be accepted. The program guidelines available online at: bit.ly/oaca-cas

There are other related programs that Dominique can provide the NPU more information on if interested.

4. PRESENTATIONS

None.

5. PLANNER'S REPORT

Jessica Lavendier, NPU Planner JLavandier@atlantaGA.gov 404-865-8522

No report.

Ordinance "Proposed Water Meter Installation Fees Increased". An NPU vote is not needed but the item was open for discussion. There were questions regarding the ordinance and proposed fee increases. Additional clarity is needed in order for the public to understand the actual increase and justification. Some examples include questions regarding the current undercharging – what that is in comparison to? why was this the case? Etc.

There was a discussion regarding the zoning revisions that are getting underway. There were comments that the public opportunities were intended to be "window dressings". The suggestion was that the NPU chose to play an active role in the update process and provide specific, deliberate, and vocal statements about issues that are important to the NPU.

An example of a specific recommendation could include better integration between watershed management issues, tree variances, and zoning variances. The NPU should have a clear understanding of all of the issues involved during the zoning variance phase.

Andrea suggested that the zoning committee serve as the facilitator for the NPU's involvement. If NPU members have ideas, they should email Bill Murray and copy Andrea Bennett.

It was suggested that the NPU hold a brainstorming meeting or start an email chain in order to foster ideas and collaboration. There will be City public meetings that can help with this. The next public meeting is January 12, 2016 from 7:00 to 8:30PM at Passion City Church, which is convenient to the NPU.

There were questions regarding how extensive the updates are going to be. There are concerns the City is not open to input and that they will apply national best practices that don't fit Atlanta and how Atlanta has developed and our street infrastructure is designed. There was a response that the new Planning Director noted at a recent presentation that the update was going to be extensive. At the same meeting he commented that the Tree Ordinance should be thrown out and the Development Department would be majorly overhauled by March/April 2016. The city's they are modeling for the update are Charleston and Charlotte.

It was suggested that Bob from the consulting team be asked to give a 30 minute presentation at the February NPU meeting.

Meeting next Tuesday, January 12th is from 7 to 8:30pm at Passion City Church (515 Garson Drive (former Home Depot site).

6. INTERNAL REPORTS

Atlanta Planning Advisory Board (APAB)

Richard Rauh, NPU-B APAB delegate; Cathy Muzzy, alternate delegate.

Mr. Rauh submitted a written report.

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Randall Kent, Chair

Liquor License Applications on Consent Agenda:

Bangkok Station; 550 Pharr Road suite 110 / change of ownership / APPROVED IN COMMITTEE

Zoe's Kitchen; 2333-A Cerbourg Way / change of agent / APPROVED IN COMMITTEE

Stagecoach, 34 Irby Avenue, NE/ change of agent / APPROVED IN COMMITTEE

NPU-B action: A motion to adopt committee recommendations on the above-listed consent agenda passed by vote of 17-0-0.

B. DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Jason Kendall, Chair

No report.

C. ZONING COMMITTEE

Bill Murray, Chair

Applications on Zoning Committee Consent Agenda:

SD-15-032 471 Loridans Drive Approved with conditions 8-0-0
Applicant is seeking to create 2 lots where one lot existed. Applicant seeks no other variances at this time.

U-15-019 3850 Roswell Road Approved 8-0-0
Applicant seeks a special use permit for outside dining within 1000' of R and RG districts. Applicant seeks no other variances at this time.

V-15-381 27 West Andrews Drive Approved 8-0-0
Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulations to reduce both side yard setbacks from 15' (required) to 7'6" to construct a SFR. Pending lot approval. No architectural plans were provided. Applicant seeks no other variances at this time.

V-15-370 2981 Lookout Place Approved 8-0-0
Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulations to reduce the front yard setback from 35' (required) to 25' to allow for construction of a new SFR. Applicant seeks no other variances at this time.

V-15-360 2531 Lenox Road Approved with conditions 8-0-0
Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to reduce the front yard setback from 50' (required) to 6' (Lenox Road) and to reduce the half-depth front yard from 25' (required) to 6' (Sidney Marcus) to allow for a mixed use storage facility as per Z-15-48 (pending lot approval from the Office of Planning). Applicant seeks no other variances at this time.

V-15-346 577 Martina Drive Approved with conditions 8-0-0

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulations to reduce the west side yard setback from 7' (required) to 3' to allow for the construction of a detached accessory structure (a 2 story garage with a studio). Applicant seeks no other variances at this time.

NPU-B action: A motion to adopt committee recommendations on the above-listed consent agenda passed by vote of 17-0-0.

V-15-362 967 Eulalia Road

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulations to reduce the front yard setback from 50' (required) to 45' to construct an addition to an existing SFR. Applicant seeks no other variances at this time.

NPU-B action: A motion to approve the variance passed by vote of 17-0-0.

8. OLD BUSINESS

Next meeting will be February 2nd at 7pm.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Committee assignments are due in January. Andrea is still finalizing committees. Please let Andrea know soon if there are requests for changes.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next BZA meetings will be held January 7th and 21st on the 2nd floor of the City Hall Annex at noon.

The next ZRB meeting will be held January 7th and 14th floor of the City Hall Annex at 6 PM.

Elections for the business coordinator and residential coordinator will be appointed at the February meeting. Please let Andrea know if you are interested in either position.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.