

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

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Andrea Bennett, NPU-B Chairperson.

Present: 18
Proxies: 2
Simon Foster to Bill Murray
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 20-0-0.

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

Atlanta Police Department (APD) Zone 2

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

The holiday weekend was busy but everything went well including the Peachtree Road Race and the fireworks. The City implemented an aggressive plan to maintain traffic flow and keep everyone safe. Officers were on call after Lenox fireworks concluded until after the Centennial show finished, just in case they needed to respond.

Year to date, the zone is up by about 4 or 5 crimes this year. Car break-ins and auto thefts are higher in terms of types of crimes, but the trend over the year is dropping. The car-jacking at OK Café and Lenox Mall – were believed to be performed by the same person and he is in custody. He has felony arrests but was not a convicted felon as the prior case is still being prosecuted. Brenden Dougherty is the new prosecutor and will handle this case.

Two officers were shot on duty. One was saved by their vest. Both officers are recovering. If a police involved shooting takes place, the GBI always investigates and will lock down the area for 8 to 10 hours.

There was a question about the bomb squad being called out to Hearst Street. A grenade was dug up in someone's yard and the bomb squad was brought out to retrieve it. Although many of the grenades are not real, the police considers all of them to be potential threats.

There were questions about the woman who was shot at the Mall. She had bought some jewelry at the mall and apparently was tracked back to her car. There are leads in the case and more information will be coming.

Chief Turner has a gun violence task force that is dissecting all aspects of these crimes. There was a question about where criminals get these guns. Major Hobbs noted that the guns are typically stolen.

The new force that the Mayor introduced last week included 25 to 40 officers that were transferred into the new unit from zones with the highest violent crime rates. No resources from Zone 2 were added to this task force because low violent crime rates.

There was a question about staffing and whether Zone 2 was fully staffed. No zone is fully staffed. It is very hard to keep young officers. Chief Turner makes sure the shortages are shared across all zones. Currently, there is only ability for one officer to be on vacation or on leave. If training arises, there are fewer officers in the field. The challenge is getting them hired and retaining them. Pay has increased, which has helped. Media makes it a challenge for people to want to join the field.

Atlanta Fire Rescue Department (AFRD)

404-546-4400 (or dial 404-546-4421 to reach station 21) Battalion Chief Andre Owens, 404-217-8180, adowens@atlantaga.gov (station 21, battalion 6)
Battalion Chief Dobson (404-425-3972 or 404-807-6424). Brand new engine at station 21. Bring your kids by to see the new engine. The race went well. Everything is dry, so be very careful. There was a question as to why the fire department responds frequently to health emergencies. The large hook and ladders don't respond to these issues but the trucks will because of the central location of the fire departments, they can get there faster than other EMS.

Fulton County District Attorney Community Prosecutor's Office

Brenden Dougherty, Zone 2 Community Prosecutor (Brenden.Dougherty@fultoncountyga.gov)

Brenden introduced himself and explained that he had two functions; (1) to take important cases to trial and (2) work with the community to prevent crimes. The first priority is to take the most important cases to Zone 2 or neighborhoods in Zone 2 to trial. He will try the case or take the pleas, depending on the case. He encourages the community to attend the sentencing to support the stricter sentences that the community is demanding. He will ask the neighborhood to explain the impact that the criminals are having on their community as a whole. If you can't make the trial, an emailed statement on the community impact helps as well. Brendon noted that there are 8 community prosecutors across the City.

Brendon's second function is to work with the community to attempt to prevent crimes from happening. One of the current projects is to add more video surveillance. What the Prosecutor's Office would like to do is use the existing business community cameras and integrate these with the City's one central APD system.

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

Lieutenant Hampton noted that there were no issues over the 4th of July holiday. MARTA just finished the fiscal year and crime is significantly down from previous years. The "Ride with Respect" program is credited for this success. MARTA is citing people and revoking privileges for those who violate the rules. He added that the "See Something, Say Something" app is really helpful.

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

Katie Vorel, Office of Safety, Security, & Emergency Management (404-546-3374) or kvorel@atlantaga.gov cell: 404-481-7964

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.

Summer camp is in full swing for kids, ages 5 through 14. After school registration just opened for the Peachtree Hills Recreation Center. Movies in the Park schedule is out as well as the Play Mobile schedule. The Mayor is having a summer reading event at Georgia State on July 16th from 11am to 1pm. For additional information and registration, visit www.AtlantaGA.gov/iparcs.

Department of Public Works

Marcus McGaw (404-865-8743) mlmcgaw@atlantaga.gov

Verna Singleton, VSingleton@AtlantaGA.gov

Officer O (404-807-2610)

No report.

Code Enforcement Section, APD Community Services Division

CodesRequests@AtlantaGA.gov 404-546-3868

No report.

Buckhead Business Association

Bob Gibeling, VP, Community Alliance, BBA office: 404-467-7607

No Report.

Howard Shook, Councilmember, District 7

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

SLSilver@atlantaGA.gov

No report.

Caesar Mitchell, Council President

jelgar@atlantaga.gov; 404-330-6052 – general office number

Jim Elgar provided a brief update on the budget that was adopted of \$607 million, which is slightly higher than last year. He noted that the budget included raises for police and fire. The fire department had a problem of pay compression where initial salaries were slightly higher, but the higher ranking officers were not being paid commensurately. The police raises brought the starting officer pay to be comparable with other communities.

He noted that Council wanted a way to maintain sustainable pay for employees. Additionally, there was a \$600k increase for the parks department in the budget. The City is also looking at the code enforcement department. Currently, there are 25 inspectors to visit sites and there are only 4 people to research property ownership. There has been a high percentage of return to sender letters for every letter sent, which is slowing the response to issues. The City will add 8 researchers, an operation manager, and a communications person to the team in order to be more responsive. This was in lieu of adding more money to the \$3M currently earmarked for demolition. The hope is that this is a longer term solution.

Buckhead Coalition

Garth Peters GPetersj@thebuckheadcoalition.org

There is a \$5,000 award from the Buckhead Coalition for information that leads to the arrest of the criminals involved with the recent crimes at Lenox Mall. Garth also thanked NPU B and Frank Toye's neighborhood for contributions to purchase first responder kits.

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, LEBarnes@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

Livable Buckhead

No report.

4. PRESENTATIONS

No reports.

5. PLANNER'S REPORT

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

Jessica announced that the City is still working on the Comprehensive Plan update and shortly will be announcing meetings for the Zoning portions and the Character Areas. There are opportunities to look at the existing policies and corridors and residential areas. There is an opportunity to ensure these lines are correctly drawn on the draft maps, ensuring there are no areas intended to be residential that have been drawn into commercial corridors.

There was a question asked about Tiny Houses. Jessica responded that there is a separate task force looking at Tiny Houses and how they can be integrated into the fabric of the existing zoning. There was a question about micro-units and above garage apartments (accessory dwelling units) and were these the same. The response was that they are looking at different possibilities.

There was a question about security issues and whether there were any known zoning barriers to security cameras. Jessica was not aware of any.

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

Whole Foods; 77 W Paces Ferry Road / change of agent/ APPROVED IN COMMITTEE

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NPU-B action: A motion to adopt committee recommendations on the above-listed consent agenda passed by vote of 20-0-0.

B. DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

No Report

C. ZONING COMMITTEE

Bill Murray, Chair

Applications on Zoning Committee Consent Agenda:

Z-16-032 2809 Peachtree Road NE. APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS
Applicant seeks to rezone from C-1 to MRC-2 to build approximately 4500 sq.ft. Fellini's restaurant with covered and surface parking for 25 cars and a new dining plaza. Applicant seeks no other variances at this time.

U-16-012 66 East Wesley Road NE. APPROVED WITH CONDITIONS
Applicant seeks a special use permit to replace the current R-4 housing to greenspace. Applicant seeks no other variances at this time.

V-16-127 680 Greenview Avenue NE.
Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulations to reduce the west side yard setback from 7' (required) to 2' to allow for the expansion of detached accessory structure (2 car garage). Applicant seeks no other variances at this time.

V-16-140 499 Danube Road NE
Applicant seeks a special exception from the zoning regulations to increase the height of a retaining wall within the required front yard from 3' to 10' for the construction of a new SFR. 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 20-0-0.

SAP-16-033 & 034 229 Peachtree Hills Avenue COMMENT ONLY
Applicant seeks variances to Beltline overlay district regulations for required side

There were no comments on this in the zoning committee. No vote is needed.

8. OLD BUSINESS

Bill Murray talked with Charletta Wilson Jacks about the NPU system and the discussions that the City is having. The meeting that Bill and Nancy attended – there were meetings that won't let people speak. There is support for the NPU system but feels that it needs support, so that they are more functional. There will probably be some consolidation of NPUs because some don't really have much development activity.

Ben Howard mentioned that the Brand Property that had proposed a curb cut on Peachtree Road. GDOT has been told by Brand Property that the neighborhood is in support of the curb cut and he asked that if people did not feel the curb cut was the right thing, then this should be articulated to GDOT.

9. NEW BUSINESS

None.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next BZA meetings will be held July 7th and July 14th on the 2nd floor of the City Hall Annex at noon.

The next ZRB meeting will be held July 7th and July 14th on the 2nd floor of the City Hall Annex at 6 PM.

The next meeting NPU B meeting will be August 2, 2016.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.