

**Minutes of NPU-B regular monthly meeting
Tuesday, November 1, 2016**

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

Present: 16

Proxies: 7

Simon Foster to Bill Murray

Jason Kendall to Andrea Bennett

Robert Stasiowski to Kim Shorter

Randall Kent to Bryan Steed

Brian Ward to Frank Toye

John Bailey to Kim Bondurant

Sara Ohmer to Cathy Boston

Abbie Shephard to Nancy Bliwise (following City Department reports)

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 23-0-0.

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

Major Hobbs noted that we are up on crimes in two categories; theft of cars and property crime. Major Hobbs added that 40% of cars stolen in the zone have the keys in the car. They are using amplifiers to use the signal from the key fobs to start cars and steal them. They are targeting women at gas stations who go inside to pay for their gas. Please do not leave keys in the car.

Major Hobbs noted that with 49 new developments happening now, the crimes are expected to increase further. He also noted that there is a reduction in violent crimes over this year. Zone 2 is the largest zone with the lowest violent crime numbers. Officers are focusing on neighborhoods, to keep these safe. There are break ins in the parking lots but they are not in the neighborhood.

Many of the car break ins are being done with teams; one person breaks the windows with associates searching for items to steal. There were 7 guns taken out of Zone 2 last week. Do not keep guns in your car.

There is supposedly a report coming that notes the records of the judges that are currently serving. This is in response to recent allegations that the City is not prosecuting criminals. Major Hobbs stated that this is incorrect. He further noted that social media is not helpful. The police cannot respond to crimes that are posted on social media. The victims need to call 911. Major Hobbs confirmed that crimes are not being under-reported. Need to call 911 because if you don't

the zone will not be properly represented with police officers. Social media hype distracts the police from solving crimes.

Attrition of police officers is a difficult problem. They are looking for rapid promotion. Policing is not as desirable because of the negative media.

Tree lighting on Sunday, November 20th and the police are prepping to make sure this is a successful and safe event.

Atlanta Fire Rescue Department (AFRD)

404-546-4400 (or dial 404-546-4421 to reach station 21) Battalion Chief Andre Owens, 404-217-8180, aowens@atlantaga.gov (station 21, battalion 6)

No report.

Fulton County District Attorney Community Prosecutor's Office

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

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.

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

Sergeant Dansby is on the SWAT team and a fire arms trainer for the department. Sergeant Dansby noted that the most significant issues are car break ins, similar to what the City of Atlanta police are seeing. There are also issues with "snatched items", primarily electronic devices. He warned that while riding MARTA, you should remain attentive to your surroundings and not get lost in your electronic device. Some thefts happen because folks fall asleep while travelling. Crimes of opportunity, such as leaving a personal item on the train in the rush to exist the train, are also a common issue.

Do not leave valuables in your vehicle. If necessary, leave them in the trunk so they are not visible. Do not get lost in electronic devices while walking or riding around. Be aware of your surroundings. Call 404-818-8911 or text 404-334-3555 to request a police officer while riding MARTA or use the See-Say app, if needed. Blow the whistle campaign for safety. A police officer will escort MARTA riders up to 5 miles to your residence to protect individual riders.

The #673 is no longer valid based on a question from the NPU. He noted also that with the gas pipeline explosion in Alabama, MARTA is expecting increased ridership as the gas prices will likely increase. MARTA has a service to help you navigation your route on MARTA.

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

Denita Burten, Office of Safety, Security, & Emergency Management (404-546-3374) or dburton@atlantaga.gov; 404-798-8103 (cell)

Denita provided a few updates including the 5 year capital improvement program. The focus is addressing aging infrastructure. Denita reminded everyone that it is very harmful to dispose fats, oils, and grease to the sewer. Fats, oils, and grease from the kitchen should be collected in cans or jars and disposed in the trash. She also noted that leaves should not be blown down the stormdrains as they will clog the pipelines. She provided brief updates on the existing projects and ongoing work orders.

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 registration for winter sports and activities will begin on November 7th at www.atlantaga.gov. He reminded everyone to vote is next Tuesday. Early voting is happening until Friday. He added that Peachtree Hills Recreation Center is not an early voting location but will be a polling center on Tuesday, November 8th. The centers will also be closed on November 11th for Veterans Day.

There are playoffs going and the winner gets to go to compete at the state playoffs.

There was a question about golf facilities. Jim Elgar answered that Commissioner Fong recently stated that the contract expired yesterday and the contractor did not reapply. There will be minimal disruptions to the service at these facilities and the City will operate these facilities. The long-term solution has not yet been determined. There will likely be an RFP process. The previous RFP process was unsuccessful and there were no bids with the uncertainty of the future with the existing golf courses.

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

tmculbreth@atlantaga.gov; 404-546-3822 office; 470-585-8937 cell

No Report.

Buckhead Business Association

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

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.

Mayors Office of Sustainability.

Justin Brightharp, JABrightharp@atlantaga.gov and 404-330-6510.

Justin introduced himself as a new employee who is mainly focused on renewable energy but is here to present on Atlanta's recycling program. There were questions about glass recycling. Glass is not currently recycled. Individuals can collect and dispose of glass at the CHARM facility on Tuesday, Thursday, or Saturday. They take all kinds of hard to dispose items.

The City is working on better glass recycling solutions for 2017. There is a "Feet on the Street" education facility. There was a question about air pollution. Justin noted that they are looking to mitigate traffic congestion by working with MARTA, encouraging bikes, encouraging alternative fuels (electric vehicles), etc. There are discussions at looking at extending the rebate for alternative fuels program.

Council Member Ceasar Mitchell's office.

Jim Elgar. Phone: 404-330-6502; jgelgar@atlantaga.gov

Jim Elgar mentioned that the City Council had recently looked at glass recycling facilities that would be distributed. The Council is also looking at a 3rd bin where glass would be in a separate bin from the other recyclable items. There are concerns about a 3rd bin.

Jim noted that there has been a legislation introduced to get rid of the existing quality of life protections from the City's code of ordinance. There is some concern about youth getting stiff penalties for minor infractions. The Councilman is concerned about these young kids but eliminating this portion of the code is not the right way to accomplish this goal. He is opposed to this legislation and wants everyone to be aware of this ongoing discussion.

He reiterated what Major Hobbs said that calling 911 is very important and that the numbers influences the number of beat cops that are assigned. Zone 2 significantly under reports crimes by not calling 911.

4. PRESENTATIONS

There were no presentations.

5. PLANNER'S REPORT

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

There are a few ordinances for comment by the City.

1. Allow water sports in waterbodies that are in planned development-mixed use complexes with a special use permit. APPROVED 23-0-0.
2. Allow private schools as a permitted use in the I-1 zoning district. APPROVED 23-0-0.
3. Ordinance to add ATV parks as a permissible use only by special use permit. DENIED 23-0-0.

4. Ordinance to define a music recording studio as allowable by special use permit. These require sound proofing and located more than 500 feet from a residential district.
APPROVED 23-0-0.

Office of Innovation created a document that was distributed to look at ways for good community engagement.

Parks legislation that will increase specific fees for specific recreational uses.

6. INTERNAL REPORTS

Atlanta Planning Advisory Board (APAB)

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

Email Report.

7. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Randall Kent, Chair

Buckhead BBQ; 25 Irby Avenue / change of ownership / DEFERRED

AMC Theatres Buckhead Backlot; 3340 Peachtree Road, NE / change of agent / APPROVED IN COMMITTEE

AMC Theatres Phipps Plaza 14; 3500 Peachtree Road / change of agent / APPROVED IN COMMITTEE

Café Bistro; 3500 Peachtree Drive / change of agent / APPROVED IN COMMITTEE

Taverna Buckhead; 250 Buckhead Avenue, NE / change of ownership / APPROVED IN COMMITTEE

Gordon Biersch; 3242 Peachtree Road, NE / addition of re-sale / APPROVED IN COMMITTEE

NPU-B action: A motion to adopt committee recommendations on the above-listed consent agenda passed by vote of 23-0-0.

B. DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

No Report

C. ZONING COMMITTEE

Bill Murray, Chair

Applications on Zoning Committee Consent Agenda:

V-16-246 123 Ridgeland Way NE

APPROVED

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to reduce the required eastern side yard setback from 7 feet to 1 foot in order to erect an addition to an existing single-family dwelling.

V-16-261 2276 Fairhaven Circle NE

APPROVED

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to reduce the required front yard building setback from 35 feet to 30 feet in order to construct a second story addition to an existing single-family residence.

V-16-275 101 Roanoke Avenue NE

APPROVED

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to reduce the required eastern side yard from 7 feet to 4 feet for an addition.

V-16-226 2915 Andrews Drive NW

APPROVED

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to reduce the north yard setback from 15 feet to 4 feet to allow for a 2 story addition to an existing family dwelling.

V-16-270 85 Peachtree Hills Avenue NE

APPROVED

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to reduce the required front building setback from 35 feet to 27 feet for a second story addition to a single-family dwelling.

NPU-B action: A motion to adopt committee recommendations on the above-listed consent agenda passed by vote of 23-0-0.

V-16-274, 3201 Peachtree Road APPEAL.

This is not a vote item. The Zoning Committee recommends that NPU B send a letter to the BZA and City Council reiterating the NPU's stance against this re-zoning application. Further, it was suggested that the NPU representatives send information and encourage people to attend the BZA. Their legal argument could have significant negative impacts on the SPI.

There was consensus that a letter should be sent as this was a very serious matter. Many NPU residential representatives asked for a template letter to send to their neighborhoods.

8. OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

9. NEW BUSINESS

Business representative elections are coming up on November 15th from 6PM to 8PM. The elections will be held in the lobby of St. Phillips. Residential representatives cannot vote for business representatives. Voters need to bring drivers licenses and proof of a business located within the NPU to be eligible to vote.

The NPU needs to elect officers for next year. The elected positions are Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Recorder. Andrea noted that she is not eligible to run for chair based on our current bylaws. Anyone interested in serving in one of these positions may contact Andrea to find out more about the responsibilities.

10. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next BZA meetings will be held on November 3rd and November 10th on the 2nd floor of the City Hall Annex at noon.

The next ZRB meeting will be held on November 10th on the 2nd floor of the City Hall Annex at 6 PM.

The next meeting NPU B meeting will be December 6, 2016.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:43 p.m.