

**Minutes of NPU-B regular monthly meeting  
Tuesday, October 4, 2016**

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

Present: 20  
Proxies: 4  
Randall Kent to Sara Ohmer  
Cathy Boston to Bill Murray  
Mark Tiller to Cory Tibbs  
Anne Culberson to Bob Connelly

**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 21-0-0.**

\*3 NPU members arrived after minutes were approved.

**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](mailto:VHobbs@AtlantaGA.gov)

Sgt. Schimmel reminded everyone to keep your car clean to reduce the likelihood of car breakins. Do not leave the car open and running while fueling cars as this leaves you prone to car theft. With weather getting cooler, please do not leave your car running to warm it up as thieves are looking for this. If your car is broken into, please call 911 immediately so that they have an opportunity to get evidence.

Daylight savings time happens the day before Halloween. Make sure that if you have lights on a timer, you adjust these for daylight savings time. Also, keep curtains drawn to reduce predatory behavior. Please be safe when you are going home from work on Monday and/or trick-or-treating.

There was a question about a rash of car breakins in Garden Hills and Peachtree Hills. Mr. Schimmel noted that this was City-wide and the City is getting overwhelmed with the large number. There were 20 cars in one hotel complex this last weekend. Some juveniles have been caught with some of the incidences. There appear to be a number of independent groups of juveniles, but often it is a crime of opportunity.

There was a question as to whether the cameras were helping. They are helping as a deterrent and also helping to track down stolen cars. On Saturday, there were 3 stolen cars found as a direct result of the camera and car readers.

There was a meeting this summer about breakins and there was a comment that because jails were full, they were not prosecuting those who were arrested for car breakins. This is true and a Fulton County jail system. The City is catching, jailing, and charging these criminals.

There are several neighbors that are using the website but they aren't seeing some of the reported crimes on the website. There was a question about the delay between the crime and it showing up on the website. Sometimes crimes are posted on Facebook and neighborhood sites but the crimes are never reported to the police.

There was a question about the response rate when someone calls in a crime. 911 calls are rated by severity. Those that involve injury or are in progress are rated more highly.

An attendee asked how people should protect their cars at a gas station with today's modern cars and keyless entry systems. If someone is close enough to the car, then they can get in and drive off. Keyless cars have increased the crime rate.

Private buses parking on Lenox Road in front of the Marriott. Are these buses allowed to park on the road? If the charter bus is actively loading or unloading, they are like a taxi cab. If there are waiting, call 911 and the City can move them around to the back side of the Marriott. This has been happening around 8:30am.

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](mailto:aowens@atlantaga.gov) (station 21, battalion 6)

James MacLemore, Battallion Chief Station 21. Halloween safety tips – provide kids with lighting for trick or treating. Make sure that decorations are not blocking exit routes in case of emergency. Remind kids to stay away from decorations with flames or choose electric candles. There has been an increase in reports of gas leaks happening around town with all of the underground utility work. Please be careful and call if there is a concern. There was a recent issue where both the gas line and sewer line were struck, which poses a tremendous risk to explosions of residential structures as the gas will travel up the sewer line. Do not light anything if you smell gas and call 911.

Fulton County District Attorney Community Prosecutor's Office

Brenden Dougherty, Zone 2 Community Prosecutor ([Brenden.Dougherty@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:Brenden.Dougherty@fultoncountyga.gov))

No report.

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

Alan Coleman [acoleman@atlantaGA.gov](mailto:acoleman@atlantaGA.gov)

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

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

No report.

MARTA Police Department (MPD) North Precinct (404-848-3902) [www.itsmarta.com](http://www.itsmarta.com)

Major Easterling introduced Sergeant Salters. Sergeant Salters with the North Precinct distributed "see something, say something" brochures and explained the program. Please be careful if you use MARTA parking lots that you don't leave anything of value inside your car.

Also, when you approach your vehicle, be aware of your surroundings and hold onto your personal items.

There was a question as to whether there have been problems with luggage theft when folks are on their way to the airport. Major Easterling noted that this was no longer a problem. However, she noted that you should always stay close to your bag while travelling to the airport.

There were 15 cars in the Sandy Springs parking deck that were broken into. They were all high end cars. The windows were busted so that they could go through the glove box and center console. Most of the cars did not have anything visible. They believe the criminals were looking for guns. There were 2 more breakins at the Lenox Mall lot. MARTA is in process of adding security cameras to these parking areas. Major Easterling urged folks not to keep handguns in your cars. They believe these crimes were perpetrated by car versus by MARTA, because the breakins were after service hours. Also if you are parking overnight, be sure to park in a designated overnight parking lot.

Department of Watershed Management (DWM) (404-982-1480) [www.atlantawatershed.org](http://www.atlantawatershed.org)  
Denita Burten, Office of Safety, Security, & Emergency Management (404-546-3374) or [kvorel@atlantaga.gov](mailto:kvorel@atlantaga.gov) cell: 404-481-7964

Denita shared that the drilling machine will be called “Driller Mike”, the award winning contest entry. Driller Mike will make the 12’ diameter tunnel needed to increase water reserves by connecting the quarry to the water treatment plant. The City has a number of ongoing improvements to the water and wastewater infrastructure.

The DWM will be hosting the first ever “Trick or Treatment Tour”. Please join the City and tour the award winning plants for an informative tour.

An NPU member reported a probable water main break under West Paces Ferry between Regions Bank and the History Center. Repeated road caveins have been filled and keep returning. Recommend using leak detection equipment to locate the leak before someone gets hurt.

An NPU member asked about the timeframe between Public Works repairing the road after Watershed fixes a leak. Denita got the information on the location to follow up.

Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) (404-546-6813)  
[www.atlantaGA.gov/iparcs](http://www.atlantaGA.gov/iparcs)  
Stanton German, Manager, Peachtree Hills Recreation Center (PHRC), 308 Peachtree Hills Ave.  
[SMGerman@AtlantaGA.gov](mailto:SMGerman@AtlantaGA.gov) or 404-237-2756.

No Report.

Department of Public Works  
Marcus McGaw (404-865-8743) [mlmcgaw@atlantaga.gov](mailto:mlmcgaw@atlantaga.gov)  
Verna Singleton, [VSingleton@AtlantaGA.gov](mailto:VSingleton@AtlantaGA.gov)  
Officer O (404-807-2610)

No report.

Code Enforcement Section, APD Community Services Division  
[CodesRequests@AtlantaGA.gov](mailto:CodesRequests@AtlantaGA.gov) 404-546-3868  
[tmculbreth@atlantaga.gov](mailto:tmculbreth@atlantaga.gov); 404-546-3822 office; 470-585-8937 cell

Officer Coleberg presented on behalf of Officer Brown. Officer Coleberg explained that with several NPU meetings on the same night, the officers will be rotating. There were 10 cases assigned to 2 called in with 4 resulting in notices.

A case in Pine Hills was discussed. It is one of the cases that code enforcement will be addressing.

Another property at 2899 Andrews Drive was added to the list. This is a vacant house with broken windows and other hazardous issues.

#### Buckhead Business Association

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

Bob shared that the BBA has a meeting on November 3<sup>rd</sup> and that the new Georgia Tech head basketball coach will be speaking at 7:30am. Bob invited everyone to attend. Bob also reminded everyone that early voting starts on October 17<sup>th</sup>.

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

[www.livablebuckhead.org](http://www.livablebuckhead.org)

Buckhead Community Improvement District (CID)

[www.buckheadcid.com](http://www.buckheadcid.com)

Buckhead Area Transportation Management Association (BATMA)

[www.batma.org](http://www.batma.org)

Jim Durrett spoke about the status of the feasibility report for the park over GA 400 and next steps. The completed feasibility report found that there were no fatal flaws. The selected firm is moving forward with a conceptual design. There appears to be a great opportunity to add connectivity, green space, meeting space, and more to the Buckhead community.

The park costs are estimated at \$200 million. The Buckhead CID board will be asked tomorrow to approve \$300,000 to move forward with the next phase of this project. The concept will be refined and a more precise cost estimate will be developed as well as development of governance structures. This will be approximately a 16 week project.

Concurrently, the Buckhead CID kicked off “Buckhead Redefined”, which is an update to the existing Livable Cities Initiative (LCI) plan. There are three ongoing outreach efforts, and the hope is to provide opportunities for input.

Questions were raised about funding. Jim noted that public and private partnerships will be solicited. It is likely that the project will be constructed in phases based on funding. Successfully completed portions of the project will encourage additional financial participation. With funding in place, the timeline would be 3 to 5 years to construct. It will create approximately 7 acres of new park.

#### **4. PRESENTATIONS**

Fred Hicks presented information on the MARTA T-SPLOST. He is the campaign manager for the information campaign on behalf of MARTA to discuss the 0.5 penny sales tax for those in

City of Atlanta. Jurisdictions outside of the City limits have a different ballot measure. The SPLOST is expected to generate \$2.5 billion over 4 years for enhancements at the stations and to expand within the City limits such as infill stations and decreasing wait times for rails. Less than 50% of MARTA riders are within ¼ mile to a MARTA stop. About 50% of MARTA riders wait 15 minutes or less, so if someone misses their bus/train they have to wait a long time for the next ride. The goal is to make Atlanta a connected City. These funds can ONLY be spent on projects within the City limits. The projects are listed on [moremarta.com](http://moremarta.com). The SPLOST would last for 40 years. It would fund Beltline projects in midtown and crosstown routes in the southern portion of the City. There is another \$0.25 tax that would raise \$330M to Beltline and MARTA right-of-way projects. This sales tax would get added to the existing sales taxes. An NPU member asked whether MARTA ridership went up during economic downturn and has maintained steady at about 400,000 rides (200,000 riders) per day.

## **5. PLANNER'S REPORT**

Jessica Lavendier, NPU Planner [JLavandier@atlantaGA.gov](mailto:JLavandier@atlantaGA.gov) 404-865-8522

The draft comprehensive plan is on the website available for review. She also announced the NPU grants that are available for projects that encourage and empower. The grants are \$4000. The due date is October 28, 2016. The City recently received a \$1M grant from the Atlanta Regional Commission to update the City's transportation plan.

## **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

World Cost Plus Market; 3495 Buckhead Loop Northeast / change in location / APPROVED IN COMMITTEE

**NPU-B action: A motion to adopt committee recommendations on the above-listed consent agenda passed by vote of 24-0-0.**

### **B. DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

No Report

## **C. ZONING COMMITTEE**

Bill Murray, Chair

### **Applications on Zoning Committee Consent Agenda:**

V-16-193 9 West Andrews Drive.

APPROVED

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulations to exceed the maximum number (2) of retaining walls to (3) retaining walls allowed in the required front yard and both side yards. Also, applicant seeks a variance to reduce the north side yard setback from 15' (required) to 6'3" to allow for construction of a SFD. Applicant seeks no other variances at this time.

V-16-223 278 Eureka Drive.

APPROVED

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to (1) reduce the required eastern side yard setback from 7 feet to 3 feet 6 inches to allow for 2<sup>nd</sup> story addition to an existing single-family dwelling.

V-16-231 3600 Ivy Road.

APPROVED

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to reduce the front yard setback from 50 feet to 35 feet and to reduce the north side yard setback from 10 feet to 3 feet for a garage addition to an existing single-family dwelling.

V-16-227 4120 McClatchey Circle.

APPROVED

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to reduce the required eastern side yard setback from 10 feet to 5 feet for an addition to an existing single-family dwelling.

V-16-211 2602 Acorn Avenue.

APPROVED

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to reduce the required south side yard setback from 7 feet to 3 feet 6 inches to allow for 2<sup>nd</sup> story addition to an existing single-family dwelling.

V-16-243 3062 Peachtree Drive.

APPROVED

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to reduce the north side yard setback from 7 feet to 1 foot for single-family addition.

LOR-16-001 128 & 130 Terrace Drive.

APPROVED

Applicant seeks to establish 2 separate lots recognized by the City of Atlanta, currently shown as 1 lot.

SD-16-020 590 Mountain Way.

APPROVED

Applicant seeks to create/subdivide 2 lots.

U-16-022 3905 Powers Ferry Road

APPROVED

Presentation from American Legion Post regarding planned facility improvement project.

**NPU-B action: A motion to adopt committee recommendations on the above-listed consent agenda passed by vote of 24-0-0.**

## **8. OLD BUSINESS**

Members need to pay dues if they haven't already. Emails will be sent to those who haven't paid yet.

## **9. NEW BUSINESS**

None

## **10. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next BZA meetings will be held October 6<sup>th</sup> and October 13<sup>th</sup> on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the City Hall Annex at noon.

The next ZRB meeting will be held October 6<sup>th</sup> and October 13<sup>th</sup> on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the City Hall Annex at 6 PM.

The next meeting NPU B meeting will be November 1, 2016.

## **11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:24 p.m.