

Minutes of NPU-B regular monthly meeting
Tuesday, May 7, 2019

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

Present: 22

Proxies: Mandi Gibson to Bryan Steed

* 1 member joined after the approval of the minutes.

1. OPENING REMARKS / CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

Welcome, mission of NPU-B, and introductory remarks

John Rousch with the Buckhead Reporter was in attendance.

Wes Lyle noted that he was retiring and Shawn Perez has been nominated to replace him.

NPU Team is moving to report directly to Tim Keane. Leah LeRou will serve as the immediate contact point. John McKinley has left the City as has Erica Pine. Daniel Vasquez is managing the information for us now.

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 22-0-0.

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

Atlanta Police Department (APD) Zone 2

Major Barry Shaw, Precinct Commander Zone 2, JBSshaw@atlantaga.gov ; 404-391-0081.

Sargent Krieger. Zone 2 is down 12% in crime. There are still crimes but the downward trend is good news. Bill Murray asked when the lane at Pharr Road and Peachtree Road would be reopened. Sargent Krieger noted that he thought it would be opened soon. Kim asked if the reduction was really due to shedding portions of the zone. Sargent Krieger noted that even some of the zones that were shed have reduced numbers. There was the question about cameras as a deterrent. He noted that they were a deterrent to crime. Randall asked about the different types of cameras and where they are located. The Atlanta Police Foundation handles the cameras. The private residents will occasionally turn over permission for private cameras to neighborhoods but sometimes they keep them private. There was a question about a noise complaint and Sargent Krieger will follow up with Randall.

Atlanta Fire Rescue Department (AFRD)

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

Chief out of Station 21. Fire Foundation is sponsoring a dinner at Station 21 for \$40 on July 6th with proceeds going toward mentoring camp for high school students called Camp Ignite as well

as for local stations. Camp Ignite is mentoring local youth to encourage them to enter the profession. All of the stations are checking fire hydrants to ensure they work. CJ noted a hydrant on Piedmont was opened for days. She noted that Watershed should respond and close those.

City of Atlanta Office of the Solicitor

Judge Sylvia J Lee; 404-932-5566, sjlee@atlantaga.gov

Sylvia Lee handles traffic issues, code violations, local violations, etc. for the City.

Fulton County District Attorney Community Prosecutor's Office

Nemone Nooks, Zone 2 Community Prosecutor (Nemone.Nooks@FultonCountyGA.gov, 404-964-5663)

Nemone is new as the Zone 2 Prosecutor. If you want, she can arrange for you to observe a court hearing to better understand the process. She distributed a survey to collect information on issues of concern.

Court Watch will be instituted with June 1st training class from 10am – 12:30pm at 141 Pryor Street. Someone from every neighborhood should attend. Online registration <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2019-annual-courtwatch-training-tickets-61597624152#>

City of Atlanta Citizen Review Board:

A representative from the Citizen Review Board explained that they handle cases when residents feel wronged by police actions. If you are treated disrespectfully, then it is important to report this issue. The review board is agreed to by both parties.

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

Major Matthew Carrier; mcarrier@itsmarta.com, 404-848-4813

No Report.

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

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

Denita noted that in June about 4,000 feet of main will be underway on Wicuea Road from June 2019 to November 2019. Denita had taken care of several issues for neighbors. She is the best!!!!

Lake Forrest along the golf course, the property owner was flooded. They were told that the City could not unclog any drain on the golf course. This was confusing. Denita will help get an answer.

Garden Hills Elementary has an area flooding onto the field. There is drainage that is not getting into the creek and causing problems. Denita will help get an answer.

Randall noted that someone was having trouble getting the water meter unburied. Denita can help.

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

www.atlantaGA.gov/iparcs

Jose Salazar, Manager, Peachtree Hills Recreation Center (PHRC), 308 Peachtree Hills Ave.
Jsalazar@AtlantaGA.gov or 404-295-3874 (cell).

Jose noted that May 24 is the last day of after school for this year and that summer camp registration at Peachtree Hills is full. There are other locations that still have availability for summer camp programs.

The parking lot is finally completed. There are still some small items to handle but the paving is done.

Department of Public Works

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

Verna Singleton, VSingleton@AtlantaGA.gov

Officer O (404-807-2610)

Sama 404-865-8621 samakoi@atlantaga.gov

Officer McLendon, amclendon@atlantaga.gov, 404-273-0865

Sama McKoi noted that on Dale Drive between Peachtree Drive and Grandview Drive there will be some underground utility construction work. They will start now and completed by the end of June. A notification was sent to local residents.

Bulk pickups are available upon request from 311. This does not include tires or demolition waste or construction equipment. Residents get up to 12 bulk pickups per year.

Email Samantha Kerry at snperry@atlantaga.gov to schedule a ride along from Tuesday through Thursday from 1 – 4pm.

Light at Acorn Avenue and E Wesley intersection was removed with an accident. The request was to replace the damaged light and trim the trees to make it more visible.

Storm knocked down signs at Oak Valley and Kingsboro and also Lake Valley and Kingsboro.

Traffic study for Lindbergh – Morosgo Way is still with GDOT. The crosswalk is extremely dangerous. They will revisit signage and other more intermediate solutions.

GDOT and the City is resuming monthly meetings again which should help facilitate.

Landscaping in the median and trash removal along Buford Highway and Lindbergh. More attention needs

East Wesley and Alpine investigation of 4-way stop. Trees need to be trimmed in order to be visible. Removed old signs and replaced with new signs in the same location.

Request to clean the pedestrian median on W Paces Ferry in front of the Atlanta History Center. The debris obscures the median and the yellow paint is either hidden behind dirt or been chipped off from so many cars striking the median.

Eroded fence on a property. The property is in disrepair. Homeless people in that area. There are concerns about this area. GDOT needs to repair their fence. This is on Lindberg under the I-85 underpass.

Officer Valerie Ferguson brought some flyers. Bulky yard waste pickups are scheduled using 311.

Code Enforcement Section, APD Community Services Division
CodesRequests@AtlantaGA.gov 404-546-3800 (call to report an issue)
jhbrown@atlantaga.gov; 404-546-3846 office; 404-557-2748 cell

Officer Vincent Jeter noted that if you see something you should say something. They dealt with 29 property maintenance cases and a few hazardous cases. Wes Lyle provided a folder with a construction site violation.

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

Tony Peters noted that he rejoined the CID and will attend the meetings regularly. Advertised for contractors for bids to fix some problematic ADA sidewalks and ramps using money from TSPLOST renew and CID money. There is approximately \$930k scheduled. The list of locations will be released after meeting with the selected contractor.

A RFQ was issued for a complete street project from Lenox Road. The CID has shortlisted three of seven firms and is awaiting technical proposals. The road will be cored first to determine how significant the fix is needed. The lighting is uncertain but will be intended to make the sidewalk more useable. There is more room on the mall side of the road. This is Phase I and there are subsequent phases. We have an opportunity to rethink this section of road.

Peachtree/Roswell/Habersham meeting on May 21st at Peachtree Presbyterian 2202 from 6 – 8pm, with a short presentation at 6:30pm. The City is working on a scoping document to give to GDOT to get the go ahead to move forward with making improvements to improve this triangle area.

Turn lane at Stratford Road and Peachtree Road is going to be moving forward. It has been a long time in coming. Georgia Power is working on the utility first. The developer building the apartments will also finish the turn lane. It should be operational by the end of June.

Peachtree Phase III to Shadowlawn will be let to construction in August 2019. There are several utilities that are in process and there are 4 easements to finish securing. There are a lot of stipulations with the ROW in order to keep business moving. There will be a focused effort to make the project less intrusive. The CID is the contractor and not GDOT. A timeline will be coming.

Jason Kendall noted that the Gordon Bynam Bridge Pedestrian lights didn't work. The reason why is that the bills to pay for the lights were not paid by GDOT. The hope is that the Buckhead CID will get GDOT to pay their bill and then the lights should refunction.

Wieuca Phipps Roundabout has been being "truthed" for that location. There was a public open house at Wieuca Baptist Church and people clapped at the end of the meeting. Several partners will work together to decide who will design the roundabout and bid it out. The goal is to bid the project before the end of 2020. Sally noted that the water line will be replaced before the road work is completed.

Path 400 between Miami Circle to Peachtree Park – Sally Silver with Livable Buckhead noted it should be finished by the end of October 2019. Livable Buckhead noted that the complete street is really a multi-use path that connects Lenox Road and Lenox Mall.

Park over 400 is still being surveyed and that is the update for now. There is a Park over GA 400 nonprofit that is leading the charge at the moment.

What is being planned on West Paces Ferry Road. They are apartments with retail on the bottom. The second phase includes apartments on Paces Ferry Place.

Buckhead Business Association

Garth Brooks

No Report.

Councilman Jennifer Ide, District 6

Lives in Morningside. Her District covers 4 NPUs. Ms. Ide chairs the Zoning Subcommittee. Lawyer by background with four daughters.

Councilman Ide noted that she was working on several of the issues that had been raised earlier in the meeting. The Office of Mobility is driving the Master Plan for transportation for the Lindbergh area. She noted that there have been discussions with some of the apartments to create a civic association. Nancy noted that there is strong NPU support for a civic association. CJ mentioned that Lance was very supportive and helpful.

Kim mentioned that there were a number of issues with the Planning and Zoning Department making mistakes in reviewing plans and then not correcting those mistakes. The NPU was encouraged to contact their Councilperson when there are issues.

Nancy noted that NPU B works very hard to achieve compromise. If we raise concerns about a project, it is very important in preserving our neighborhood's character and hopefully our recommendations will be treated as important. We are really trying to protect our neighborhoods.

Councilwoman Ide noted that APD is working on GDOT property to remove the homeless encampments on their property. She will remind them to go through the process to remove these encampments.

4. PRESENTATIONS

Darren Wood and others from Watershed Management were in attendance to present on the Wieuca Road update. The watermain between Phipps Boulevard and GA 400 will be replaced prior to the resurfacing. All of the existing services will be reconnected. There is also a

stormwater project in this location that will begin immediately follow the water line. Project will begin at the end of May near Path 400 heading south toward Phipps Plaza. There are 7 major connection points. Communication department and on-site personnel can handle. The new main will be in the road. The project will last about 6 months.

5. PLANNER'S REPORT

Jessica noted that Leah LeRue will be trying to come to each NPU. May 14th at 6:30 at the Atlanta Zoo will be the Design Award presentation.

6. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

APAB report was distributed via email.

A. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Bryan Steed, Vice-Chair

CVS Pharmacy #5731 / 3221 Peachtree Road NE / Change of Agent / APPROVED 8-0-0

Highland Bakery Buckhead / 3353 Peachtree Road / Change of Agent / APPROVED 8-0-0

Louisiana Bistreaux / 3312 Piedmont Road / New Business / APPROVED 8-0-0

Velvet Taco / 77 W Paces Ferry Road / New Business / APPROVED 8-0-0

Woody's Cheesesteaks / 45 Irby Avenue / New Business / APPROVED 8-0-0

Wingate Inn / 3600 Piedmont Road / New Business / APPROVED 8-0-0

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

NPU-B action: A motion to remove item V-19-073 from the consent agenda passed by a vote of 23-0-0.

V-19-073 464 Pine Street Drive NE

APPROVED

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to reduce the front yard setback from 35 feet to 17.5 feet for the construction of a new single-family home.

NPU-B action: A motion to deny variance V-19-073 with prejudice because it is an irregular lot due to the historic nature and pattern along Pine Street Drive in Garden Hills passed by vote of 23-0-0.

There was a good deal of discussion on this property. This property is in Historic Garden Hills on a corner lot where the homes are set back from Pine Street at least 35 feet or more. Originally, the applicant was told they needed a variance. After reviewing the project, the City determined that a variance was not needed because they are considering N Hills Drive to be the “front” even though the house traditionally and as proposed faces Pine Street. There was a discussion that the lot is actually an “irregular lot” because the historic pattern of development shows that Pine Street is the “front” of the house and therefore there should be a 35-foot variance off of Pine Street. Additionally, Garden Hills has a historic designation and the City’s Historic Expert has not had an opportunity to review the case. The NPU and neighborhood voted to show the strong opposition to this incorrect interpretation of the zoning rules by staff that violates one of the City’s goals of protecting the character of single-family residential neighborhoods.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Center for Civic Innovation update – deferred to next meeting

8. NEW BUSINESS

9. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Then next NPU meeting will be June 4, 2019.

The next BZA meetings will be held on May 9th, 2019 on the 2nd floor of the City Hall Annex at noon.

The next ZRB meeting will be held on May 9th, 2019 on the 2nd floor of the City Hall Annex at 6 PM.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 PM.