

**Minutes of NPU-B regular monthly meeting
Tuesday, March 2, 2021**

The meeting was called to order at 7:06 p.m. by Nancy Bliwise, NPU-B Chairperson.

****This meeting was held via Zoom****

Present: 19

Proxies: Jefferson McConkey to Mandi Gibson
Kristy Favalli to Kim Shorter
Jason Kendall to Shawn Perez
Rebecca King to Ben Howard

1. OPENING REMARKS / CHAIRPERSON’S COMMENTS

Welcome, mission of NPU-B, and introductory remarks. Dr. Bliwise.

John Ruch with the Buckhead Reporter was in attendance.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

NPU-B Action: A motion to approve the agenda of the NPU-B passed by vote of 19-0-0.

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

Atlanta Police Department (APD) Zone 2

Major Senzer, Commander Zone 2, asenzer@atlantaga.gov ; 404-624-0674.

Major Senzer attended on behalf of Zone 2. With the NBA playoff on the horizon, the zone has a security plan in place. Even though there will only be about 1,200 family members at the arena, the hotels have reported higher occupancy rates for this weekend to the Zone. The officers are working 12-hour shifts to cover the busy weekend. Other resources will be available to the Zones this weekend, if needed. The Zone 2 focus will be on the bar, club, lounge areas. There will also be a small license and permit team partnered with fire marshals to check clubs and issue warnings for violations, as needed.

License and permits visited some of the Pharr Road establishments last week. 309 Pharr Road was found in non-compliance and the owner was arrested for storing and selling alcohol without a state license as well as issued citations for fire safety and code enforcement violations. The license and permits department has been a great partner to Zone 2.

Property crime drives the crime statistics in Zone 2. The Zone 2 investigative team has partnered with Zone 5 and have done outstanding work and made significant arrests. The arrests have results in a drop in crime numbers, especially in the Buckhead Village Area.

A Board Member asked what the process was for a facility to re-open after they have been found in non-compliance. He also asked if non-compliance issues could be a justification for denial during a change of agent or change of owner request. Major Senzer noted that the issues do not follow the property, but rather they follow the owner. He also added that owners need to rent to responsible tenants.

Garden Hills representative George Heery offered to help Major Senzer get in touch with owners near Garden Hills, as needed.

Atlanta Fire Rescue Department (AFRD)

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

Captain Mitchell announced that Fire Chief Rodrick M Smith is Atlanta's new Fire Chief. There are 36 recruits going through the training program and the City is still taking applications atlantafirerescue.com. Station 21, 27, and 29 are on schedule for major repairs or renovations based on the strategic plan.

Station 21 responded to 649 incidences since the last NPU meeting. Most of calls were for EMS reasons, 27% were fire calls (fire alarms or fires), and 1% were HAZMAT calls. The Fire Department is partnering with Zone 2 to prepare for this weekend. COVID-19 cases are trending slightly downward and vaccinations are ongoing. Most of the fire fighters that are trained to assist with vaccinations, have been helping at Mercedes Benz stadium with vaccines. Remain vigilant and protect yourselves against COVID-19.

Safety tip of the day: Follow safety precautions related to power lines during inclement weather. Report all downed lines through 911 or directly to Georgia Power through their website, or both. Treat ALL lines on the ground as live wires.

A board member asked about underpasses and reports of grass fires under the underpasses. The question was whether these fires were from the homeless community trying to stay warm. Captain Mitchell reported that they had a call this afternoon where a homeless encampment started a fire under an underpass near a natural gas line.

Atlanta Office of the Solicitors

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

Hala Carey, Senior Assistant Solicitor, 404-658-6003, hcarey@atlantaga.gov

Ms. Carey noted that the solicitor's office is very busy. The courts are opened every day. Nothing new to report in terms of the APD training academy, but a report is expected in the next month.

If you get stopped for a traffic citation, you can take advantage of the diversion program. You can inquire by email to PTIT@atlantaga.gov.

Fulton County District Attorney Community Prosecutor's Office

Megan McCulloch, Zone 2 Community Prosecutor (megan.mcculloch@fultoncountyga.gov, 678-362-1855)

No Report.

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
Louis Sheppard, 404-546-1181, cell (770) 624-0793, lsheppard@atlantaga.gov

DWM Observes Fix A Leak Week - March 15-21, 2021 Fix A Leak Week is a time in March that is set aside to raise awareness about the how you can find and fix leaks inside and outside your home to save valuable resource in water and money. Here are some of the places leaks may be hiding around your home. • Toilets: Listen for running water and conduct a food coloring test. • Showerheads: Turn on and look for drips or stray sprays that can be stopped with tape. • Faucets: Listen for drips and turn on the tap to check for water going the wrong direction. • Water heater: Check beneath the tank for pooling water, rust, or other signs of leakage. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) offers video resources to help search and test for leaks around your home • WaterSense Bath Fix shows you dye test video on how to detect a toilet leak <https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=yT8FYDB43a0> • Concord General Services has a How to Replace your Faucet Aerator https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=fFQiIU_zJ5U&fea

Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) (404-546-6813)
www.atlantaGA.gov/iparcs

Erica Collins, Manager, Peachtree Hills Recreation Center (PHRC), 308 Peachtree Hills Ave.
eknox@atlantaga.gov

Mr. O'Kelvis noted that learning pods are still being offered at PHRC for those who have not returned to school. Only 5 students are accepted and there are 3 openings at present. Camp Best Friends (June 1 – July 30) with 15 slots are opening up with limitations per age group. There will be some virtual programming for those who cannot attend camp in person. Dinner will be served soon for those in need from 3 – 4pm on a to-go basis, hopefully starting next week. You can call the rec center to commit to be there to pickup food.

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

Officer J.Walker – 470-698-6976 or jawwalker@atlantaga.gov

Officer Lawrence from the SWEET team shared the change in the collection schedule that started February 15th. The City will be alternating weeks of recycling and yard trimmings while collecting solid waste every week. These changes are in response to COVID-19 challenges and

to keep everyone safe. Residents can put out extra recyclables during the recycling week if it is in a marked container.

Contact 311 to schedule bulk pickups for more than 20 yard bags, large lawn debris, furniture, or other bulky items.

This week is a recycling week. The alternating is expected to last about 90 days. Call 311 if you see any illegal dumping.

A board member noted there was illegal dumping of wood chips at GA400 and Mountain Way.

Atlanta Department of Transportation

Josh Rowan, jrowan@atlantaga.gov

No report.

Code Enforcement Section, APD Community Services Division

CodesRequests@AtlantaGA.gov 404-546-3800 (call to report an issue)

Officer Bowden, labowden@atlantaga.gov, (404) 387-4688

McCala tmculbreth@atlantaga.gov 470-585-8937.

Officer McCala reported on some previously identified properties:

- 3702 W Roxboro – a notice has gone out to the homeowners with a deadline to comply.
- 605 Darlington – parking on the grass a notice has gone out to the homeowner with a deadline to comply.
- 2359 Virginia Place - was evaluated and determined to clean and close.

If you have shrubs or trees hanging into the street, that is overbrush. The owner is responsible for trimming vegetation along streets even though it is the City's ROW land.

ATL311

Barbara Dougherty, Community Affairs Coordinator. 470-698-5171. bdougherty@atlantaga.gov

NaGena Hibbler shared that ATL311 is the Non-Emergency Call Center for City of Atlanta services and we are open Monday-Friday from 7am--7pm.

You can contact us by Dialing 3-1-1 inside city limits or (404)5461 inside city limits or (404)546-0311.

1. Visiting us online at www.ATL311.com

2. Emailing us at ATL311@atlantaga.gov

3. Downloading & reporting issues via our app by searching "ATL311" in your app store.

4. Sending us a message on Social Media. Just search "ATL311" on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Reddit, NextDoor, , SnapChat, and YouTube.

Additional Information: Sign up for COVID--related emergency notifications related emergency notifications by texting "ATLSTRONG" to 888777.

There is a blinking street light that is slowly dying at Acorn (near 2602 Acorn Avenue). Several 911 requests have been put in with no response. The board member wanted to know whether they were running behind. The issue was taken offline.

Buckhead Coalition

Jim Durrett

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

www.livablebuckhead.org

Buckhead Community Improvement District (CID)

www.buckheadcid.com

No Report.

If you know of any police officers looking to live in Buckhead, Livable Buckhead is offering an incentive of \$650 per month for them to do so.

5. COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

Councilwoman Felicia Moore

Councilwoman Moore noted that the Atlanta City Council President's office is always available as your resource at City Hall. We can be reached at fmoore@atlantaga.gov or 404-330-6052. You can also follow Councilwoman Moore on Social Media where she shares meeting notices and other items of interest. On Facebook, like my page: Felicia Moore – President, Atlanta City Council President. You can also follow her on Instagram, Twitter, and YouTube. Please stay safe and follow all COVID precautions.

Councilwoman Moore noted that the City is still accepting public comment by phone and the comments received are being played prior to the meetings. She asked everyone to remain engaged with City Hall.

Dr. Bliwise asked if the NPU summaries are given to the Council prior to the meetings. For example, the STR comments were provided to the City. Councilwoman Moore suggested emailing those summaries to each Council member as well as to NPU leadership. The STR Ordinance was referred back to committee for more discussion.

Dr. Bliwise noted that NPU-B has been very busy tracking the tree ordinance as well as the Atlanta Housing Design ordinances that are coming. NPU-B is very fact based and research based and wants to make sure that the goals will be achieved, and if the City engages in pilot projects they are treated as pilot projects. Dr. Bliwise hopes that Commissioner Keene will honor his word that he wants to protect the character of existing neighborhoods.

A board member asked related to the possible changes to single-family zoning whether the concern was City-wide or concentrated. Because the legislation has not been introduced, not everyone knows. No matter where in the City, most NPUs value the character of their neighborhoods. She does not feel that a "blanket approach" will be supported. The ADUs remove trees and she is not convinced that ADUs are going to achieve the goal of affordability.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

APAB report was distributed via email.

A. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Bryan Steed, Chair

The Fresh Market #84 / 4405 Roswell Road / Change of Agent / 10-0-0

La Bon Nosh Restaurant / 65 Irby Avenue NW / New Business / 11-0-0

Le Bon Nosh Wine Specialty Shop /65 Irby Avenue NW / New Business / 11-0-0

NPU-B action: A motion to approve the consent agenda passed by vote of 21-0-0.

B. DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION and SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Jason Kendall, Chair

Report was emailed.

There was a good meeting with neighborhood presidents and neighborhood representatives last week to begin to have conversations about the Atlanta City Design Housing proposals. It was primarily an awareness meeting. The plan is to hold monthly meetings to discuss. Because legislation has not been introduced, it is difficult to study the issues. It is good for NPU-B to be prepared and informed.

C. ZONING COMMITTEE

Bill Murray, Chair

V-21-018 3089 Habersham Way NW Approved based on Site Plan

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulations to (1) Reduce the required front yard setback from 60 feet to 45 feet for an addition, (2) Reduce the required east side yard setback from 15 feet to 10 feet for a garage addition, (3) Reduce the required west side yard setback from 15 feet to 10 feet for an addition, (4) reduce the rear yard setback from 30 feet to 23 feet for a swimming pool, (5) increase the number of retaining walls in the rear yard from two to four, and (6) increase the number of retaining walls in the west side yard from two to three.

V-21-015 3145 Towerview NE Approved based on Site Plan

Applicant seeks a special exception from the zoning regulation to: allow for active recreation in a yard adjacent to a street in order to construct an in-ground swimming pool/spa accessory to an existing single-family detached dwelling.

V-21-028 626 Darlington Road NE Approved based on Site Plan

Applicant seeks a variance to reduce the west side yard setback from 7 feet to 5 feet for an addition to an existing single family dwelling.

NPU-B action: A motion to approve the consent agenda passed by vote of 16-0-0.

Non-Consent Agenda:

Z-21-003 69 Delmont Drive NE
Z-21-007 3330 Piedmont Road NE
V-20-154 820 Haven Oaks Court NE
Z-20-83 1 Emma Lane NE
V-21-006 611 East Paces Ferry Road NE

7. PLANNERS REPORT

Jessica noted that NPU University will have 3 classes in March.
www.npuatlanta.org/npuucatalog or call 404.546.0158 is the website to register.

Design Awards 2021 nominations are being accepted and applications are due on March 10, 2021.

The Tree Ordinance is available online and there was one work session but there will be another.

An update to the Impact Fee Ordinance was updated and will be phased in during the Fall. This is an important source of funding for the City and reflects a lot of effort by the Planning Department.

A board member asked what the revenue impact will be from the impact fee. There was a study that compared Atlanta to Alpharetta and Sandy Springs. The impact fee will increase from \$1500 to \$4000 but will still be less than some neighboring Cities. Here is the link to the Impact Fee page- <https://www.atlantaga.gov/government/departments/city-planning/2020-impact-fee-update>

The Tree Ordinance will be presented in the public meeting that describes the revisions and how comments from different groups were integrated.

Dr. Bliwise asked why in the Tree Ordinance there is a reference to small, medium, and large lots instead of R1, R2, R3, etc. Councilwoman Moore noted that part of the nomenclature is to address the variability of lots in zoning categories. For example, an R2 lot could be the minimum dimensions but it could also be significantly larger. The designation allows stricter standards for lots.

Dr. Bliwise commented that the fines are so low that they are not a disincentive. There was a comment that it was considered a misdemeanor and therefore the state legislation limits the fines. One member suggested that in addition to fines, that the ordinance require the owners and tree companies to attend tree school for a half day on a Saturday, or do volunteer hours for the City or Trees Atlanta, or extend the stop work order period (as construction loans are expensive), or all of these.

One board member noted that mature trees need to be replaced with large trees. He also noted that we need to make sure that the trees are not all the same age but a diversity of size and age.

Ms. Williams noted an NPR report that described the true loss of trees.

For more information about NPU University courses, visit www.npuatlanta.org/npuucatalog or call 404.546.0158.

To report unpermitted construction activity, email CodeBustersDCP@atlantaga.gov or call 404.865.8550. For more information

<https://www.atlantaga.gov/Home/Components/News/News/13482/1338>

For information on the 2021 design awards bit.ly/UDCawards

For public hearings or other departmental information visit

<https://www.atlantaga.gov/government/departments/city-planning>

Follow NPU voting activity on the NPU Dashboard: <https://www.npuatlanta.org/npu-dashboard>

For info on the CDP, visit www.atlcitydesign.com/comprehensive-development-plan

For information on the tree ordinance visit Tree Protection Ordinance

To stay informed, follow us on social media @npuatlanta

8. MATTERS FOR VOTING (above)

None.

9. PRESENTATIONS

None.

10. OLD BUSINESS

The chairs and vice-chairs for the committees are as follows:

Zoning

Bill Murray – Chair

Jefferson McConkey – Vice-Chair

Public Safety

Bryan Steed – Chair

TBD – Vice-Chair

D&T

Jason Kendall – Chair

Abbie Shephard – Vice-Chair

11. NEW BUSINESS

Ben Howard, Treasurer, noted that the NPU needs to vote on dues. Historically sole proprietors have only paid \$30 and others have paid \$60. The recommendation was that all members have an equal voice and vote, and therefore the recommendation was to have \$60 dues for all members.

NPU-B action: A motion to change NPU-B dues to \$60 per member passed by vote of 21-0-0.

Dues Payments can be sent to:

Ben Howard
2855 Peachtree Rd NE
Apt 201
Atlanta, GA 30305

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next NPU-B meeting will be April 6, 2021.

The next BZA meetings are posted on their website and are March 4 and March 11 at noon.

The next ZRB meetings are posted on their website and are March 4 and March 11 at 6pm.

13. ADJOURNMENT

NPU-B action: A motion to adjourn passed by vote of 16-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 PM