

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

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

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

Present: 15 present

Proxies: Rebecca King to Ben Howard  
Bill Murray to Jefferson McConkey  
Jason Kendall to Kim Shorter

**1. OPENING REMARKS / CHAIRPERSON’S COMMENTS**

Dr. Bliwise welcomed everyone. She asked if any new members were participating in the meeting. There were no new board members. Dr. Bliwise noted that the goal was an efficient meeting so that we could all cheer on the Braves.

There were no media in attendance.

Taylor Hollis with Peachtree Hills introduced himself as the recently appointed representative. Taylor will listen at the meeting until he can formally be recognized as the representative.

Initially, there were not enough people in attendance to establish a quorum; however, just as Dr. Bliwise was going to call for committee reports a quorum was achieved.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**NPU-B Action: A motion to approve the minutes from the previous regular monthly meeting (October) of the NPU-B passed by vote of 17-0-0.**

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**NPU-B Action: A motion to approve the agenda of the NPU-B passed by vote of 17-0-0.**

**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](mailto:asenzer@atlantaga.gov) ; 404-624-0674.

Captain Mitchell noted that Sydney Marcus/Piedmont corridor seems to be a hot spot in Zone 2 for car break-ins. The two robberies at Lenox in the last month were not stranger-on-stranger incidents; the investigations indicate that the incidents were planned meetings for illegal activities. The 4-man bike crew is working to address the quality-of-life issues in the Sydney Marcus/Piedmont corridor and partnered with a 2-man MARTA crew. The quality-of-life arrests

have doubled this month as a direct result of these patrols. Resources are being invested to improve conditions in this area.

APD is working with the Buckhead Coalition and the Buckhead CID, who have invested in extra patrols around the malls. These additional officers are also helping with the water boys in evenings and weekends. The malls have also increased security. Captain Mitchell reported that the private partnerships and the specialized units have been helpful in supporting Zone 2. Captain Mitchell noted that crime is trending in the right direction and the trends are a testament to the hard work of Zone 2 officers and the partner organizations.

A board member expressed frustration about illegal tree cutting on weekends. Calling 911 doesn't seem like a good use of limited 911 and APD resources. The board member encouraged an on-call code enforcement officer or an on-call arborist to address these illegal weekend cuttings.

A board member asked about people sitting in their cars at Lenox Mall. Captain Mitchell noted that the private mall security needs to deal with that issue. If someone refuses to leave when requested, then it becomes criminal trespass and off-duty officers or APD can get involved.

Atlanta Fire Rescue Department (AFRD)

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

No Report.

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 updated the Board on the October 14-15<sup>th</sup> Driving Under the Influence (DUI training). Ms. Carey gave special thanks to Jefferson McConkey and Shawn Perez for helping at the training. Also, a special thanks was given to Henri's and DaVinci Donuts for the tasty food. Ms. Carey reported that it was a good event filled with information.

Hala Carey  
Senior Assistant Solicitor,  
DUI Division, City of Atlanta Municipal Court  
Lead Community Prosecutor,  
for Zone 2 and NPU-B  
150 Garnett Street, 3rd floor  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
hcarey@atlantaga.gov

For Traffic Diversion Inquiries  
Please email 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](http://www.itsmarta.com)  
Major Matthew Carrier; [mcarrier@itsmarta.com](mailto:mcarrier@itsmarta.com), 404-848-4813

No Report.

Department of Watershed Management (DWM) (404-982-1480) [www.atlantawatershed.org](http://www.atlantawatershed.org)  
Louis Sheppard, 404-546-1181, cell (770) 624-0793, [lsheppard@atlantaga.gov](mailto:lsheppard@atlantaga.gov)

Louis reminded everyone that while you are cooking over the holidays, remember to dispose of your fats, oils, and greases properly. Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) should be placed into a container and thrown in the trash. They can cause backups if they go down the drain.

With leaves falling from the trees, please bag your leaves and do not blow them into the stormdrains as it could clog the pipe system and cause floods.

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

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

Tara Buckner is an Urban Planner for the Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and will present information regarding Activate ATL. The department has been working on this high-level master plan for the last year and a half. The plan included an inventory of existing conditions at each park and considered other citywide plans such as the Comprehensive Land Use Plan. There was a very robust public education effort that included: 16 virtual meetings, visual preference surveys, 57 focus groups, online survey results, lawn sign, postcards and more. The “Happy Feet” app was used and is still available. In all, 10,000 pieces of information were considered in the planning process. The plan will help the department get to where it wants to be in 10 years.

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)

Sama 404-865-8621 [samakoi@atlantaga.gov](mailto:samakoi@atlantaga.gov)

Officer McLendon, [amclendon@atlantaga.gov](mailto:amclendon@atlantaga.gov), 404-273-0865

Officer J. Walker – 470-698-6976 or [jawwalker@atlantaga.gov](mailto:jawwalker@atlantaga.gov)

J Walker DPW S.W.E.E.T OFFICER - 4706989673 - [jawwalker@atlantaga.gov](mailto:jawwalker@atlantaga.gov)

Officer Walker noted that pickup will happen on Veterans Day and the private contractors are supporting the department to catch up with the backlog of yard waste.

Kim provided a brief summary of the NPU Chairs meeting held by Commissioner Wiggins and some of the issues and the plan forward to address delays in service.

Atlanta Department of Transportation

Josh Rowan, [jrowan@atlantaga.gov](mailto:jrowan@atlantaga.gov)

No report.

Code Enforcement Section, APD Community Services Division  
[CodesRequests@AtlantaGA.gov](mailto:CodesRequests@AtlantaGA.gov) 404-546-3800 (call to report an issue)

Willy Grayer  
[wgrayer@atlantaga.gov](mailto:wgrayer@atlantaga.gov).  
Cell: 404-387-4688 cell

Sandra Edwards for Officer Grayer presented the quarterly statistics. A board member asked for a follow up on a complicated case where a resident needed a sidewalk. A road closure permit is needed for the complicated work to address the issue. The permit and background elements are in progress. This is a project that Officer Grayer was working with John Bagwell. Dr. Bliwise asked for regular updates on the progress as this issue has been ongoing for years and needs to stay on track and be resolved.

ATL311  
Barbara Dougherty, Community Affairs Coordinator. 470-698-5171. [bdougherty@atlantaga.gov](mailto:bdougherty@atlantaga.gov)

Joy noted that the email address for PAD has changed. Information on PAD was posted in the chat.

Buckhead Coalition  
Jim Durrett

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)

Michelle Simard introduced Don Moreland from Solar Crowd Source. This is a group purchasing program that makes purchasing solar panels less expensive. Livable Buckhead wanted to provide the information to Buckhead, so that we can continue to lead the way in being Green. The program is like a co-op, the more people participate in purchasing, the greater the savings. The “group” is the City of Atlanta. The City set an ambitious goal of 100% clean energy by 2035. Creative Solar is the installation partner. Solarizeatl.com to find more information.

## **5. COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS**

None

## **6. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Bryan Steed, Chair

Velvet Taco / 77 West Pace Ferry Road / Change of Agent / 5-0-0

**NPU-B action: A motion to approve the consent agenda passed by vote of 17-0-0.**

Spice House / 2591 Piedmont Road / New Application – Old Location / 5-0-0

The part owner and an associate presented an overview of the restaurant. There are several Spice Houses in metro Atlanta area. Parking will be at the retail deck. There have been no liquor license issues at any of the other locations. There were several questions about plans for safety as there have been shootings in the area. There are several officers/safety personnel who will be stationed to keep patrons safe. There are board members concerned about the hookah component of the establishment as this has been an attractant to crime in the neighborhood. This is an upscale and professional establishment, and they take great pride in their safety. Dr. Bliwise recommended forming good relationships with the neighborhood association and working on collaborative efforts to improve public safety. A board member noted that the security is good but asked whether the security was needed for crowd control. The applicant responded that the security is not for crowd control but rather to keep patrons safe.

**NPU-B action: A motion to approve the consent agenda passed by vote of 17-1-1.**

Knife Kitchen & Cocktails / 3162 Piedmont Road NE / New Business / 8-2-0

The neighborhood requested several documents to review, and the neighborhood needed more time to review the updated application. Traffic is one of the main concerns. The neighborhood is opposed without more time to review the application.

The business wants to be a good neighbor and be in the neighborhood for a long time. The business feels that they have provided the information to the neighborhood that addresses the concerns but will defer to allow time to work with the neighborhood.

**B. DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION and SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE**

Jason Kendall, Chair

No Report.

**C. ZONING COMMITTEE**

Bill Murray, Chair

V-21-274      20 Cherokee Road NE      approved with conditions 8-0-0  
Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulations to increase the maximum lot coverage from 35 percent to 40.9 percent in order to construct an in-ground swimming pool (active recreation) and miscellaneous site improvements (driveway alternations).

\*Note the owner is replacing existing impervious area. The condition is that all of the replaced impervious area will be treated with stormwater management in compliance with City Ordinances.

Z-21-088 Historic Designation of the Smith Farm approved 8-0-0  
An Ordinance by Zoning Committee designating The Smith Farm, located at 130 West Paces Ferry Road, NE, Land Lot 99 of the 17<sup>th</sup> District of Fulton County, Georgia and certain real property on which it is located, to the overlay zoning designation of Landmark Building/ Site (LSB) Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Atlanta and Rezoning from R-3 (Single Family Residential) to R-3/LBS (Single Family Residential / Landmark Building / Site); to repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

**NPU-B action: A motion to approve the consent agenda passed by vote of 17-0-0.**

Z-21-076 314 West Wieuca Road NE approved 7-1-0

Applicant seeks to rezone the property from the R-L-C-C (Residential with limited commercial, maximum floor area ratio of .348 conditional), R-4 (Single-family residential, minimum lot size .21 acres) zoning designations to the PD-H (planned housing development (single-family or multi-family)) zoning designation for the consolidation of 4 lots for the construction of 11 new single-family houses and new future 4-acre park.

The applicant presented the plan to combine 4 lots to create a single parcel that is zoned PDH. There were 11 houses on the site plan but due to comments at previous meetings, the number of houses has been reduced from 11 houses to 10 houses and some additional parking spaces were added. The applicant is working with a civil engineer to look at stormwater issues. The fire department and DOT are happy with the road alignment.

There were two (2) conditions asked for by the neighborhood. The first condition was that the property would be deeded to a conservation trust organization. The second condition was the Hydrology Report will be submitted to NPU-B when it is submitted to the City.

The applicant had issues with the first condition as it was worded. There was a great deal of discussion regarding how to resolve the issues. The applicant deferred to allow for time to resolve issues with the neighborhood.

V-21-219 115 Laurel Drive NE No show

## **7. PLANNERS REPORT**

Krishanna Newton presented the planners report. Planners thanked the NPUs for the input through the CDP process that resulted in the Adopted Final CDP.

NPU university will offer parliamentary procedures on November 16<sup>th</sup> at 6pm that discusses the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of serving on the NPU. It will be presented on Facebook live.

Public process for the zoning rewrite is starting tomorrow, on November 3<sup>rd</sup>. There will be a series of virtual meetings to allow for input in the process. Register for the Idea Lab to attend the

meeting tomorrow. A board member thanked the City for changing the meeting date from election night and hopes future meetings will avoid NPU meeting dates and other important dates.

## **8. MATTERS FOR VOTING (above)**

## **9. PRESENTATIONS**

## **10. OLD BUSINESS**

Nancy reported that NPU B has already voted on the Farokhi legislations. NPU-B has been working with other NPUs to provide comments and concerns Within the NPU system, 18 voted against, 6 voted to approve, and 1 voted to defer. The Ordinance goes to ZRB this Thursday. The NPU collective is planning the slate of NPU presenters to speak in opposition to the Ordinance. A huge amount of work has gone into reviewing the CDP, talking to neighbors, drilling into the details, and we need to see this effort through to completion. Neighbors should participate in the meeting, although there will not be an opportunity to talk.

## **11. NEW BUSINESS**

It is time for officer elections. Chair and Vice-Chair are 2-year terms and the other positions are 1-year terms. Kim has noted that she would like to allow an opportunity for others to step up. Ben is moving out of NPU-B and will not serve next year.

Business representative elections are coming up. The slate of officers has been forwarded. There will likely be business representative openings to be filled after the election.

**NPU-B action: A motion to approve the Business Representative slate passed by vote of 16-0-0.**

## **12. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next NPU-B meeting will be December 7, 2021.

The next BZA meetings are posted on their website and are November 4<sup>th</sup> and November 18<sup>th</sup> at noon.

The next ZRB meetings are posted on their website and are November 4<sup>th</sup> and November 18<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

**NPU-B action: A motion to adjourn passed by vote of 21-0-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47 PM.