



## **NPU-B Monthly Full Board Meeting Minutes July 2023**

**Date:** July 11, 2023

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 PM by Rebecca King, NPU-B Chairperson.

**Present:** 14 present; 3 proxies (\*additional board members joined after meeting called to order)

**Officers Present:** Rebecca King, Bill Murray, Kim Shorter

**Proxies:** Mandi Gibson to Kim Shorter, Shawn Perez to Bill Murray, Jason Kendall to Kim Shorter

### **1. OPENING REMARKS / CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS**

Ms. King welcomed everyone. No media present.

With great sadness, Ms. King recognized the tragic passing of George Heery who was a dedicated member of NPU-B and Garden Hills. There will be a time at the end of the meeting for reflections for those available to participate.

Ms. King, Dr. Bliwise, and Ms. Shorter attended a meeting with the Buckhead Council of Neighborhoods and the Buckhead Coalition to discuss opportunities to collaborate on mutual city issues of concern.

### **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**NPU-B Action: A motion by Bill Murray to approve the June 2023 minutes passed by a vote of 21-0-1.**

### **3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**NPU-B Action: A motion by Bill Murray to approve the July 2023 agenda passed by a vote of 22-0-0.**

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

Atlanta Police Department (APD)

Major Ailen Mitchell, Zone 2 Commander, 404-323-1386, [aamitchell@atlantaga.gov](mailto:aamitchell@atlantaga.gov)

Captain Ben Vayens, Zone 2 Assistant Commander, 404-323-6344, [bvayens@atlantaga.gov](mailto:bvayens@atlantaga.gov)



Lieutenant Walls, Bike Patrol, 404-823-3771, [kwalls@atlantaga.gov](mailto:kwalls@atlantaga.gov)  
Lieutenant Allison Leduc, [arleduc@atlantaga.gov](mailto:arleduc@atlantaga.gov)  
Maple Drive Precinct, 404-848-7231  
Buckhead Village Precinct, 404-546-5486  
Lenox Mall Precinct, 404-467-8061  
Non-Emergency 911, 404-658-6666

Captain Ben Vayens reported that the Peachtree Road Race was a success including the portions through NPU B. He reported that YTD, roughly 40% of crime in Zone 2 are vehicle break ins. There are no patterns; however, some vehicles had items in plain view and/or the doors were unlocked. The target of car break ins is firearms. There have been 1000 firearms stolen from cars this year. The clean car campaign reminds owners to keep items out of cars and out of view. Zone 2 crime is down by 1% YTD.

Captain Vayens noted that Kia and Hyundai owners should go by the precinct as clubs have been donated to reduce the auto theft of these vehicles. These clubs are available for free at the precinct.

Major Mitchell is attending a senior leadership course and Captain Vayens is ready to assist while he is training.

A board member asked for an update on the follow up on the hold up of the dinner guest in the driveway in the Atlanta portion of Historic Brookhaven. Major Mitchell will follow up. There was a concern with lack of responsiveness from the city. Captain Vayens will follow up.

A board member asked about the shooting Memorial Day at Lindbergh and Medina. There has not been any additional report. Homicide is still working that case looking at cell tower records. The Buford Highway and Lenox case is also under investigation. There are similar suspects in these cases. These cases are active.

There was a question about how many stolen firearms were recovered. Captain Vayens will look into that number, it is difficult to calculate.

There was a concern about a property on North Fulton Drive open late at night with lights and activities with no known permit. That establishment does not have a license or permit so APD is developing a plan to shut that site down.

There have been noise complaints for Habitat. Citations have been issued and paid and the concern was that there was nothing more the neighborhood could do. Captain Vayens explained that the issue will escalate and they will be sent to jail if they continue.

Near the Lenox area, there have been reports of individuals checking doors and using a tool to unlock side doors. Captain Vayens has not heard about that issue. There were a few burglaries on Northside Drive where the back doors were left open, but he will research to confirm.

A board member asked about vandalism to police equipment in response to the new police training center. The question was whether that has happened in Zone 2. Captain Vayens shared that vandalism has impacted Zone 3 and 6 but has not made its way to Zone 2. There are extra protections for officer personal vehicles as well as police vehicles in Zone 2 as a precaution.



A board member reported that National Night Out is August 1<sup>st</sup> and our meeting will be deferred to the following Tuesday, August 8<sup>th</sup> so that all neighborhoods can celebrate.

Evening watch responded to a burglary on Karland Drive and the suspect was caught. No criminal history in Georgia, but a long history in Florida. There was also a vehicle break in at Piedmont and four individuals were apprehended. The officers are working hard to prevent crimes and arrest criminals.

Atlanta Fire Rescue Department (AFRD)

Main 404-546-4400, Station 21 404-546-4421

Captain Rae Manion

Battalion Chief Ken Mitchell, Battalion 6

Captain Carter, Station 21

Claudie Nash 404-546-7000, 404-392-0040 cell, [cnash@atlantaga.gov](mailto:cnash@atlantaga.gov)

No report.

Atlanta Office of the Solicitors

Judge Sylvia J Lee, 404-932-5566, [sjlee@atlantaga.gov](mailto:sjlee@atlantaga.gov)

Hala Carey, Senior Assistant Solicitor, 404-658-6003, [hcarey@atlantaga.gov](mailto:hcarey@atlantaga.gov)

150 Garnett Street, 3rd floor 30303

Traffic Diversion inquiries: [ptit@atlantaga.gov](mailto:ptit@atlantaga.gov)

Ms. Carey noted the City Council budget included funds for the Solicitors Office to hire additional investigators to help with Code Enforcement. Ms. Carey explained that commercial harassment to sell a property below value can be reported as harassment.

Senior Safety event on July 7 for Zones 1 and 5 was successful. The next event for Zone 2 will be April 12, 2024 to be a lunch and learn format. The office is working on a Young Adult Driver Safety course for the local public schools that will include driving as well as micro transportation devices with a focus on reducing serious and fatal accidents. There are plans to offer campus safety events at several college campuses. National Night Out will be celebrated on August 1<sup>st</sup>. DUI enforcement training for Zone 2 is scheduled for October 10 – 11<sup>th</sup>.

Fulton County District Attorney

No report.

MARTA Police Department (MPD)

North Precinct 404-848-3902, [itsmarta.com](http://itsmarta.com)

Major Britt, 404-427-6047, [cbritt@itsmarta.com](mailto:cbritt@itsmarta.com)

No report.

Department of Watershed Management (DWM)



404-982-1480, [atlantawatershed.org](http://atlantawatershed.org)

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

No report.

Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

O'Kelvis Hambrick, Interim Facilities Manager, 678-815-3653, [okhambrick@atlantaga.gov](mailto:okhambrick@atlantaga.gov)

Peachtree Hills Recreation Center (PHRC), 404-237-2756, 308 Peachtree Hills Ave

No report.

Department of Public Works

Officer V. Ferguson, 678-221-8215, [vferguson@atlantaga.gov](mailto:vferguson@atlantaga.gov)

SWEET Officer Ebony Jefferson, 470-304-6757, [edjefferson@atlantaga.gov](mailto:edjefferson@atlantaga.gov)

Officer Pete Francis, 404-938-1183, [pfrancis@atlantaga.gov](mailto:pfrancis@atlantaga.gov)

Officer Francis noted that this month there were several concerns reported online that were not specific enough to allow follow-up. Please include cross street if not specific address along with the specific complaint. This allows the officer the information needed for enforcement.

Board members asked when weekly yard waste pick-ups will return. The approved solid waste rates include weekly yard waste service and now that COVID is over, residents expect to see weekly service resume. The board member noted that she would text Commissioner Wiggins.

A board member noted that on Mountain Way between Wieuca and North Ivy services were not performed due to construction but that construction had ended.

There was a question about whether a business filed for bankruptcy and would still be required to clean the area. Officer Francis noted that they need to appear in court and if they don't remedy the situation, then the city can clean the property and file a lien on the property.

Code Enforcement Section, APD Community Services Division

[CodesRequests@AtlantaGA.gov](mailto:CodesRequests@AtlantaGA.gov), Report issues: 404-546-3800

Officer Joseph Young, [jeyoung@atlantaga.gov](mailto:jeyoung@atlantaga.gov), 470-694-1236

Supervisor Kanzada Wimberly, 404-546-3868 or 404-416-5781

Officer Young noted that there are no new cases at 2900 Lenox or 119 Pharr, which is good news. They are at a point where ownership has a good grasp of what is expected and are putting forward an effort to comply.

There are a few cases on Wieuca and more to come. The Rosati's case was closed because the property was secured. However, the property is getting unsightly and so a new case is coming. That intersection has some dumpster facility issues that are also in progress.

Please report code violations to 3-1-1 and contact Officer Young directly if possible so he can address it faster.

A board member noted concerns with tree pre-clearings before construction. Tree challenges are for the arborist division and not code enforcement. The only time code enforcement interacts with trees is if they are downed and considered yard debris.

There is an issue at 321 Pharr Road. It appears a person was grilling in front of a business that was shut down. Officer Young will take a look at the property.

A board member asked about 4326 Wieuca, which is an abandoned subdivision. Officer Young noted that the portable toilet was removed from the property. There is still a dangerous situation at the location to be addressed.

### ATL311

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

Ms. Spruill reminds everyone to call 3-1-1 for everything from potholes to traffic lights to missed trash pick-up to code violations to mental health issues. Dial 3-1-1 inside city limits or call 404-546-0311, visit and chat at [atl311.com](http://atl311.com) or email [atl311@atlantaga.gov](mailto:atl311@atlantaga.gov). Sign up for City of Atlanta emergency alerts by texting NOTIFYATL to 888777.

There was a question about the steel plates on Habersham at Roswell Road covering the recent private road work. The plates had slid leaving a dangerous gap. The 311 app didn't show the plate which made it difficult to report the plate being off-centered. While the app is great, there aren't always easy to use drop down menus. Ms. Spruill noted that if the drop-down menu did not allow for logging the issue, then calling 311 may be the best option.

There is a clogged stormdrain at Sunnybrook Park that needs to be cleaned.

### Buckhead Coalition / Livable Buckhead / Buckhead Community Improvement District (CID)

Jim Durrett, Buckhead Coalition President, [thebuckheadcoalition.com/](http://thebuckheadcoalition.com/)  
Denise Starling, Livable Buckhead Executive Director, [livablebuckhead.org](http://livablebuckhead.org)  
Tony Peters, BCID Director of Capital Projects and Programs, [buckheadcid.com](http://buckheadcid.com)

No report.

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

District 6, Alex Wan; District 7, Howard Shook; District 8, Mary Norwood  
Jordan Kemp, Legislation Liaison & Community Engagement Manager for City Council President  
Doug Shipman, 470-650-8970, [jkemp@atlantaga.gov](mailto:jkemp@atlantaga.gov)  
Jodi Merriday, Community Engagement Program Director for the Executive Office/Ombudsman of Neighborhoods, 470-316-2382, [jmerriday@atlantaga.gov](mailto:jmerriday@atlantaga.gov)  
Nandi Jacobs, intern in the Chief Policy Office, Office of Ombudsman, Dr. Jodi Merriday. email: [eo-najacobs@atlantaga.gov](mailto:eo-najacobs@atlantaga.gov) phone: 678-322-7235  
Kennedie McClung, Chief of Staff for State Representative Stacey Evans, District 57, [kennedie@staceyevans.com](mailto:kennedie@staceyevans.com)

Denise Starling, Livable Buckhead

Denise thanked NPU-B for the support on the Shelter to Sculpture Grant Project. The proposal includes repurposing unused MARTA bus structures into sculptures on PATH 400. The art will be done by a wide range of artists from students to professionals with a mentor supporting the emerging artist. NPU B wrote a letter of support based on an email vote of the Executive Committee after the last meeting.

Denise also reported that Mountain Way will be closed for the remainder of the year for continued construction of Path 400.

Party on the Path will be on that will celebrate the Miami Circle Arts District and Path 400. That will be presented for approval next month.

## 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

APAB Report was distributed by email on Tuesday, 7/11 at 2:54 PM by Richard Rauh.

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

Bryan Steed, Chair; Denise Starling, Vice Chair

Brush Sushi / 3035 Peachtree Road / Approved  
Change of ownership. The committee voted 8-0-1 to approve.

**NPU-B action: A motion by Kim Shorter to approve the consent agenda passed by a vote of 20-0-1.**

French Market Atlanta / 3035 Peachtree Road  
Special event

The event will be a French market festival that is family and kid friendly on Saturday, September 9<sup>th</sup> from noon to 8pm at the Buckhead Village. There will be music and a kid's corner. It will be throughout with parking in the parking lots and a high concentration in front of the library. Two off-duty APD officers will be there to improve traffic flow and protect the public in addition to Buckhead Village security. There will be 2 valets to assist with parking. A board member at Buckhead Commons noted that festivals in the empty lot have created issues with parking. Can the shopping center get signs to note that Buckhead Commons is not for festival parking.

**NPU-B action: A motion by Kim Shorter to approve the French Market Atlanta event passed by a vote of 22-0-1.**

Apres Ski at Buckhead Village / Buckhead Avenue  
Special event.

Fun holiday series every Saturday from Thanksgiving to December 17<sup>th</sup>. Setup will be Friday night after traffic is died down and remove on Sunday morning. This is a holiday celebration. There was a question about closing North Fulton for portable toilets. There are multiple public restrooms in Buckhead Village, therefore no portables are planned. The Buckhead Village officers (APD and Allied) will oversee the safety of this event.

**NPU-B action: A motion by Kim Shorter to approve the Apres Ski at Buckhead Village event passed by a vote of 23-0-1.**

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

Jason Kendall, Chair; Abbie Shepherd, Vice Chair

Kim Shorter summarized the report emailed by Jason Kendall. A developer approached D&T about allowing a special exception to the SPI code to allow for the modification of unused office space for storage units.

The D&T committee offered some recommendations, including:

- Limit to the amount of building square footage that is allowed for storage (i.e., less than 50%)
- Building needs to appear to be actively used (i.e., not dark 24/7).
- Main floor must remain open to public access and use.
- Hours of operation need to be limited (i.e., not 24/7)

The comments match the SPI code and allow for public access.

After receiving the comments, the applicant requested a follow-up meeting. Jason will forward a link to the next D&T committee to the entire board so that other interested board members can participate in addition to D&T committee members.

**C. ZONING COMMITTEE**

Kim Shorter, Chair; Vacant, Vice Chair

V-23-89 / 2900 North Hills Drive / The committee approved 8-0-0, conditioned on the site plan. Applicant seeks a variance to reduce the required east side yard setback from 7 feet to 3 feet.

U-23-13 / 54 Pharr Road / The committee approved 7-0-0/  
Applicant seeks a special use permit to operate a church.

**NPU-B action: A motion by Kim Shorter to approve the consent agenda passed by a vote of 23-0-0.**

V-23-57 / 341 Meadowbrook Drive

Applicant seeks 1) a special exception to place recreational pool adjacent to the street and 2) Applicant seeks a special exception to increase the height of privacy fence in half-depth front yard from 4 feet to 5 feet.

**NPU-B action: A motion by Bill Murray to approve V-23-057 passed by a vote of 21-1-0.**

V-23-90 / 2256 Fairhaven Circle /



Applicant seeks a variance to 1) reduce the front yard setback from 35' to 17' and 2) reduce the southern side yard setback from 7' to 2.9' for construction of additions to an existing single-family dwelling.

**NPU-B action: A motion by Kim Shorter to deny the consent agenda passed by a vote of 21-0-0.**

The applicant has not attended either the NPU B Zoning Committee Meeting or the NPU Board Meeting in order for an informed vote. If the applicant defers from the July 13 ZRB meeting, the NPU B Zoning committee would welcome participation at the July 25<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Comment Only:**

V-23-85 / 2535 Chantilly Drive / Comment only (NPU-F)

Applicant seeks a variance to increase the sign height from 35 feet to 45 feet.

- Pine Hills did not have any comments.

SAP-12-108 4062 Peachtree Road

SAP's are for comment only. The zoning subcommittee heard the application and did not have any comments. Buckhead Forest is still reviewing the application. Denise Starling noted that there were some comments from the SPI review.

**Deferred:**

V-23-082 4605 Angelo Drive NE

U-23-007 3804 Roswell Road NE

Robert Patterson noted that there is a carwash proposed in North Buckhead on Wieuca Road near Roswell Road. Robert asked if any members had ideas for stopping the conversion of a laundry facility into a car wash. Bill Murray noted that there had been a carwash presented to NPU B in the past that was denied. The discussion was that the site is zoned C-1, which allows for a carwash and therefore would not likely be heard by NPU B.

Kim suggested that the North Buckhead Master Plan might have language that would contradict the change in use. The North Buckhead Master Plan was adopted by Mayor and City Council and therefore on equal footing with other city documents, such as the CDP. The location is also very close to a congested intersection and that ADOT might be able to intervene due to the expected traffic load and inability of the intersection to handle the increase in load. Rebecca asked this issue to be moved to the zoning committee agenda.

**7. PLANNER'S REPORT**

Jessica Lavandier, Assistant Director, 404-865-8522, [jlavandier@atlantaga.gov](mailto:jlavandier@atlantaga.gov)

Nate Hoelzel, Project Manager, [nhoelzel@atlantaga.gov](mailto:nhoelzel@atlantaga.gov)





Troy Smith, Zoning Enforcement, [trosmith@atlantaga.gov](mailto:trosmith@atlantaga.gov)

Elizabeth Clappin attended on behalf of Jessica.

Ms. Clappin's planning report is available at:

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

Zoning 2.0 draft to come this fall.

AgLanta is hosting a tour of metro farms and gardens July 15 and 22, with their annual AgLanta Eats food festival on August 21. Visit [aglanta.org](http://aglanta.org) for more info or to get tickets.

July NPU University events are Election Integrity, Civic Responsibility and Engagement for Young Adults, and Atlanta Community Engagement Playbook. To register or learn more, visit [npuatlanta.org/npuuniversity](http://npuatlanta.org/npuuniversity) or call 404-546-0158.

Corner Conversations are back, every first Thursday of the month in a different neighborhood. For June, the NPU team was at Broad Street Boardwalk in July from 4 – 6 PM. For August, they will be in Summerhill. They will visit NPU B on September 7<sup>th</sup>. Email [mmcneal@atlantaga.gov](mailto:mmcneal@atlantaga.gov) to request one in your neighborhood.

Follow NPU voting activity on the NPU Dashboard at [npuatlanta.org/npu-dashboard](http://npuatlanta.org/npu-dashboard).

Email [npuatlanta@atlantaga.gov](mailto:npuatlanta@atlantaga.gov) or text NPUATLANTA to 22828 to receive monthly updates from the Department of City Planning and Neighborhood Planning Units team.

There was a question about the zoning matter that was denied by NPU B. Kim noted that this was the commercial property on Piedmont Road and that Steve Meister (Garden Hills) and Kim Shorter (Zoning) both plan on attending. Kim will provide a report to the city tonight that will be distributed to the BZA.

## **8. MATTERS FOR VOTING**

None.

## **9. PRESENTATIONS**

None.

## **10. OLD BUSINESS**

Dr. Bliwise provided a report on the website and efforts to increase access to information for the public. The projects that we are hearing will now be available on NPU B. Nancy walked through the website and the listing of information that will be available in the future.

There was a question about the workload for creating the website. Nancy is manually adding this information to the website.

There was a question whether that information was live now. This information is currently live for the public.

## **11. NEW BUSINESS**

Motion to donate \$250 to the Atlanta Lab Rescue to honor the memory of George Heery for his service to Garden Hills, NPU B, and the City of Atlanta.

**NPU-B action: A motion by Bill Murray to approve the donation passed by a vote of 21-0-0.**

There was a beautiful time remembering the impact that George had on the community.

## **12. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next NPU-B meeting is August 8, 2023 at 7 PM via Zoom.

The next BZA meetings are August 3 and 10, 2023 at 12 PM in person.

The next ZRB meetings are August 3 and 10, 2023 at 6 PM in person.

## **13. ADJOURNMENT**

**NPU-B action: A motion by Bill Murray to adjourn passed by a vote of 22-0-0.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47 PM.