



NPU-B Monthly Full Board Meeting Minutes December 2023

Date: December 5, 2023

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Zoom

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

Present: 12 present*; 5 proxies (*additional members joined after the meeting called to order)

Officers Present: Rebecca King, Bill Murray, Kim Shorter

Proxies: Mandi Gibson to Kim Shorter, Bill Murray to Shawn Perez, Jason Kendall to Shawn Perez, Brian Steed to Sherri Tanner, Kim Wachtel to Sherri Tanner

1. OPENING REMARKS / CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

Ms. King welcomed everyone. No media present. She noted the Turkey Trot was successful, with 26 neighbors and neighborhoods contributing to buy turkey packages for all the first responders in Buckhead, including bordering departments and training center officers on duty for Thanksgiving. She also reminded everyone that without an official Sergeant at Arms role, anyone without an active officer role will need to rotate.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

NPU-B Action: A motion to approve the November 2023 minutes passed by a vote of 23-0-0.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Amended to include V-23-117 during zoning.

NPU-B Action: A motion to approve the amended December 2023 agenda passed by a vote of 18-0-0.

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

Captain Ben Vayens, Zone 2 Assistant Commander, 404-323-6344, bvayens@atlantaga.gov



Lieutenant Walls, Bike Patrol, 404-823-3771, kwalls@atlantaga.gov
Lieutenant Allison Leduc, 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

Major Mitchell noted that the city, all size zones, is up 2% in crime overall, up 6% in property crime but down 18% in violent crime. For Zone 2, we are down 2% overall to date – if we finish under for the year, it will be the third year in a row. The two crimes that continue to plague Zone 2 are shoplifting and motor vehicle thefts; over the summer, shoplifting was up 50% but it's down to 31% from the same time last year.

He noted the police have seen new types of shoplifters with the increased crime – unhoused, people with jobs, mothers with kids. APD works with big box stores, their security and loss prevention directors, to help combat. Officers have also adopted a zero-tolerance stance, so they're bringing people in without warnings, which has also helped.

Motor vehicle thefts are up 8% from last year, with peaks at the beginning of the year and over the summer. Hyundais and KIAs were impacted significantly during those periods. Over the last three months, they've seen an increase in key fob programming thefts, where they clone the signal to a fob and stealing from driveways, garages getting the signal through the front door. The thieves use a signal booster to find the signal, clone into a fake remote then open the car, push the button and drive away. Dodge Challengers and Chargers, as well as Chrysler and Jeeps, have been most susceptible.

APD has the city's ACE (Auto Crimes Enforcement) unit to spend more time in NPU-B and in Zone 2 to help combat the issue. Additionally, Georgia State Patrol has been around more helping as well.

Shoplifting and auto theft are the only two segments that could end up with an increase year over year, and we'll be down overall hopefully. APD's holiday plan is currently in effect, with administrative officers that are normally on desk duty out in full uniform on patrol; they are either on foot or in patrol car at shopping centers. Recently, Zone 2 added four new officers to Bike Patrol for the Buckhead Village precinct. Buckhead CID purchased new bikes for them and they are out patrolling.

A board member asked if there's a certain distance to keep keys from the front door so they can't steal the signal; Major Mitchell said the department recommends putting the keys in a metal/tin box to block the signal or a product like a key pouch made for blocking the signal. APD is doing the same themselves since it affects their cars as well.

A board member asked if it was necessary to block your key signal in a high rise with a parking deck; Major Mitchell noted they've seen the thefts in parking decks in office buildings and apartments. The thieves just get the booster out, see what doors unlock and drive off when they find a car.

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

Battalion Chief Ronald Slatten opened by thanking Livable Buckhead for the holiday wreaths they provided. He reminded everyone about Christmas tree safety – don't plug too many things into one socket – and fireplace safety. If anyone has gas appliances or gas heaters, ensure you have a working carbon monoxide detector and smoke detector. With DST, make it a habit to change your batteries when you change your clock. AFRD is increasing their fleet with new trucks in service.

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
150 Garnett Street, 3rd floor 30303
Traffic Diversion inquiries: ptit@atlantaga.gov

Ms. Carey noted Night in Blue on November 15 was a success, as well as a career fair at Atlanta Work Source. A reminder the next public safety event for NPU-B will be April 12.

Fulton County District Attorney

Kendall Watkins, 404-426-4525, kendall.watkins@fultoncountyga.gov

No report.

MARTA Police Department (MPD)

North Precinct 404-848-3902, itsmarta.com
Major Britt, 404-427-6047, cbritt@itsmarta.com

No report.

Department of Watershed Management (DWM)

404-982-1480, atlantawatershed.org
Louis Sheppard, 404-546-1181, cell 770-624-0793, lsheppard@atlantaga.gov

No report.

Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR)

O'Kelvis Hambrick, Interim Facilities Manager, 678-815-3653, okhambrick@atlantaga.gov
Taylor Cosby, Community Facility Manager, 404-237-2756, tcosby@atlantaga.gov
Peachtree Hills Recreation Center (PHRC), 404-237-2756, 308 Peachtree Hills Ave

No report.

Department of Public Works

Commissioner Al Wiggins, 470-653-3013, awiggins@atlantaga.gov

Deputy Commissioner Anou Sothsavath, 678-878-0904, asothsavath@atlantaga.gov

Deputy Program Moses Tejuoso, motejuoso@atlantaga.gov

Officer V. Ferguson, 678-221-8215, vferguson@atlantaga.gov

SWEET Officer Ebony Jefferson, 470-304-6757, edjefferson@atlantaga.gov

Officer Pete Francis, 404-938-1183, pfrancis@atlantaga.gov

Officer Francis noted there is additional trash and recycling this time of year, but not to let bins overflow. There are many leaves out and some yard companies blow them into the street – please ask your yard service to ensure they bag all leaves. Yard waste bags over 20 are bulk and need to be scheduled; if a bulk pick-up is missed, report it within two days.

A board member asked about the street sweeper coming on the same day as trash collections, which made it ineffective due to bins being out; Officer Francis would report to his team.

A board member wanted to confirm if blowing leaves into the street is actually illegal or just bad practice; Officer Ferguson noted it is illegal and it is the homeowner's responsibility to ensure they do not do it.

A board member noted there are not enough city trash cans around Marta and along stretches of sidewalk; Officer Ferguson noted and would pass along.

Code Enforcement Section, APD Community Services Division

CodesRequests@AtlantaGA.gov, Report issues: 404-546-3800

Officer Joseph Young, jeyoung@atlantaga.gov, 470-694-1236

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

Officer Young noted many officers will be off throughout the month for the holidays, so they would like to address pressing issues this week and they can get any non-compliance notifications out. There have been a lot of new hires on the enforcement team, with many on tonight to experience their first NPU meeting.

3119/3121/3125 Piedmont Road – Still within their extension phase; they are doing complete overhauls on 3121 and 3125. The owners have been in conversation with the neighborhood and coordinating with the development review committee. They have been committed to taking care of pressing safety concerns.

3387/3377 Lenox Road – Citation in process and attempted to be served. Working with supervisors to get it taken care of, perhaps with the state, to ensure it gets taken care of appropriately.

Wieuca Stalled Developments – Owner cleaned up the property and will continue to keep it clean.

Wieuca and Roswell – Several cases are headed to court for non-compliance, near Batteries Plus, Subway and Wells Fargo.

A board member asked about 2416 Piedmont, the former Gold Room, for trash, encampments, etc.; Officer Young noted the property is in the civil process and will check for a court date next meeting.

ATL311

Barbara Dougherty, Community Affairs Coordinator, 470-698-5171, bdougherty@atlantaga.gov
Johnny Wilson, Supportive Services Coordinator
Allison Murillo

Ms. Murillo 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 or email atl311@atlantaga.gov. Sign up for City of Atlanta emergency alerts by texting NOTIFYATL to 888777.

A board member asked about requesting dog waste stations; Ms. Murillo noted that would not be 311, perhaps Watershed. She will follow-up with an answer.

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

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

Ms. Starling noted the Miracle on Peachtree Hot Chocolate Crawl with 400 participants, but the tree lighting in Loudermilk Park was cancelled due to weather. Volunteers decorated every police and fire station throughout the city with four-foot wreaths. In partnership with Buckhead Rotary, Livable Buckhead will deliver Christmas dinner to each fire station and police station in the city as well. Path 400 construction is going well, with all legislation approved to move forward on the next section that starts at Loridans north to Sandy Springs city limits. Bidding is underway for contractors, with construction likely in Q1 2024. The final Miracle on Peachtree Hot Chocolate Crawl will be on Saturday, near Lenox and Phipps. Details and more events online.

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
Jodi Merriday, Community Engagement Program Director for the Executive Office/Ombudsman
of Neighborhoods, 470-316-2382, jlmerriday@atlantaga.gov
Kennedie McClung, Chief of Staff for State Representative Stacey Evans, District 57,
kennedie@staceyevans.com

No comments.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Bryan Steed, Chair; Denise Starling, Vice Chair

Iron Hill Brewery / 3535 Peachtree Road / Approved
Change of agent. The committee voted 6-0-0 to approve.

Bene Korean Steakhouse / 55 Main Street / Approved
New business. The committee voted 6-0-0 to approve.

Courtyard by Marriott (On Premise, Market) / 3332 Peachtree Road / Approved
Change of agency. The committee voted 6-0-0 and 6-0-0 to approve.

True Food Kitchen / 3393 Peachtree Road / Approved
Change of agent. The committee voted 6-0-0 to approve.

Intown Golf Club / 3050 Peachtree Road / Approved
Change of ownership. The committee voted 7-0-0 to approve.

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

B. DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION and SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Jason Kendall, Chair; Abbie Shepherd, Vice Chair

No report.

C. ZONING COMMITTEE

Kim Shorter, Chair; Vacant, Vice Chair

V-23-160 / 359 Old Ivy Road / Approved 9-0-0
Applicant seeks a variance to increase the driveway width at the turnaround section only from 20 feet to 33 feet for the purpose of allowing a turnaround in the front yard setback.

V-23-167 / 1047 Stovall Boulevard / Approved 9-0-0 with conditions
Variance to reduce the eastern side yard setback from 10 feet to 7 feet 10 inches for construction of an addition for existing single-family dwelling.

NPU-B action: A motion by Mary-Heather Tatum to approve the consent agenda passed by a vote of 19-0-0.

V-23-170 / 350 Peachtree Avenue / Deferred

V-23-117 / 71 Sheridan – Originally denied in November; due to the city denying the rezoning application, applicant seeks to resubmit with a variance for side yard setbacks. The original denial is vacated by a vote of 15-0-3. **NPU-B action: A motion to approve the revised variance with conditions passed by a vote of 17-0-1.** The motion for approval is conditioned on the sidewalk timeline, historic easement and language clean-up.



7. PLANNER'S REPORT

Jessica Lavandier, Assistant Director, 404-865-8522, jlavandier@atlantaga.gov

Nate Hoelzel, Project Manager, nhoelzel@atlantaga.gov

Troy Smith, Zoning Enforcement, trosmith@atlantaga.gov

Ms. Lavandier's planning report is available at

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

2024 Community Impact Grant session is Wednesday, December 13 at 6 PM.

Follow NPU voting activity on the NPU Dashboard at npuatlanta.org/npu-dashboard.

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

8. MATTERS FOR VOTING

Ms. King called nominees for 2024 slate of officers and committee chairs:

Officers

Chair – Rebecca King

Vice Chair – Bill Murray

Secretary – Mandi Gibson

Treasurer – Robert Patterson

Committees

Zoning Chair – Kim Shorter

Zoning Vice Chair – Shawn Perez

Public Safety Chair – Brian Steed

Public Safety Vice Chair – Sherri Tanner

D&T Chair – Jason Kendall

D&T Vice Chair – Abbie Shepherd

NPU-B action: A motion to approve the 2024 officers and committee chairs passed by a vote of 19-0-0.

Ms. King proposed amending the January, August and November meetings to the second Tuesday of the month to accommodate holidays or major events.

NPU-B action: A motion to approve the 2024 meeting schedule passed by a vote of 19-0-0.

Ms. King proposed adding additional organizations to NPU-B's website. A complete list was submitted to Daniel Vasquez.

NPU-B action: A motion to approve the list passed by a vote of 18-0-0.

9. PRESENTATIONS

None.

10. OLD BUSINESS

None.

11. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. King reminded everyone to update their contact information on the link provided.

All business reps were re-elected in the online election. Not all seats are full; if anyone has any suggestions for new business reps, please bring them forward. They must work for a company and live within NPU-B.

NPU system will have a 50-year anniversary in 2024, so watch for celebrations and gatherings.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next NPU-B meeting is January 9, 2024 at 7 PM via Zoom.

The next BZA meetings are January 4 and 11, 2024 at 12 PM in the City Council Chambers, Second Floor.

The next ZRB meetings are January 4 and 11, 2024 at 6 PM in the City Council Chambers, Second Floor.

13. ADJOURNMENT

NPU-B action: A motion to adjourn passed by a vote of 19-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 PM.