

**Minutes of NPU-B regular monthly meeting
Tuesday, January 7, 2020**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Nancy Bliwise, NPU-B Chairperson.

Present: 21

Proxies: Bill Cosgrove to Ben Howard
Randy Coley to Kim Shorter

We welcomed

Elizabeth Amick – Business Representative in Peachtree Hills

Reid Schermer – Business Representative with a great deal of experience

Juan Calle – Business Representative and owns a local restaurant/bar

Rebecca King – Business Representative for Buckhead Condo Alliance (previously a North Buckhead representative)

Arnaud Michel – Business Representative who was unable to attend tonight's meeting

*2 members joined following the approval of the minutes

1. OPENING REMARKS / CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

Welcome, mission of NPU-B, and introductory remarks

There is press in attendance with the Reporter Newspaper.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

NPU-B Action: A motion to approve minutes from the previous regular monthly meeting of the NPU-B as revised passed by vote of 21-0-0.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

NPU-B Action: A motion to approve the agenda with an addition to allow Sally Silver with Councilman Shook's office to provide a presentation passed by a vote of 21-0-0.

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.

Captain Singh noted that there was the first command meeting today. The crime statistics are holding but the City is working hard to achieve a decline. There has always been a policy against pursuits in Atlanta. Younger officers want to chase, but that creates a dangerous environment. There is too much harm that can result from a chase and it isn't worth it.

The City is looking to add segways to the fleet in order to be able to get to the water boys at the street intersections. Because they are juveniles, they cannot be arrested. If a juvenile gets a ticket

today, they don't get their day in court until August 2020. There is a bicycle unit, but they do not drive at night.

Nancy asked Captain Singh to comment about the high level crimes at the mall and the shootings. The mall incident: one suspect is arrested and there is a warrant out for the other. This was a random incident. The outstanding person is a repeat offender. The North Fulton and Pharr Road, Grandview: there is a warrant for one of the shooters. The Kroger at Lindbergh: two robberies in the last 24 hours. They rob someone and then run back onto the MARTA station. Peachtree Hills Avenue: Officer Singh cannot comment on this because it is an active investigation. The first Grandview incident was at the Super Bowl and there have been several incidents in the area since then. For the Peachtree Avenue case, there is a suspect and they are working on concluding that investigation.

Board question: There have been four shootings in a ½ mile radius of the recording studio in the past year. What can the community do? Officer Singh noted that these are not necessarily related crimes.

A neighbor in the area asked if there was something that the residents could do related to liquor licenses and/or have the City put additional officers in locations where tires are screeching. Officer Singh noted that the City is putting together a strategy that includes checking business licenses, code enforcement, etc. Officer Singh noted that residents can call the Crime Stopper number to notify the City if they see a business that is not following regulations.

Abbie noted that the police officers are allocated based on 911 calls, which is another reason to call 911. There was a question as to whether private clubs are issued licenses like public restaurants.

General comments: The non-emergency number is 404-658-6666, but the same 911 operators answer the calls. There are a number of cameras and license plate readers scattered throughout the area. The license plate readers have been really helpful in tracking down persons.

Atlanta Fire Rescue Department (AFRD)

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

Battalion Chief Kendall Mitchell and Mr. Murphey attended. They noted that there was a slight decline in fire calls over the past quarter. There has been an increase in vehicle accidents, especially when it is raining. There have also been an increase in fire alarms that are false alarms. Fire Station Number 26 is open now after major renovations. Fire Station 26 and 29 just received new trucks. Fire Station 3 at Phipps Plaza is an advanced life support station meaning that there are paramedics on duty. The City was re-awarded the car seat grant that provides the tools and equipment to get car seats installed.

There are 101 new recruits and the City graduated 30 new recruits in December. The application process is still open through the City of Atlanta.

A few safety tips:

- Change the battery in your smoke detectors when you change your battery for daylight savings time twice per year. Recommend smoke with carbon monoxide that are hard wired with battery backup.
- Make sure you check your home for fire safety.

- Don't block exits. Know at least 2 ways out of your home and have a designated meeting place for your family in the event of a fire.
- Close the Door Campaign – make sure to close your doors before you go to bed at night.

Atlanta Office of the Solicitors

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

No report.

Fulton County District Attorney Community Prosecutor's Office

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

No report.

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

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

Mr. Clark noted that December was a good month. There was a question about changes in ridership. The officer did not know and commented that MARTA tracks the data.

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)

The MOST vote is coming in March 4, 2020 on the presidential primary ballot. The MOST is a sales tax that has to be renewed every 4 years. There is information on weatherizing your pipes, "Pipes don't like cold weather". The toilet rebate program is still in effect. See northgeorgiawater.org.

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).

Peachtree Hills noted that the afterschool registration is still open with limited availability. Starting March 1st there will be registration for summer camp. Spring sport registration will be opening soon too. Camp Gladiator is holding a 1-hour a day boot camp from 12 – 1pm and then 5:45 – 6:45pm. These boot camps are free.

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 with the SWEET team reminded everyone that there will be a one-day pickup delay with MLK day on January 20, 2020. There was a reminder to not put any plastic bags in the recycling bin. Your recycling may not be picked up if you have inappropriate items in your trash. There

will be a tag that notes what needs to be removed. Once the items are removed, then the recycling will be collected on the next day.

Nancy noted that there are three or four construction sites in her neighborhood and people from the construction sites have been dumping trash in their recycling.

Landscape companies are supposed to take their yard waste with them. 20 or more bags is considered a bulky pickup and must be scheduled.

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 Bird presented and noted that there are six different divisions of code enforcement in the City. There are 34 cases that have been handled between October and December. Contact 311 or 404-506-0311 to report issues.

3610 Wieuca Road – there are six abandoned townhomes. The retaining wall behind them has fallen and is causing issues to the neighbors behind.

Property can be boarded no more than six months before it has to be under construction. There is a vacant registration ordinance. There is a \$100 annual registration for properties that have been vacant for more than 3 months. This information is on the City's website, as of December.

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

No Report.

Buckhead Community Improvement District (CID)
www.buckheadcid.com

Tony Peters introduced himself and described the self-funded tax district that is focused on improving mobility for pedestrians and quality of life issues, maintenance, landscaping, and off-duty officers. Tony noted that 2020 will be a year of construction for the Buckhead CID.

1. Sidewalk repairs and ADA ramp repairs will be starting soon. There will be up to \$900k of repairs.
2. Competitive construction bids opened on West Village District streetscape improvements. The bids are currently being reviewed. Buckhead CID expects a vote in January and the work should be completed this year.
3. Advertising for construction bids for Peachtree Phase 3 (Maple to Shadowlawn). This project is in partnership with GDOT and the City. Georgia Power will be burying the power lines first. That will be an 18 month project.

Other projects that are upcoming but not under construction in 2020.

1. Widening Piedmont Road from Peachtree to Lenox. There is a long schedule for Right of Way acquisition.

2. Phipps Plaza and Wieuca round-a-bout is in preliminary design.
3. Peachtree Road improvement process is moving to Lenox Road. Currently designing what Lenox Road could look like. This project will be under construction in 2021.

On Irby, it will be streetscape and then paving. The Buckhead CID will need to coordinate very carefully with all of the ongoing development projects in that area. The streetscapes will be comparable to SPI-9 and SPI-12 that are in process – the CID will fill in the gaps and make it seamless.

Buckhead Area Transportation Management Association (BATMA)
www.batma.org

No Report.

Buckhead Business Association
Garth Peters

No Report.

Sally Silver with Councilman Shook's office.

Sally noted that there is going to be a large educational effort in order to teach people how to use a 2-lane round-a-bout. Sally wanted to address concerns about the NPU system and what is changing and what is staying the same. Nancy and Richard were at an appreciation dinner. Leah LaRue is heading up the NPU system and cares about the success of the NPU system. Part of the conversation is that not all NPUs are the same. The planning department is trying to strengthen the NPU system. Councilman from District 3 introduced an ordinance yesterday that might be related to the NPU but Sally has not seen the ordinance yet.

There was a question about any progress on the legislation related to Historic Patterns. The ordinance will be introduced soon. This ordinance will only apply in Garden Hills.

5. PLANNER'S REPORT

Nancy noted that there was the Appreciation Dinner in December and she and Richard attended. There was a strong consensus from the NPUs about asking the City to follow their own ordinances. There was also a large discussion about what defines a hardship. There seems to be more allowances for hardships. NPU members were frustrated that the Department of Watershed are making technical decisions in a bubble and outside of the planning process.

The City is currently advertising for a Director of Zoning.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

APAB report was distributed via email.

A. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mandi Gibson, Chair

AC Hotel by Marriott Buckhead / 3600 Wieuca Road (AKA 3586 Peachtree Road) / Change of Agent / Approved 9-0-0

Residence Inn Hotel / 2960 Piedmont Road NE / Change of Agent / Approved 9-0-0

Buckhead Theater (1st floor, 2nd floor) / 31100 Roswell Road NE / Change of Agent / Approved 9-0-0

American Cut (1st floor, 2nd floor, and the Regent Cocktail Club (Patio)) / Change of Agent / Approved 9-0-0

Atlanta Marriott Buckhead Hotel (Main, Lounge, Bar and Banquet Facility) / Change of Agent / Approved 9-0-0

Another Broken Egg / 2355 Peachtree Road NE / Change of Agent / Approved 9-0-0

Special Event

Buckhead Arts Festival on September 18 – 19th at the Shops of Buckhead

- Streets are closed for the event. Everyone is ID'd at the bar. There have been less than 2,000 attendees in the past.

NPU-B Action: A motion to adopt the above consent agenda passed by a vote of 23-0-0.

B. DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION and SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE

No Report. Nancy noted that she would like D&T to help with some of the NPUs initiatives.

C. ZONING COMMITTEE

Bill Murray, Chair

Consent agenda

V-19-278 3606 Mayfair Road NE Approved 6-0-0

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to reduce the front yard setback from 50 feet to 30 feet.

V-19-290 2323 Hurst Drive NE Approved 6-0-0

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to (1) reduce the required front yard setback from 35 feet to 26.64 feet and (2) decrease the minimum depth of the front porch from 8 feet deep.

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

V-19-256 464 Pine Tree NE

A group of Garden Hills residents with support from the HOA are appealing the administrative decision made by staff. The lot is an irregular lot and should be treated as such, which would respect the historic pattern of development. The process has been a very unusual one as it started out as a variance and then the City withdrew that. The owners have created their own hardship by the way that they are orienting the house. There is a vacant lot across the street on a corner so this could set a large precedent.

There has been incredible opposition from the neighborhood to this development. The hearing date is this Thursday, January 9th at noon. Nancy will send a letter supporting the neighborhood's position. There was consensus from the NPU.

7. PLANNERS REPORT

Jessica brought calendars made by the Tree Commission.

8. MATTERS FOR VOTING (above)

The results of votes are presented in the section above.

9. PRESENTATIONS

No special presentations.

A business owner in the Eclipse asked about business licenses and noted that several clubs are not properly licensed. The employees can't park in the building because the cars are broken into and the cameras are not sufficient. There was a comment that because it is a hookah lounge, the landlord can't kick them out. The Eclipse Condo Association has been very quiet. There was a suggestion to make complaints to code enforcement and business licenses if they are operating outside of the City rules. Getting the state involved in reviewing the liquor license practices may also be helpful. There was also a suggestion to make sure that complaint calls use the specific address because the City will patrol locations of repeat calls more often.

10. OLD BUSINESS

There is no new business.

11. NEW BUSINESS

Officers: Candidates were nominated. No additional persons were interested in the positions.

Recorder – Kim Shorter

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

Treasurer – Ben Howard

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

Vice-Chair – Jefferson McConkey

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

There is an available NPU business representative position. There are one to two candidates. Just the business representatives will vote on the candidate via email based on the biographies received.

Dues structure is \$60 per HOA or business, except sole proprietors. Dues for sole proprietors are \$30. Ben will give a report next week looking at finances.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next NPU meeting will be February 4, 2019.

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

The next ZRB meeting will be held on January 9th and January 16th on the 2nd floor of the City Hall Annex at 6 PM.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM