

**Minutes of NPU-B regular monthly meeting
Tuesday, November 3, 2020**

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

****This meeting was held by Zoom****

Present: 18

Proxies: Mark Tiller to Jason Kendall

* 5 members joined after the minutes were approved.

There was no press in attendance.

1. OPENING REMARKS / CHAIRPERSON’S COMMENTS

Welcome, mission of NPU-B, and introductory remarks

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

NPU-B Action: A motion to approve the revised minutes from the previous regular monthly meeting (October) of the NPU-B passed by vote of 22-0-0.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

NPU-B Action: A motion to approve the agenda of the NPU-B passed by vote of 22-0-0.

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 noted that all precincts went on 12-hour shifts allowing evening officers to trouble shoot and address any hot spots overnight. There are many officers on Peachtree. The plan is to be prepared and hope that there are no incidents.

Street racing continues to be a challenge and the City is trying to think outside of the box in terms of holding racers accountable. One officer was surrounded by a gang of street racers and using the body cam and dash cam video footage, the City was able to match the pictures to social media and arrest one of the suspects. This is a small success.

A board member asked about the street racing ordinance that passed last night. Major Senzer noted that once a suspect is arrested, the ordinance will help. The inability to chase suspects hinders their success, however the risk of harming an innocent citizen is too great.

The shooting at jewelry store on Peachtree appears to be out of town persons, who previously knew each other. All the participants did know one another. A board member asked about the

“chase” of the car into Garden Hills. The same board member noted that he heard that a resident dove in front of the car to stop the chase. Major Senzer heard a similar story.

A board member asked about a NextDoor post regarding activity for tonight after the election polls close. Major Senzer is aware of the social media posts regarding looting and rioting. While there was a post, it does not appear to be credible.

Atlanta Fire Rescue Department (AFRD)
404-546-4400 (or dial 404-546-4421 to reach station 21)

The fire department is also fully staffed for this evening (election day). Several new fire fighters have recently joined the ranks, which has brought the Department to needed staffing levels. The fire department is working with Homeland Security to prepare for any possible election day issues.

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 Street Racing Ordinance was adopted by Council, but it is not yet law as it requires action by the Mayor (signing or vetoing). There was a lot of public comment (over 5 hours). Many feel that the Ordinance is unfair to certain groups and others feel there needs to be accountability.

The courts are officially open! The courts are still very sparse. The diversion programs are always the best way to go. If you get stopped for a traffic citation, you can take advantage of this program. You can inquire by email to PTIT@atlantaga.gov.

Ms. Carey is not certain of the schedule for trials moving forward, but she will update us when she knows.

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
Denise Stewart, (404-546-1410) denstewart@atlantaga.gov

No Report.

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

No Report.

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 Ferguson is providing information about removing illegal signs around the City as well as collection of the bulk pickups that are scheduled.

A board member noted that yard waste pickup has been a problem and that no yard waste has been picked up from their neighborhood since the last meeting when we were told that yard waste pickup would resume.

A board member asked about fallen trees and debris that is stacked at the street and about the timing for pickup.

A board member asked if the 311 system could be improved so that when solid waste is behind on yard debris pickup, the work order is not closed unless the refuse is picked up.

Atlanta Department of Transportation

Josh Rowan, jrowan@atlantaga.gov

Written report was circulated.

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

Written report was circulated.

Buckhead Business Association

Bob Gibeling, VP, Community Alliance, BBA office: 404-467-7607

No report.

Buckhead Coalition

Jim Durrett

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

www.livablebuckhead.org

Buckhead Community Improvement District (CID)

www.buckheadcid.com

Tony Peters noted that there is a Public Safety Committee Strategy being developed by a large group of Buckhead Community groups, including a representative from NPU-B. An intensive SWOT analysis has been performed in order to develop a platform for identifying action items and roles and responsibilities for implementation.

Nancy added that the elected officials are engaged and Tony and others who are organizing the group have been very effective at pulling together information. A very clear plan will be brought forward that will include funding and community support action items.

Tony assured NPU B that safety and security is Priority #1.

Denise Starling noted that there are some efforts to re-brand Buckhead. There is a State of Buckhead survey that will be available shortly. Everyone is asked to distribute the survey as well as respond. The survey is about 15-minutes long, but information from the survey will help feed the State of Buckhead address as well as guide program and policy activities. The branding is more community positioning, with the goal of speaking about Buckhead with a common voice. The survey was designed so that trends on issues can be tracked over time.

Nancy shared that Tiny Parks was a wonderful and fun event. She also shared that the survey will be really helpful but noted that the community endorsement and introduction is really important – especially with such along survey. Nancy noted that the business representatives can play an important role in distributing through their networks.

A board member asked why the branding effort was initiated. Denise noted that with the four main Buckhead civic organizations coming together, each described Buckhead in a different manner. The merging of civic organizations along with the shifting in the average age in Buckhead, necessitated the need for the study.

Another board member commented that the Tiny Parks event was a big success. Denise also noted that Livable Buckhead is trying to create a “Winter Wonderland” feel and focusing on streetscapes. The focus will be on the second weekend in December with the idea of doing a mini-staycation and enjoying a hotel with some holiday associated activities.

Leah LaRue, City of Atlanta, Assistant Director, NPU and Community Engagement

Leah noted that she was excited to participate in the NPU B meeting this evening. She had not been able to participate previously and was excited to attend.

5. COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

No comments. Council member Michael Julian Bond attended and posted contact information.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

APAB report was distributed via email.

A. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mandi Gibson, Chair

Kula Coffee / 3423 Piedmont Road NE / Adding Liquor / 10-0-0

Kula Coffee (with Patio) / 3423 Piedmont Road NE / Adding Liquor / 10-0-0

Hilton Garden Inn Buckhead / 3342 Peachtree Road NE / Change of Agent / 10-0-0

Tabla / 3005 Peachtree Road / New Business / 21-0-0

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

B. DEVELOPMENT, TRANSPORTATION and SPECIAL PROJECTS COMMITTEE

Jason Kendall, Chair

D&T and special project committee met to discuss Short Term Rental (STR), which is anything less than 30 days. Tonight, we will vote on Councilman Shook's proposed Zoning changes (Z-20-69). There is a competing ordinance that is coming out of Community Development/Human Resources committee. Both were discussed at the meeting.

Howard's proposed ordinance bans all STRs. The competing ordinance allows STRs once permitted and has some weak language on enforcement. The committee feels that both ordinances are lacking.

Jason distributed a committee report that outlines some of the concerns with both approaches.

C. ZONING COMMITTEE

Bill Murray, Chair

V-20-126 3989 Club Drive NE Approved

Applicant seeks a special exception to allow active recreation (swimming pool) in a yard adjacent to a street and to increase the height of a wall (privacy fence) in the half-depth front yard from 4 feet to 6 feet.

V-20-131 135 West Paces Ferry Road NW Approved

Applicant seeks a special exception from the zoning regulation to allow active recreation in a yard adjacent to a street (Valley Road) in order to install a swimming pool.

NPU-B action: A motion to approve the consent agenda passed by vote of 24-0-0.

7. PLANNERS REPORT

Amy Bradbury gave the planner's report on behalf of Jessica Lavandier. The Department of City Planning is creating a 2021 neighborhood directory with a list of contact information for local neighborhood leaders. Everyone is asked to send information to Tony McNeal (www.atlfutureplaces.com). Nancy noted that NPU-B will help pull this information together.

A board member noted that they have submitted information in the past and the information was then posted incorrectly. The City responded that they are really working on making sure that the neighborhood directory is accurate.

The Future Places Project is underway to support historic preservation. The website is www.atlfutureplaces.com/ and has more information.

The 2021 Community Impact Grant application opens next month. There is a CIG Grant class on Thursday, December 3rd at 6pm, likely via Zoom. The NPU can submit multiple projects.

The department kicked off the Comprehensive Development Plan update this week. The website is www.atlcitydesign.com/

APAB meeting on 11/21st and every 3rd Saturday. They advise the City on issues, including the Comprehensive Plan Development.

A board member noted that the Lindbergh-Morosgo master plan process is proceeding and the process is going well so far.

For public hearings or other departmental information:

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

For information about NPU University: <https://www.npuatlanta.org/npuucatalog>

To check out our NPU Dashboard: <https://www.npuatlanta.org/npu-dashboard>

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

To stay informed, follow us on social media @npuatlanta

8. MATTERS FOR VOTING (above)

Z-20-69

An Ordinance by Councilmember Howard Shook, Joyce Sheperd, JP Matzigkeit, Michael Julian Bond and Dustin Hillis to amend the 1982 Atlanta Zoning Ordinance, as amended, by adding a definition for Short-Term Rental (“STR”) and to prohibit short-term rentals as a use in the R-1 (Single-family residential), R-2 (Single-family residential), R-2A (Single-family residential), R-2B (Single-family residential), R-3 (Single-family residential), R-3A (Single-family residential), R-4 (Single-family residential), R-4A (Single-family residential), R-4B (Single-family residential), R-5 (Two-family residential), and PD-H (Planned development housing) zoning districts; and for other purposes.

A board member asked Amy the City’s process for addressing two competing ordinances, that once passed would contradict one another. The two ordinances are in different committees, but the City believes that the second ordinance is a companion ordinance. The ordinance tonight prohibits STRs in specific zoning districts. In the zoning districts where STRs are allowed, the second ordinance will govern their operations. The second ordinance is still being written in committee but will eventually come through the NPU-B process.

A board member noted that “occupancy after closing” presents a real problem, where residents may stay in their homes after closing. Another board member noted that this was intended as a starting point and that Howard was not looped into the second ordinance. The board member noted that voting in favor of the ordinance sends a message that neighborhoods want more

restrictive ordinance language. The suggestion was to vote in favor of the ordinance with a clear set of changes that need to be made.

A board member asked if the City of Atlanta legal department has reviewed Howard's ordinance to determine if it is legally enforceable. Several members are concerned that it is very prone to lawsuits.

A board member commented that it is concerning how the City is excluding multi-family and condo communities in the Ordinance and that only single-family residential was included.

A board member noted that their community really supported the ordinance because STRs have threatened the historic integrity and single-family nature of their neighborhood.

NPU-B action: A motion to oppose the Ordinance as written passed by vote of 19-4-0.

Nancy will follow up with Howard and share the concerns with the specific language in the Ordinance as well as the exclusion of multi-family properties, but that we remain committed to the mission of controlling STRs.

9. PRESENTATIONS

SAP 20-122 – Adam Toal

Adam presented some planned updates to the Sales Force Tower on East Paces Ferry Road and Oak Valley Road. The goal is to update the drop off area and the exterior of the building. There will be no modifications to the interior of the building, but they want to refresh the outside and landscaped areas. The project is seen as a landscape renovation.

There was a comment that this is consistent with the SPI requirements, even if it isn't exact. Several board members noted the improvement. There are some additional properties in that area planned for redevelopment. A consistent feel to the SPI improvements would create a better feeling. The board suggested that Adam check with the SPI on their criteria, to maintain consistency.

10. OLD BUSINESS

Kim Wachtel and Susan Campbell led the nominations committee and has recommended the following slate of officers. The current officers are as follows below:

Nancy Bliwise - Chair
Jefferson McConkey – Vice Chair
Ben Howard - Treasurer
Kim Shorter – Recorder

Kim and Susan want to encourage members to consider one of these leadership roles. While the current officers have agreed to continue to serve, healthy organizations have succession planning and some change in leadership over time. Members that are interested in positions should reach out and self-appoint. Kim and Susan will be putting together a nominations committee and hope that this allows for collaborative thinking.

If you are interested in serving, email Kim or Susan this week. The election needs to be completed by the third week in November. Elections will be done by Survey Monkey so that it is confidential. Susan will compile the results.

Business representative elections are coming. The slate was sent to the Buckhead Reporter but has not yet been posted. These have also been posted on the NPU-B website. Business representative elections will be from November 14 to November 18 also via survey monkey.

Susan is updating the neighborhood president contact information as well as the zoning chair contact information.

11. NEW BUSINESS

The CDP process will be very important to NPU-B as information emerges.

12. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next NPU-B meeting will be December 1, 2020.

The next BZA meetings are posted on their website.

The next ZRB meetings are posted on their website.

13. ADJOURNMENT

NPU-B action: A motion to adjourn passed by vote of 23-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 PM