



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

**June 2025**

**Date:** June 3, 2025

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** Zoom

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

**Present:** 15 present\*; 6 proxies totaling 21 (\*additional members joined after the meeting called to order)

**Officers Present:** Nancy Bliwise, Kim Shorter, Bob Connelly, Shawn Perez

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

Ms. Bliwise welcomed everyone.

Press - No

Elected Officials/ their representative in Attendance:

Amber Madison, Project Manager for Councilmember Michael Julian Bond was in attendance. She asked that for any additional questions or concerns about anything please feel free to contact her.

Amber Madison, AIA On behalf of Council-member Bond (Post 1 At Large)

[Mbond@atlantaga.gov](mailto:Mbond@atlantaga.gov)

[almccreary89@gmail.com](mailto:almccreary89@gmail.com)

Office: 404.330.6770

Akilah Blount - intern in the Office of the Ombudsman of Neighborhoods, Jodi Merriday (ex-jmerriday@atlantaga.gov 470-316-2382). Ombuds are independent, neutral, and impartial parties that can assist with navigating the City, finding resources, and resolving outstanding issues/concerns following an unresolved escalation to 311 and/or a City Department. Contact if they can assist.

Akilah Blount [ablount@atlantaga.gov](mailto:ablount@atlantaga.gov)

(404) 922-6896

Amber Ware is your Neighborhood Relations Manager and is available to assist. She can be reached by email at [amberware@atlantaga.gov](mailto:amberware@atlantaga.gov) or by phone at 470-834-6453.

## 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**NPU-B Action: A motion by Kim Shorter to approve the May 2025 minutes passed by a vote of 19-0-0.**

## 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**NPU-B Action: A motion by Bob Connelly to approve the June 2025 agenda passed by a vote of 19-0-1**

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

Atlanta Police Department (APD)

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

Captain Germain Dearlove, Zone 2 Asst Commander, 404-987-7377, [gdearlove@atlantaga.gov](mailto:gdearlove@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

Major Vayens joined our meeting and was pleased to announce that 2025 overall crime is down 33% in Zone 2 and down in the city of Atlanta by 11% year to date. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> year in a row that Zone 2 has had decreases. Zone 2 leads the city in traffic stops and has made approximately 20,000 traffic stops so far this year!

There have been 557 firearms stolen so far this year with 88 stolen in Zone 2. Encourage everyone to be vigilant and follow the recommendations of the Clean Car Campaign.

Major Vayens spoke of the busy weeks coming up for APD with the club soccer games happening in Atlanta along with the many festivals and parades. He reminded us about the National Night Out to be held on August 5<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Bliwise thanked him for all the help in the Pine Hills area the officers had given recently.

Ms. Bliwise also asked about the recent crime activity in The Grand condominium community. There have been three recent vandalism and theft of vehicles in the parking lot – windows smashed, cars rummaged through, etc. Major Vans said they will meet with the management team at The Grand regarding the gates and perhaps suggest improvements there. Lt. Wolf of the larceny unit will help identify the vehicles used by the thieves

A board member asked how the statistic of a large-scale theft like this was recorded: The officer said it was the time frame and distance from one another were the determining factors – so if there was one evening where 30 cars in a single parking lot were vandalized, it would be recorded as 1 incident/theft with 30 victims.

Another board member asked how often the Morosgo area was patrolled. Major Vayens said that area is heavily patrolled and that the crime suppression team is actively present. That area has the most arrests of any beat in Atlanta. The homeless is a large part of the problem in the Morosgo area. They are constantly working with other city departments to clean up the trash, remove benches, sharing that The Dump is now playing loud classical music to scare away vagrants. The Dump has been a good partner. When asked about whether the QT had a security guard on site, it was noted that they did have a security guard on site in their safety plan, but Major Vayens was going to confirm that they still did.

Atlanta Fire Rescue Department (AFRD)

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

Captain Rae Manion, Captain Rodney Deese, Captain Eric Copeland

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)

Chief Scott Seely 404-546-4466 cell, [sseely@atlantaga.gov](mailto:sseely@atlantaga.gov)

Chief Scott Seely of the 6<sup>th</sup> Battalion, Station 21 joined the meeting and gave a report. He began his report informing all of the May 14<sup>th</sup> Public Safety Mental Health Awareness Initiative for First Responders – they had physicians and counselors on hand to offer help.

Chief Seely spoke of the importance of knowing how to deal with summer heat – avoid sugary drinks and alcohol, be careful while grilling and make sure there are no grills on apartment balconies. Please don't put coal in the "Herbie Curbies". \*\* Let coals sit for at least 2 weeks\*\*

He reminded all about roof top balcony safety: If you are up on the roof, make sure you have a way off. Be mindful of combustibles on the roof.

He spoke of the new Battalion car – Fast Truck 15. It is mainly used for water calls, elevator calls and takes the stress off the big fire trucks for non-fire calls. It's been a wonderful addition! They have a good number of medical calls, but have had an up-tick on fires called by the homeless hanging around The Dump and near Pike Nursery on Roswell Rd. He reminded us of the Cheshire Bridge fire a few years ago, and when there is a fire beneath a bridge, other entities must be included to assess damage, etc. AFRD teams with APD and mental health counselors to aid the homeless. The areas under bridges are a haven for the homeless and trouble happens when they get into fights and become combative. There was much discussion on this.

Chief Seely ended asking neighborhoods to invite the fire department to their neighborhood events – they'll gladly come! Denise Starling with Livable Buckhead reminded the group of the June 27<sup>th</sup> Cook off with the AFRD and the Rotary Club.

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)

Lynn Reynolds, 4070-421-2796, [lwreynolds@atlantaga.gov](mailto:lwreynolds@atlantaga.gov)

150 Garnett Street, 3rd floor 30303

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

Ms. Hala Carey notified of a Public Safety Outreach event that was to be held on Friday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at St. Peter Missionary Baptist Church from 10:30-12:30pm and gave thanks to the many agencies that assist with these outreach events.

She reminded the group that if you receive a citation, to not pay by phone, that you may be eligible for "Diversion" – not for serious offenses, of course.

June 13<sup>th</sup> there is an open house held by Judge Seitz from 10am – 11am "Transforming Housing and Code Enforcement"

Fulton County District Attorney

Kendall Watkins, 404-426-4525, [kendall.watkins@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:kendall.watkins@fultoncountyga.gov)

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 given.

Department of Watershed Management (DWM)

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

Commissioner Al Wiggins, 470-653-3013, [awiggins@atlantaga.gov](mailto:awiggins@atlantaga.gov)

Evan Bennett, [evanbennett@atlantaga.gov](mailto:evanbennett@atlantaga.gov)

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)

Taylor Cosby, Community Facility Manager, 404-237-2756, [tcosby@atlantaga.gov](mailto:tcosby@atlantaga.gov)

Tara Buckner, Urban Planner, 404-217-9603, [tlbuckner@atlantaga.gov](mailto:tlbuckner@atlantaga.gov)

Artiane Saintil, [asaintil@atlantaga.gov](mailto:asaintil@atlantaga.gov)

Abdur-Rahim Muhammad Architectural Designer DPR- Office of Park Planning & Design

[RAMuhammad@Atlantaga.gov](mailto:RAMuhammad@Atlantaga.gov)

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

No Report.

Department of Public Works

Deputy Commissioner Anou Sothsavath, 678-878-0904, [asothsavath@atlantaga.gov](mailto:asothsavath@atlantaga.gov)

Deputy Program Moses Tejuoso, [motejuoso@atlantaga.gov](mailto:motejuoso@atlantaga.gov)

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 attended and gave a report.

He reminded that there was no need to bundle branches – best to put them in 32-gallon containers. This can also be used for yard trimmings. If branches exceed 4' in length, a bulk pickup should be scheduled. A board member asked how many bulk pickups could be scheduled per year: the answer is 12. A board member also requested a flyer to communicate this to our neighborhoods. She also noted that her neighborhood is constantly being skipped and asked Officer Francis to look into this issue. Another board member said that the Brookhaven neighborhood's yard trimming pick up was skipped due to the rain and asked if residents would be charged because there were now double the amount of bags at the curb. Officer Francis assured her they would not be.

#### Department of Transportation

Keely Wallace, Community Outreach Coordinator, [atldot@AtlantaGa.Gov](mailto:atldot@AtlantaGa.Gov)

No report given.

#### Code Enforcement Section, APD Community Services Division

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

Chanell Alexis, 404-295-0709, [calexis@atlantaga.gov](mailto:calexis@atlantaga.gov)

Veruschka Ohwobete, 404-546-3815, cell 404-673-5029, [vgsobers@atlantaga.gov](mailto:vgsobers@atlantaga.gov)

Officer Bridgers gave a report.

There are currently 42 cases being worked on by the department and answered questions on the following:

Lenox Road – there is concern for increased violations once again.

29 Park Circle – the owner was in court because they did not comply with the orders given. No new information other than that.

208 Terrace Drive in Peachtree Hills – there are no current cases for Code Enforcement, but Officer Bridgers will check with Zoning to see if there is a case being worked or that is open in that department.

3400 Stratford – dumpsters are still being pulled into the street. How can this be re-opened for the violation? It was suggested that it may be a zoning issue because of the dumpsters. It was also suggested that the Department of Public Works would be able to help.

#### ATL311

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

Shadé Stokes-Campbell, ATL311 Community Affairs Coordinator, [sstokescampbell@atlantaga.gov](mailto:sstokescampbell@atlantaga.gov)

Allison Murillo, Bayyinah Sullivan, Shade Stokes-Campbell, Casey Wilson

Ms. Stokes reminded all that they offer some housing assistance. Also, that cooling centers are to open soon. She also reminded to call 404-546-0311 directly for assistance if you do not have a local Atlanta phone number.

ATL311 is the Non-Emergency Call Center for City of Atlanta Services and is open Monday-Friday from 7am-12am. You can contact them by:

1. Dial 3-1-1 inside city limits or 404-546-0311
    - a. 311 will not work for non-Atlanta area codes
  2. Visit and chat at [www.ATL311.com](http://www.ATL311.com)
  3. Email at [ATL311@atlantaga.gov](mailto:ATL311@atlantaga.gov)
  4. Mobile App by searching "ATL311" in your app store
  5. Social Media @ATL311
- Sign up for City of Atlanta emergency alerts by texting NOTIFYATL to 24639.

If you would like to have ATL311 present for a community meeting, complete the form here:

<https://forms.office.com/g/JzTWX3gHx1>

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)

Ms. Starling shared updates on cases before SPI9 and SPI12:

- 3465 Tower Place Drive – a stop work order was issued on the construction of a Jared Fine Jewelry Store that is going in at that location.
- 2964 Peachtree Road is getting a site re-fresh
- Big Sky will be adding a steel and glass canopy

They are working with the Parks and have a \$1Million plan for the Lolidans Park and Mountain Way Commons. This will take a few months and then start the grant request process. The Path 400 continues to make progress.

Buckhead Restaurant Week is coming up with 27 restaurants participating for lunch and dinner. World Cup planning is beginning – FIFA controls much of it but are working with them. They know that 2 teams will be staying in Buckhead. As a reminder, there are 8 matches in Atlanta over 3 days in June/July 2026.

A board member congratulated Denise Starling for being honored as one of the “Women Making a Mark” by Atlanta Magazine.

## **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, [jlmerriday@atlantaga.gov](mailto:jlmerriday@atlantaga.gov)

Clyde Mitchell, Neighborhood Relations Manager in Ombuds Office, 404-510-8498, [clmitchell@atlantaga.gov](mailto:clmitchell@atlantaga.gov)

Courtney Reeder, Neighborhood Relations Manager in Ombuds Office, 470-891-1195, [creeder@atlantaga.gov](mailto:creeder@atlantaga.gov)

Kennedie McClung, Chief of Staff for State Representative Stacey Evans, District 57, [kennedie@staceyevalns.com](mailto:kennedie@staceyevalns.com)

Jennifer Freeman, Community Outreach Representative to U.S. Congresswoman Nikema Evans, 404-623-5453, [jennifer.freeman@mail.house.gov](mailto:jennifer.freeman@mail.house.gov)

Dana Barrett, Fulton County District 3 Commissioner, 678-467-5142, [dana.barrett@fultoncountyga.gov](mailto:dana.barrett@fultoncountyga.gov)

Amber Madison, AIA On behalf of Council-member Bond (Post 1 At Large)

[Mbond@atlanatga.gov](mailto:Mbond@atlanatga.gov)

[amadison@atlantaga.gov](mailto:amadison@atlantaga.gov)

Office: 404.330.6770

Ms. Akilah Blount was attending in place of Ms. Ware of the Ombudsman of Neighborhoods. Ms. Dobson voiced concerns over her unanswered emails regarding the Peachtree Hills Park trees that had been surveyed. She was told that Ms. Ware is the appropriate person to help with this and that Ms. Blount will follow up.

Kim Shorter asked if Ms. Ware could be helpful in resolving her neighborhood's ongoing yard waste pick-ups – Ms. Blount confirmed that Ms. Ware was the appropriate person to help.

## **6. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Rebecca King, Chair; Keith Biggs, Vice Chair

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

New Business / Alcohol License Applications (LRB)  
Toast Noir Café - Restaurant

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

Jason Kendall, Chair; Bob Connelly, Vice Chair

No report tonight.

### **C. ZONING COMMITTEE**

Kim Shorter, Co-Chair; Bob Connelly, Co-Chair

**NPU-B action: A motion by Denise Starling to approve the consent agenda passed by a vote of 21-0-0.**

#### **Zoning Consent Agenda:**

V-25-99 4580 Club Terrace NE      Approved 8-0-0

V-25-44 437 Pinecrest Rd NE - Deferred

V-25-66 314 Pinecrest Rd NE - Deferred

V-25-91 161 Ridgeland Way NE - Deferred

## **7. APAB Report**

No APAB report at the time of the meeting but Ms. Bliwise will circulate it once it is received.

## **8. 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)  
Punya Vats, Urban Planner II, 470-522-3399, [pvats@atlantaga.gov](mailto:pvats@atlantaga.gov)

Punya Vats shared updates on previous voting matters where the status differs from what the NPU recommended.

- ZRB approved the following: Z-25-004, Z-25-001, Z-25-082.
- The Chastain Fall Arts Festival was approved

Mr. Vats also shared information on several upcoming events sponsored by the city; Urban Cypher Night on June 11<sup>th</sup> from 6:30-8pm – a look at Urban Apartheid, how Redlining impacted Atlanta. Black Music Month – how Hip Hop changed Atlanta  
He also invited all to attend the Urban Planning Academy

## **9. MATTERS FOR VOTING:**

The Mayor's Cup 2025 to be held at the Chastain Park Golf Course on August 27<sup>th</sup> – more than 200 are expected to participate. No other comments were made on this, other than a board member stating that NPU-B is in agreement with the event, given that the NPU directly impacted, NPU-A, is in support of it.

## **10. PRESENTATIONS**

None given.

## **11. OLD BUSINESS**

**ATL Trails** – Previously NPU-B had voted to deny. Bill Murray held a follow up meeting with members of Peachtree Hills, Pine Hills, North Buckhead, and Livable Buckhead. They created a Summary Document to circulate and submitted it to the city for consideration. It focused on these items:

- 1.) Environmental Concerns
- 2.) Land Acquisition Concerns
- 3.) Safety Concerns

The city reviewed this document and are considering many of the suggestions.

Reiterated at the meeting was the importance of Tree Protection – the biggest concern NOT addressed was regarding Land Acquisition. It was explained that this is a general, high-level document that will define their intention to put trails in these areas, but when engineering starts to work on the project, they will work with neighborhoods and modifications will be made where needed. Many thanks to NPU-B Board members Bill Murray and Denise Starling for all their work on the document.

Kim Shorter remarked that the current plan did not have a section regarding Public Outreach and asked if the city would consider strengthening environmental workings in their final language.

It was also noted that they have been working with APD on Trail safety.

Another comment concerned the tree canopy – it wasn't clear what will end up happening with the tree canopy in the final or next draft.

**NPU-B Action:** A motion was made to re-open discussion of CDP-25-10; the motion passed 19-0-0.

**NPU-B Action:** A motion to approve CDP-25-10 with conditions outlined in the guidance document passed 19-0-0

It was noted that many different issues were raised at the previous meeting and NPU-B made a commitment to resolve them and continue. Ms. Bliwise thanked the team of Denise Starling, Robert Patterson, Kim Shorter and Bill Murray for being engaged and for coming up with good solutions.

## **12. NEW BUSINESS**

Robert Patterson announced that all dues for 2025 have been paid by all NPU-B Neighborhoods!



It was also announced that Chuck Hayes is no longer the Residential Representative for Peachtree Hills – a new representative will be named by the Peachtree Hills Civic Association.

### **13. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The next NPU-B meeting is July 1, 2025, at 7 PM via Zoom.

The National Night Out is to be held on August 5<sup>th</sup>. For that reason, the August meeting for NPU-B will move to August 12, 2025.

Judge Seitz would like to have an NPU representative to attend the open house he is holding on June 13<sup>th</sup> at Municipal Court. Ms. Bliwise to follow up with members to attend separately.

### **14. ADJOURNMENT**

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 PM.