



## **NPU-B Monthly Full Board Meeting Minutes November 2025**

**Date:** November 4, 2025

**Time:** 7:00 PM

**Location:** Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Bill Murray, NPU-B Vice Chairperson. Ms. Bliwise, NPU-B Chairperson, was in attendance.

**Present:** 17 present\*; 4 proxies (\*additional members joined after the meeting called to order)

**Officers Present:** Nancy Bliwise, Kim Shorter, Shawn Perez, Bill Murray

### **1. OPENING REMARKS /VICE CHAIRPERSON’S COMMENTS**

Mr. Murray welcomed everyone in attendance and asked if there were any elected officials or members of the press present.

Press – None present.

Elected Officials/ their representative in Attendance:

Amber Ware / Office of the Ombudsman

(470) 834-6453

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

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

NPU-B Action: A motion by Kim Shorter to approve the October 2025 minutes and seconded by Denise Starling, passed by a vote of 20-0-0.

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

NPU-B Action: A motion by Kim Shorter and seconded by Keith Biggs to approve the November 2025 agenda passed by a vote of 22-0-1.

### **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 attended the meeting and provided the following report:

Overall crime for 2025 is down 9% in Atlanta and is currently down 12% in Zone 2.

He asked that all remind their neighbors of the “Clean Car Campaign” and to store their firearms properly. There have been 1,100 firearms stolen from vehicles in the City of Atlanta so far this year. They are actively policing Peachtree St, Lenox Rd, Piedmont Rd and Phipps Plaza to discourage street racing.

- A board member asked if the Major had any information he could share about the recent discovery of a woman’s body outside the MAA Apartment complex. Major Vayens reported that an investigation is still ongoing, so he could not release any details.
- Another board member asked if recent rumors of homeless people gathering by the closed Kroger off Piedmont were true. The Major reported that the Crime Suppressant team had made several arrests last week and are working with the property owner on the issue.
- Another board member thanked Major Vayens for their help with recent street closures in Ridgedale Park, resulting in a fun and safe Halloween for the neighborhood.

#### Atlanta Fire and Rescue

Captain Copeland from Station #3 at Phipps Plaza joined our meeting along with

Claudie Nash

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

404-392-0040

Captain Copeland attended the meeting and provided the following report:

He spoke of Fire Prevention and Awareness – Thanksgiving Day is the biggest day of the year for home cooking fires! A few reminders:

- Stay in the kitchen while cooking
- Keep kids and pets out of the kitchen
- Turn pan handles away from the front of the stove

Also, now is the time for Seasonal Preparedness:

- Insulate your pipes
- Keep supplies stocked
- Change batteries in smoke detectors

Lastly, the department is wrapping up their fire hydrant inspections this month.

A board member commented on how beautiful the new fire station on Moores Mill Rd is looking!

#### 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)

Hala Cary

Ms. Carey was in attendance and noted several recent and upcoming Outreach Events:

- A campus safety forum at Emory University on 10/9/2025
- A Townhall meeting focusing on the legal process at Emory University on 11/6
- The Mayor's Senior Ball on 10/11
- The "Crime is Toast" event on 10/14
- Night in Blue Fundraiser on 11/13/2025
- There will be another DUI Training session for the APD on 12/14 & 12/15
- Marta's Police Department's Fall Fair on 10/21
- Various food drives in the works throughout the city

Fulton County District Attorney

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

No report given.

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, [tbuckner@atlantaga.gov](mailto:tbuckner@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

Jahna McDay ([jmcday@atlantaga.gov](mailto:jmcday@atlantaga.gov)) attended the meeting and provided the following report:

- The department is prepping for Dear Santa activities to be held 12/13 from 10am – 2pm at Peachtree Hills Recreation Center. They're asking for support and donations.
- Nighttime basketball is starting soon – the hours are 5pm - midnight

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 Green was in attendance.  
(470)922-7681

lagreen@atlantaga.gov

Officer Green reminded us that the approved containers for yard debris must be 32-gallon sized and clearly labeled, and that Veterans Day would not result in a change in our collection day.

A board member asked if old Herbie Curbies could be used for yard trimmings. Officer Green replied that they were too large.

Officer Green provided the following in the chat:

**BULK ITEMS ELIGIBLE FOR COLLECTION:**

- Approved items must be in the right-of-way, not blocked by mailboxes, cars, or overhanging tree branches and/or powerlines.
- Household bulk waste includes large items (furniture) or white goods (appliances).
- Bulk Collection is defined as no more than 8 cubic yards (the size of a small room of furniture).
- If the items to be collected exceed 8 cubic yards, the additional items collected will be considered an additional bulk collection.
- Garbage carts containing debris may be taken if placed out along with bulk collection items.

**BULKY YARD TRIMMINGS:**

- All bulky yard trimmings must be placed in a separate pile from household bulk collection items.
- Twenty-one (21) or more yard trimming bags can be scheduled as a bulk collection.
- The city will collect tree branches NOT exceeding six (6) inches in diameter and four (4) feet in length.
- The city will collect tree stumps. Dimensions of the tree stump should be no longer than four (4) feet in length. If the cut tree stump fits in a paper yard trimming bag, include with the yard debris collection. If too large for a yard collection, schedule a bulk pickup.

**BULK ITEMS NOT ELIGIBLE FOR COLLECTION:**

The city will not collect auto parts (including tires) or building/construction materials.

Bulk is prohibited for the following:

- Evictions
- Vacant properties
- Items left by contractors

Department of Transportation

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

John Saxton attended the meeting.

John Saxton, ATLDOT, [jmsaxton@atlantaga.gov](mailto:jmsaxton@atlantaga.gov)

Mr. Saxton outlined the department's initial steps in their 18-month plan which includes bringing in outside consultants and listening to neighborhood concerns. He and others from his department recently met with members of the Peachtree Park Civic Association to tour different areas of concern the neighborhood had, specifically at the Piedmont Rd entrances and around the Path400 entry points.

He offered if a neighborhood or NPU would like to schedule a site visit w/ ATLDOT for the upcoming comprehensive transportation plan (CTP), just send an e-mail and include "CTP" in the email subject line.

A board member asked what the department's scope was in relation to planning – does it include streets, sidewalks and trails? Mr. Saxton said that this initial phase will be very broad but will be

looking at how to make pedestrian improvements, and how to balance major corridors for cars and pedestrians. They will incorporate and prioritize projects in the ATL Trails plan.

Another board member asked if they dealt with streetlights noting that the light at Northbound Habersham Rd and West Paces Ferry Rd needed a left turn signal. Mr. Saxton will look and report back – a traffic study may be needed.

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)

Chanell Alexis was in attendance and was filling in for Officer Bridgers and had no updates on current cases.

She shared the following:

There have been 3 “Clean & Cut” orders given

There have been 3 demolition orders issued

A board member asked about 2550 Rivers Rd – there have been multiple stop-work orders posted, but construction continues. Ms. Alexis will report on this property.

Another board member asked about a property at the corner of Peachtree Dunwoody and W. Club Dr – Ms. Alexis requested an address to investigate the matter.

Another board member asked about the abandoned property on Lenox Rd that has been a magnet for vagrants. Again, she requested a specific address to look up the property.

### 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

Shade Stokes-Campbell attended the meeting.

- Ms. Stokes-Campbell reminded us of the many ways to contact 311: using the app, dialing 311, via e-mail: [atl311@atlantaga.gov](mailto:atl311@atlantaga.gov) or dialing directly (404) 546-0311

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)

Denise Starling attended the meeting and provided the following report:

- Announced Katherine Kelly as the new President of the Buckhead Coalition, replacing Jim Durrett who is retiring.
- Livable Buckhead has a robust list of “World Cup Resources” available on their website
- Draw for World Cup Watch Party will be in Buckhead! VIPs will be in Fado with a public viewing party on Buckhead Avenue, which will be closed to cars for the festivities: December 5<sup>th</sup> from 11:30am – 3pm
- Miracle on Peachtree Christmas Festival on 12/6 from 4-7pm culminating with a tree lighting at Loudermilk Park.
- Hot Chocolate Crawl on 12/13 through Lenox Mall
- Working on the development of three parks: Loidans, Old Ivy and Mountain Way Common.

- Path400 between Loridans and Sandy Springs is under construction and looking great. This section of Path 400 should be completed within the next 2 years.

A board member asked about the construction on Piedmont Rd near Lenox. The current lane closures and construction barrels make it very difficult to access HWY 400, noting that office building commuters nearby form lanes in between the cones making matters worse. Ms. Starling offered to notify GDOT of the problem.

Another board member thanked Ms. Starling for the completion of the Path400 to Loridans section – North Buckhead really enjoys it!

## 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@staceyevas.com](mailto:kennedie@staceyevas.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)

Ombuds of Neighborhoods – fellow

Apollo Gunn Ombuds of Neighborhoods attended the meeting and offered his assistance to NPU-B Executive Office of Mayor Andre Dickens – Chief Policy Office

Atlanta City Hall – 68 Mitchell Street, Ste 4120

Atlanta, GA 30303

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

(404) 922-6896

Elle Chumlongluk, Director of Stakeholder Engagement and Communications for Councilmember Matt Westmoreland's Office (Post 2 At-Large) attended our meeting and offered, "If you have any questions or concerns about anything, please reach out to our office."

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

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

Office : 404.330.6302

Amber Ware is one of our Neighborhood Relations Managers. She reminds us that she 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.

## 6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

### A. PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Keith Biggs, Chair

**Consent Agenda:** Motion to approve by Ms. Shorter and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Starling.  
**Motion adopted 25-0-0.**

**Alcohol License Applications (LRB) included in the Consent Agenda were heard and are as follows:**

- Madre Café & Cocina – Restaurant – 3350 Peachtree Rd NE / Serving Coffee & Tacos at the ground floor of an office building and serving alcohol in the afternoon / New Business

**Special Event Application (MOSE) included in the Consent Agenda were heard and are as follows:**

- Fado Buckhead St Patrick's Day Event – Special Event / Fado Irish Pub Buckhead, 273 Buckhead Avenue / March 17, 2026  
A board member requested that the portion of the street leading to the library still be accessible during the event. Assurances were given that such access would be given.

### **NON-Consent Agenda**

- California Pizza Kitchen – Restaurant – 3393 Peachtree Rd NE / Change of Agent  
Motion to approve by Mr. Steed and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Murray  
**Motion adopted 24-0-0**

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

Jason Kendall, Chair; Bob Cooney, Vice Chair

No Report given.

## **C. ZONING COMMITTEE**

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

### **V-25-219 – 4230 Club Drive NE**

Motion to defer was made by Ms. Perez and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Murray

**Motion to approve deferral was adopted 23-0-0**

**Announcement was made that the November meeting of the Zoning Committee would be held on Tuesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> due to Thanksgiving week.**

## **7. APAB Report**

Atlanta Planning Advisory Board

The October report was distributed via e-mail in advance.

## **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 attended the meeting and offered the following information:

- Updated that in most recent voting matters, the BZA decisions were the same as the NPU recommendations.
- There are several Book Club events scheduled including Civil Sites on 11/10, Atlanta Urban Landscapes on 11/12, Race and the Greening of Atlanta on 11/13
- “The Porch” celebrates stories of Place and being on 11/20.
- 2026 Community Impact grants application are open – please encourage your neighborhood to submit their projects for consideration by 12/3.
- Track applications in the NPU Dashboard:  
<https://coaplangis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/0edb5ee66955448d9edf659e3472b3ee>
- Find direct links to more info on the DCP updates page:  
<https://www.atlantaga.gov/government/departments/city-planning/neighborhood-planning-units/updates>
- Office of Design on Eventbrite  
<https://www.eventbrite.com/o/office-of-design-108580996491>
- All Atlanta City Studio Events  
<https://www.atlcitystudio.org/acs-events>

A board member requested assistance with a restaurant on Piedmont Rd, “The Knife”, that has done construction for an outside deck without a permit.

Punya Vats, Urban Planner II  
Office of Zoning & Development  
(470) 522 3399  
[pvats@atlantaga.gov](mailto:pvats@atlantaga.gov)

## 9. MATTERS FOR VOTING:

### **Z-25-71 -Text Amendment** – Zoning Ordinance

A discussion was held regarding the legislation which would require push button activators on primary pedestrian entrances to buildings.

**A motion to approve was made by Ms. Shorter with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Mr. Connelly.**

**Motion to approve was adopted 23-0-0**

### **2026 NPU-B Officers Election**

The following slate was nominated for 2026:

Chairperson – Nancy Bliwise

Vice Chairperson – Shawn Perez

Treasurer – Robert Patterson

Recorder – Keith Biggs

**A motion to approve was made by Ms. Shorter with a 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Starling**

**Motion to approve was adopted 23-0-0**

## 10. Presentations

No presentations were given.

## 11. OLD BUSINESS

- The 2026 Business Representative slate will be sent for board and public voting. Board members were reminded to encourage neighbors to vote. There will be a link to our website for voting.

## **12. NEW BUSINESS**

No new business.

## **13. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS & NOTICES:**

Provided for informational purposes. Votes/comments are neither required nor expected.

- The next NPU-B meeting is December 2<sup>nd</sup>
- The next BZA meetings are November 6<sup>th</sup> and November 13<sup>th</sup>
- The next ZRB meeting is October 9<sup>th</sup>
- The next NPU-B Zoning meetings are November 6<sup>th</sup> and November 13<sup>th</sup>

## **14. ADJOURNMENT**

**NPU-B action: A motion to Adjourn by Ms. Starling and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Ms. Bliwise.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11PM.