

NPU-B MONTHLY FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Date: August 5, 2026

Time: 7:02 PM

Location: Zoom

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM by Nancy Bliwise, Chair.

Attendance: 13 members present; 2 proxies (additional members joined after the meeting was called to order)

Officers Present: Nancy Bliwise, Kim Shorter, Tamara Flanagan, Tammy Caudell, Keith Biggs, Shawn Perez

1. OPENING REMARKS / CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS

Chair Nancy Bliwise welcomed attendees, thanked them for the date change, and requested recognition of elected officials and members of the press. Nancy also welcomed new members Barbara Shortidge and John Moores, as well as new nominee Devonte Jennings.

Press: None present

Elected Officials / Representatives: Apollo Gunn, Ombuds of Neighborhoods

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Minutes

Motion: Approve the July 2026 Full Board Meeting Minutes.

Moved by: Kim Shorter **Seconded by:** Shawn Perez

Vote: Motion Passed [vote count not recorded]

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Approval of Agenda

Motion: Approve the August 5, 2026 Full Board Agenda.

Moved by: Kim Shorter **Seconded by:** Shawn Perez

Vote: Motion Passed [vote count not recorded]

4. REPORTS FROM CITY DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES, ELECTED OFFICIALS AND OTHERS

Atlanta Police Department

Reporter: Major Ben Vaynes, Zone 2

- Citywide Part 1 Crime is down 16%; Zone 2 crime is down 22% year to date.
- Significant reductions: Stolen Vehicles (-23%); Theft from Auto [% not recorded]; Robberies [% not recorded]; Property Crimes [% not recorded]; Shoplifting [% not recorded].
- FIFA is finished — there was a total of 24,000 traffic stops during that period.

Community Questions

- Tamara Flanagan thanked Major Vaynes for his email.
- Shawn Perez asked if there could be a better strategy for police directing traffic around the Terminus building and Piedmont and Peachtree, noting the area bottlenecks during high-volume times, especially given the ongoing construction. Major Vaynes said he would work with the security directors of those buildings on a solution.
- Nancy Bliwise thanked Major Vaynes for his reports detailing arrests for specific crimes that can be released back to the communities, noting these reports have been reassuring to neighborhoods.

Repeat Offender Unit

- No report.

Atlanta Fire Rescue

- No report.

Solicitor's Office

Reporter: Lynn Reynolds for Hala Carey

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- Workforce Atlanta is hosting a Job Fair August 21 from 10am–2pm at City Hall for current and future employment, promoting internships, apprenticeships, and career pathways; on-site interviews will be available.
- The Solicitor's Office and other Atlanta/Fulton County officials will hold a panel discussion addressing blight, homestead tax exemption, and In Rem matters on September 17 at MLK Jr. Recreation Center from 10am–12pm.

Community Questions

- Nancy asked if she would still receive the code enforcement report regarding In Rem matters, noting she had not received it. Mrs. Reynolds stated she would ask Hala to report back.

Office of the Inspector General

Reporter: Apollo Gunn

- Office of the Ombudsman (Dr. Jodi Mayer) monthly reminder: an independent, neutral, and impartial party that can help navigate the city, find resources, or resolve outstanding issues and escalations with ATL311 or other city departments.
- Amber Ware serves as Neighbor Relations Manager.

Department of Watershed Management

- No Report.

MARTA

- No Report. Nancy stated she asked them to join and hoped they didn't try to attend the previously scheduled meeting.

Parks and Recreation

- No Report. Nancy stated she asked them to join and hoped they didn't try to attend the previously scheduled meeting.

Questions from the Community

- Ted Fleming and Bruce Spengler raised concerns about Peachtree Hills Park, noting they had met a city parks department representative on a walk who stated construction/upgrades to the sewer at Peachtree Creek East would begin, affecting several neighbors and requiring removal of several trees that could damage the community's tree canopy. There has been no communication with the community, NPUs, or the Civic Association.
- Kim Shorter stated she recalled seeing the marked trees and had asked several Watershed and Parks & Recreation executives who visited NPU-B BOD meetings, all of whom said they were not aware of a project in the area. She believes they were not truthful or transparent with NPU-B, noted her professional background in the water industry makes clear how long sewer upgrade planning takes, and stated an Open Records request was not properly filed consistent with the sunshine laws. She noted the project was part of a consent decree but does not understand its relationship to this location.
- Tamara Flanagan, recorder for 2025, pulled notes from a May 2025 meeting where this concern was raised due to 20–25 marked trees.
- Nancy Bliwise stated NPU-B has detailed notes that could assist Apollo with discovery if he would like them scanned to him. Tara Buckner, a representative previously asked directly about the tree markings, had no answers. These trees are old-growth hardwoods protected by the tree ordinance; NPUs were created to have input on projects of this size given their community-wide impact.
- Apollo Gunn stated it is unfortunate that NPU-B was not included in details of this situation, and that he will bring the concern to Amber Ware and Dr. Jodi Mayer for a deeper look into why it was not handled properly.

Code Enforcement

Reporter: Officer Bridgers

- 89 active cases during the reporting period.

Department of Transportation

- No report. Nancy will gather a report to send to the department.

Public Works / SWEE

Reporter: Officer McClendon

- No delays on the alternate schedule for yard trimmings that are not considered bulk.
- For bulk pickups, residents can call 311 and schedule a special request.

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- Positioning for bulk items has been an issue — place bulk as close to the right-of-way as possible, away from stationary items such as mailboxes, water hydrants, power lines, and sewers.

Community Questions

- Nancy Bliwise stated her recycling can was damaged by workers and removed, and it has been a hassle to have it replaced despite requesting through ATL311. Officer McClendon asked her to email him directly.

ATL311

Reporter: Sade Stokes-Campbell

- Residents should contact ATL311 for non-emergency issues. Hours of operation are 7:00 AM to Midnight, with multiple reporting methods available.
- Sade located Nancy's recycling bin case and will report back, noting some discrepancies.

Community Questions

- Nancy asked how to address a homeless individual previously reported to PAD who is not a danger to the community but is sometimes in distress. Sade advised continuing to call PAD until he is able to be helped, and noted cooling and warming centers open when the weather is at alert level.
- Keith Biggs asked when residents should call 911. Sade stated 911 should be used when there is an emergency involving violence.

Livable Buckhead Coalition

- No Report. Nancy noted thanks for the Restaurant Week information, calling it a big success for vendors and the community.
- Party on the Path annual event will be held at Eclipse de Luna.
- Path400 projects are finishing up and maintenance of the areas is beginning; residents should report any maintenance-related concerns or issues through the website.

Community Questions

- Jamie Olsen stated that concerns with any area of Path400 should be directed to Parks and Recreation, which will be the point of contact after construction is completed.

5. COMMENTS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

- No report.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Public Safety Committee

Chair: Tamara Flanagan

Alcohol License Applications

- Muse Restaurant, 3186 Roswell Rd NE — Change of Agent

Recommendation: Defer 7-0-0

- AMC Theaters (Phipps Plaza), 3500 Peachtree Rd NE — Change of Agent

Recommendation: Approve 9-0-1

Special Event Applications

- European Market, 3035 Peachtree Rd NE — October 3, 2026

Recommendation: Approve 16-0-0

Consent Agenda Motion

Motion: Approve the Public Safety Committee consent agenda as presented.

Moved by: Kim Shorter **Seconded by:** Shawn Perez

Vote: Approved 16-0-0

Development & Transportation Committee

Reporter: Jason Kendall

Text Amendments — Zoning Ordinance

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- Z-26-41: Motion to approve conditioned upon the City advocating for, or implementing to the fullest extent permitted under state law, amendments that exclude early care and education programs and public places of religious worship from the definition of covered entities governing separation requirements for medical cannabis dispensing facilities. An ordinance by Councilmembers Wayne Martin and Antonio Lewis to amend the 1982 Atlanta Zoning Ordinance, as amended (Special Permits), adding a special permit requirement allowing a holder of a state medical cannabis and product dispensing license to operate within the distance prescribed by state law (State law: 1,000 ft; Georgia law: 3,000 ft), giving the NPU an opportunity for input. Public Hearing: August 6 or 13, 2026. Referred to Development & Transportation & Special Projects Committee for review.

Recommendation: Approve 15-1-0

- Z-26-46: Amend the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Atlanta to require special use permits for self-storage facilities, and for other purposes. Public Hearing: September 3 or 10, 2026.

Recommendation: Approve 15-0-1

Zoning Committee

- No Report.

7. APAB REPORT

- Nancy reported on a presentation from Public Works about the new fee schedule for public trash pickup, reminding the city of legal issues with multifamily properties that could also lead to further legal exposure. The increase is intended to help cover the \$19 million general fund settlement that APAB had tried to help the city avoid. APAB is putting forward a series of recommendations for a new rate study using corrected data, applying "common good" principles to bulk pickup, along with additional concerns.

8. PLANNER'S REPORT

Reporter: Tia Maxwell

- There are no July voting items where decisions made by the respective bodies differed from the NPU's recommendation.
- Atlanta Eats — Neighbors and Flavors event (local food system) — August 24, 6–9pm.
- Atlanta Grows a Lot Advisory Council (helps residents, entrepreneurs, and nonprofits turn empty, city-owned land into community gardens, urban farms, and food forests) — applications due by August 30.
- Atlanta Studio City book club August reading — "The Secret Life of Groceries" by Benjamin Lorr.
- NPU University Code Enforcement Academy returns this fall — 5 virtual sessions open to City of Atlanta residents, business owners, and city employees. Every other Thursday, September 10 – November 5, 6–8pm (free).
- Love Our Places application deadline has been extended to August 15. This ACP initiative helps residents and community groups transform underused neighborhood areas into vibrant public spaces.

9. MATTERS FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT

- Mayor's Cup 2026 — Chastain Park Golf Course (NPU-A) — September 23, 2026

Recommendation: To support the application contingent upon approval by NPU-A (a parking plan recommendation).

- Chastain Park Spring Arts Festival — Chastain Park, 4469 Stella Dr (NPU-A) — May 8–9, 2027

Recommendation: To support the application contingent upon approval by NPU-A (a parking plan recommendation).

10. PRESENTATIONS

- No Report.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- No report.

12. NEW BUSINESS

Bylaws Revision 2

Revision 2 will be sent to the public — all residents of NPU-B. The vote will take place in September.

Bylaws Revision 2 — Present to Public

Motion: Present the bylaws as presented to the public.

Moved by: Kim Shorter **Seconded by:** Tamara Flanagan

Vote: Motion Passed

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Next Full Board Meeting: September 1, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Upcoming BZA/ZRB Meetings: August 6 & 13 (BZA); July 9 (ZRB)

- Mary Norwood and Matt Westmoreland sent a report on the city's tree canopy, addressing concerns about tree loss throughout the city and recommendations for protecting the current canopy. ATL 2.0 is in the process of rewriting the zoning ordinance; Nancy will circulate this report, as NPU-B holds a major part of the city's tree canopy and the board needs to stay abreast of the new zoning ordinance in order to send specific recommendations back to City Council.

13. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 26-O-1356 — A substitute ordinance to amend Chapter 130 (Solid Waste Management), Article III (Municipal Collection and Disposal System), Divisions 1 (Generally) and 4 (Rates and Charges).

14. ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment

Motion: Adjourn the meeting.

Moved by: Shawn Perez **Seconded by:** Kim Shorter

Vote: Motion Passed

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.