

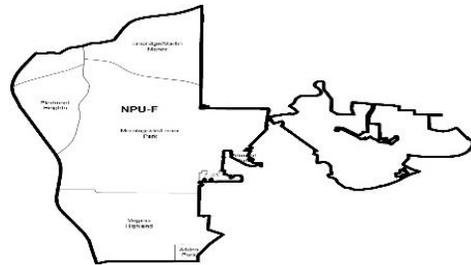
NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING UNIT – F

MEETING INFO

Date & Time: Monday, May 20, 2019 – 7:00 PM

Location: Hillside Facility

1301 Monroe Drive Atlanta, GA 30306-3439



CONTACT INFO

Debbie Skopczynski, **NPU-F, Chair** – (404) 874-7483 or chair@npufatlanta.org

Doug Young, **City of Atlanta, Planner** – (404) 330-6702 or dyoung@AtlantaGa.Gov

Keyetta Holmes, **City of Atlanta, Interim Director** – (404) 546-0166 or kmholmes@AtlantaGa.Gov

MINUTES

1. Opening Remarks/Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm.

The Chair received a request to add the JOINING HEARTS special event on July 20th to the agenda. However, the applicant was not present so this item was not added.

2. Approval of Minutes

The April 2019 minutes have been posted on the new NPU-F website and a link was distributed to the NPU-F mailing list. There were no changes or modification noted.

Motion to approve the April 2019 minutes carries on voice vote.

3. Announcements

There will be a series of meetings with the opportunity for citizens to offer input into the re-write of the City of Atlanta Tree Ordinance. These will be held around the city on June 3rd, 4th, 5th and 6th. The meeting targeted for the North East area of the city will be held on Wednesday June 5th from 6:30 – 8:00 pm at the Neighborhood Church, 1561 McLendon Avenue, 30307 (Candler Park neighborhood). You can find more information here.

4. Reports from City Departmental Representatives

▪ **Atlanta Fire Department – Station 19 North Highland; Station 29 Monroe**

Battalion Chief Dwayne Johnson

On Sunday May 12th a member of the department was injured while responding to an accident on 75/85 near Cleveland Road. A speeding car hit the fire truck as Sgt. Darrow Harden was exiting the truck. He lost his left leg and his right leg was severely injured. A GoFundMe account has been established and you can donate [here](#).

This is a good time to talk about highway safety. Many don't know what to do when they hear lights and sirens behind them. The Chief advised that we should pull to the right as soon as it is safe to do so and stop your vehicle. Let the vehicle go past you, then proceed. Also, remember to use lights and replace wipers frequently so you can see clearly.

Atlanta Fire Rescue recently was evaluated and received an ISO accreditation evaluation rating of 1 – the lowest (and best) you can have. This is good for insurance rates but also makes us safer to have such a robust department.

AFR recently held the 73rd annual memorial for firefighters injured or lost on duty.

▪ **Atlanta Police Dept. - Zone 6 - Major Klotzer Zone 2 – Major Shaw, Captain Patterson**

Captain Singh – Zone 2

We have seen a small uptick in crime – property crime including thefts from cars is higher than two months ago. This is happening everywhere - Sandy Springs, Roswell, all over town with the same suspects and same pattern. Don't leave car running. Lock doors. Don't leave electronics in car. Still seeing many guns stolen out of cars. Tell everyone they can't leave it in the car. Last weekend they had several break-ins tied to a Silver Maximum vehicle. These occurred on Peachtree Cheshire Bridge, N. Highland and Huff Road. The suspects stole a bank statement, iPad, etc.

LT. Grigsby – Zone 6

New evening watch commander. He is making some changes and working hard on the theft from autos crimes. They will get organized to have representatives at our neighborhood meetings soon. Contact him at lgrigsby@atlantaga.gov.

• **Bureau of Housing and Code Compliance – Officer Edwards sledwards@atlantaga.gov cell 404-326-6573**

Vincent Jeter attended in place of Officer Edwards. He reported on two pending cases and there were no questions.

• **Public Works Code Enforcement – Office McKoy cell 404-276-1187**

Reminders on bulk waste. If you have bulk waste (for example very large piles of tree trimmings or twenty or more bags of yard waste) you must call ahead for pick up. If you do not you will be fined. You can call once per month for pick-up (or twelve times in a one-year period). Once you have used up your twelve free pick-ups, you will be charged for anymore that year. If you place a pile at the curb and it is left for more than two weeks, you know it is too big.

Atlanta Citizen Review Board – Jim Hardy our rep to ACRB

The ACRB responds to complaints against police officers and correction officers. They have their own investigators and make recommendations to the board and the board meets once a month. They make recommendations to the Mayor and the Chiefs and handle 4-5 cases a month.

In the majority of cases the complaint is not sustained. When officer is at fault, they make a strong recommendation. The ACRB's recommendation is only implemented 17% of the time. However, in some cases the chief will still take action. For example, the board may recommend a written admonishment in the officer's file and instead the officer receives a verbal warning. The ACRB also offers a mediation process. If the citizen and officer agree, they can meet with a mediator to try and resolve the issue outside the formal process.

Department of Planning, City of Atlanta

Leah LeRue is the Interim Director for NPU and Community Engagement. Her goal over next twelve months is to expand community engagement and public participation. She Lives in city, pays taxes here, and is an active member of NPU-J and Grove Park neighborhood association. She is looking at

how we engage the community and how we get feedback from the community. She is also looking at the grant program. We recently found holes and problems which are being fixed.

There has been some reorganization – NPU was a part of the Department of Zoning and Development and has been moved to report directly to the Office of the Commissioner. This is because the NPU system is involved in so many other functions such as the Mayor’s Office of Special Events (MOSE), alcohol licenses through APD, and legislation and the amendments with City Council.

5. Comments from Elected Officials

None

6. Presentation(s)

Center for Civic Innovation – NPU Initiative

Asile Patin and Kyle Kessler of CCI presented the NPU Initiative taken on by their organization. They handed out a one-page synopsis of the program, but all of the information can be found on their website. <https://www.civictlanta.org/npu-initiative/>. The goals of the project are to educate people about the system and to look for ways to make it better.

The NPU system has not had a comprehensive review since the 70s. They are looking at things like how we are using technology and to learn from other cities. They are not grading the NPUs but trying to understand the neighborhoods and NPUs, and the city’s agencies and department roles. They are working with Georgia State and just received a report from them which, after review, will be shared on the website.

Questions:

Regarding alcohol licensing, when the NPU makes a recommendation often the LRB does not honor our recommendation. Why do we bother? It would be helpful to at least understand why the recommendation was not honored and if there is a loophole in the legislation that we need to work on. Kyle mentioned that they have looked at systems in other cities that do have that feedback loop.

Some NPUs are boards who hold the vote and others are democracies where all members vote. How is CCI reconciling this difference? Kyle indicated that they are not attempting to reconcile. They just want to understand how each NPU works. As long as it works, that is OK. Attempts have been made in the past to make all NPUs function the same, but the decision was made that it was enough to ensure that once a year all members have the opportunity to vote on the bylaws and organizational structure.

The next public meeting for this initiative will be June 8th at CCI, 115 Martin Luther King Blvd. More information is available on the website.

6. Planner’s Report – Doug Young

The design awards were presented this month. Each year the NPU can nominate a project, building, etc. NPU-F did not nominate anything this year. The application for next year’s awards will be distributed in January/February.

In addition to these community awards, they also issue the Awards of Excellence. This is the 42nd year for the program and the award is quite prestigious. They will be posting information on the website about the projects that were nominated and the winners.

The department is also working on a comprehensive analysis of the preservation programs and are looking to roll out the results this summer. It has been 30 years since the city has done such an analysis.

8. Committee Reports

- Lindridge-Martin Manor Neighborhood Association – Kevin McBride, President; Rich Sussman, NPU Rep

Work on Armand Park has resumed. Sometime this summer second and third phases will be complete.

- Morningside-Lenox Park Association – Ben Nemo, President, John Ayers, Zoning & NPU Rep
No report
- Piedmont Heights Civic Association – Jim Hardy, President; Jean Johnson and Tim Berube, NPU Reps

Significant problems have been raised by neighbors on Allen and Piedmont Way. The development behind Rock Spring Presbyterian Church is creating serious and dangerous stormwater problems on Allen Road.

PHCA has asked the NPU to support their request to the city and the developer to remedy the situation

Discussion:

Residents on Allen Road are being severely impacted with erosion. The stormwater runoff from the new Hedgewood development at Rock Spring Presbyterian Church needs to be piped all the way to the storm drain and not be dumped on road.

Watershed is aware.

Mr. Donnelly, the developer, stated that the water going down Allen Road has always gone down Allen Road. It is downstream from 13 acres. He claims that they have been working hard on this for several weeks. He believes the solution is to pipe the water 600 ft from the project to first catch basin on Allen Road. This would require a 24-inch pipe and cost \$270K.

A more complete solution would involve piping the water for another ½ mile. He requests that everyone pitch in to pay for a solution. Alternatively he suggests that the neighborhood approve him building another four homes and then he will pay the \$270K.

One member recommended that all parties consider independent arbitration.

Motion that NPU-F work with the residents of Piedmont Heights, the city of Atlanta Watershed, Dept. of Planning and Hedgewood homes to come to an equitable solution to this matter.

Motion carries yeah: 24 nay: 0 abstentions: 0

- Virginia-Highland Civic Association (VHCA) –David Brandenberger, President; Barry Loudis and Kay Stephenson, NPU Reps

Summerfest will take place the weekend of June 1st & 2nd. The children's parade and community dinner (residents only with ID please) will be held on Friday evening. All information is available on the [website](#).

- Virginia-Highland Business Association (VHBA) –Lynn DeWitt, NPU Rep
No report

- Edmund Park – Aruna Narasimhan, President, Pete Densmore, Neighborhood Rep; Sally Montgomery, Zoning
No report
- Emory/CDC Area/Druid Hills
No report
- Parks, Trees, and Environment – Rich Sussman/Jack White
Sally Sears from the South Fork Conservancy presented information about their trails and about Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) plans to rebuild the bridge on Briarcliff Road. This is a multi-year project and it is expected that it will not close the road completely but will drive some cut-through traffic in our neighborhoods.

A 15-20 person committee has been assembled to prepare input on what the community would like to see as a part of this project. The committee is asking for:

- Sidewalks on Briarcliff from N. Decatur to Clifton Rd.
- Access to the creek from the four corners of the bridge and to trails the conservancy hopes to build on both banks of the creek to get from Zonolite Park, Morningside Nature Preserve, and Hebert Taylor Park to Emory and eventually to the VA Hospital.
- Stormwater retention pond on the one open corner

GDOT has not yet said yes to these requests, but they are required to perform stormwater management with their projects. Sally will draft a letter of support from the NPU. We will review this letter and vote on it at the next meeting.

In addition, Sally told us about a planting project to grow Milkweed all along the creek. We hope that when the Monarch butterflies return in the fall they will find our Milkweed and breed.

Finally, the Watershed Department will be holding a listening session about erosion and storm water management on June 20th. Details will follow.

- Public Safety Committee – Jim Hardy
No report
- Education Committee (vacant)

Chair Report:

- The Chair was notified that a special event that appeared before the NPU last month, La Fete du Rose has moved their date from May 11th to June 9th due to inclement weather. The NPU-F has been asked if there are any objections. The Midtown Neighbor's Association and NPU-E do not have any objections.
Motion: no objections to moving La Fete du Rose to June 9th carries on a voice vote.
- Received two Beltline Overlay SAPs
 - BL-19-30 at 675 Drewry. Clearview is a proposed multi-family condominium in the VaHi neighborhood. The property was recently rezoned to MRC-3 and the existing structure will be demolished to make way for new construction. Project consists of 40 residential units placed on top of a 2-story concrete podium structure for parking. Comments are due back to the city by May 26th,
 - BL-19-28 at 730 Ponce de Leon Place, also in the VaHi neighborhood. This property is owned by Chabad Intown. The owners propose the installation of a 42 inch tall fence

along the front yard adjacent to the street, and public sidewalk. They are also proposing to install new signage and up lights. Comments are due back to the city by May 24th.
Action: The VHCA has reviewed and has no objection to either SAP. No comments from the NPU.

- The Man Cave LRB application has still not been scheduled for a License Review Board meeting. Will keep you informed if/when it is scheduled. LRB hearings are held every other Tuesday at City Hall at 5 pm. We haven't been able to get any info from the applicant or the City on the status. Some activity has been observed at the location and neighbors have been asked to keep an eye out. Please let Jane Rawlings or the Chair know if you see any activity at the location.
- Thanks to the Virginia-Highland Civic Association (Barry Loudis) and Piedmont Heights Civic Association for being fiscal agents for NPU-F and Edmund Park. The City has changed their process for awarding NPU grant money and will no longer pay the vendors directly which now requires a fiscal agent as middleman. Edmund Park needed an agent to receive their NPU grant. NPU-F funds were from a grant from Alex Wan to rebuild the NPU-F website.
- Check out the new NPU-F website. It is now more than a depository of information. Kay Stephenson worked with Scott Nickels of Virginia-Highland to update and revamp the site.
- Special thanks also to Gerry Reimer for maintaining the old dinosaur of a website with bailing wire and spit. The software for this site was no longer supported by Microsoft and Gerry was the only one who could add or remove documents.
- Volunteers are still needed for the NPU-F Zoning Chair and to share the secretary role. Last year, we've had 2 secretaries, but maybe with 3 the job would be less daunting.
- APAB report
 - o Leah LaRue has been named as successor to Erica Pines as assistant director of Neighborhood Coordination. and the NPU team has been moved to the Commissioner's office from Office of Zoning Development. As APAB president, I am encouraged that this move will transition the team from an administrative role to helping to strengthen the leadership skills of NPU leaders and enhance the value of NPU input into policy decisions being made by the City and City Council and on zoning, alcohol licensing and special events.
 - o The new 2019 City Services & Code Enforcement Handbook is available online under the "Keep Atlanta Beautiful" Commission tab located in the Public Works Department section.
 - o Several neighborhoods on the south and west sides, working with Living Cities, created a playbook for increasing community engagement – getting folks involved and interested in the government actions in our communities You've already heard today about some efforts -- the CCI NPU initiative and the move of the NPU team to the Commissioner's office – and there is help for local neighborhoods and NPUs to activate their communities around big and small issues (eg the Gulch development, rewrite of the tree ordinance, renovating a public space, etc.). Copies of the Atlanta Community Engagement Playbook will be available for anyone who is interested. I should have copies next month. Training is available for any group that is interested.
 - o No quorum - again

9. Matters for Voting

Consent Agenda

Zoning Review Board

Application	Address	Request	Neighborhood Recommendation
U-19-11	1492 Piedmont Ave NE	Applicant seeks a special use permit to operate outside dining.	Application withdrawn (PH)

Special Events Applications

Event	Date	Event Type	Recommendation
Atlanta Chicken and Beer Festival Jim Shumake	June 15, 2019	Piedmont Park Class E/1,500 participants	Removed. Applicant not present.

- **NPU Action:** Motion to approve the consent agenda after removing the Atlanta Chicken and Beer Festival carries on voice vote.

Special Event Application(s) – MOSE

Event Name	Event Organizer	Event Location	Event Date
<u>Atlanta Moon Ride</u>	Laken Sullivan	Piedmont Park & various streets Class D/5,029 participants	June 7-8, 2019

Comments: None

NPU-F Action: Motion to recommend approval carries on voice vote.

<u>Atlanta Chicken and Beer Festival</u>	Jim Shumake	Piedmont Park Class E/1,500 participants	June 15, 2019
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Comments: The applicant was not present. In this case the NPU typically votes to not recommend.

NPU-F Action: Motion to not recommend approval carries on voice vote.

<u>Atlanta Symphony Orchestra Festival</u>	Tyler Benware	Piedmont Park Oak Hill Class B/24,000 participants	June 12 & 19, 2019
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Comments: The two concerts begin at 7:30 pm with a pre-concert featuring the Atlanta Symphony Youth Orchestra beginning at 6:30 pm. Complete details are available on the [website](#).

NPU-F Action: Motion to recommend approval carries on voice vote.

<u>42nd Annual Atlanta Jazz Festival</u>	Melissa Laurenceau	Piedmont Park Class A/100,00 participants	May 25-26, 2019
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Comments: 10:00 am to 11:00 am. Sound check beginning on Friday

Biggest changes are that the bike lane (cycle track) will be open. Scooter parking will be across from bike valet near park tavern. The are also working with Uber, Bird and Lymé to mitigate issues.

Residents asked that they that they work to mitigate any problems for MARTA bus 36. Often attendees park illegally close to the intersection of 10th and Charles Allen which makes it impossible for the bus to make the turn. Also we requested that they ensure the bus stops are not blocked.

NPU-F Action: Motion to recommend approval carries on voice vote. One opposed.

Please visit the City of Atlanta Website at: www.AtlantaGa.Gov

Joining Hearts 45	Jerry Henderson	Piedmont Park Greystone & Aquatic Center Class E/1,000 participants	July 20, 2019
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Comments: Applicant not present. This item was not added to the agenda.

Liquor License Application(s) – LRB

Name of Business	Type of Business	Applicant	Property Address	Request
Southern Belle & Georgia Boy (Review and Comment Only)	Restaurant	Joseph C. Ward	1043 Ponce de Leon Avenue	New Business

Comments: Located in Briarcliff Plaza (Plaza Theater) in Poncey Highland.

NPU-Action: Motion to support recommendation of NPU-N carries on voice vote.

Rina's Kitchen (Review and Comment Only)	Restaurant	Tal Postelnik Baum	699 Ponce de Leon Avenue	New Business
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Comments: Located in Ford Factory Lofts (Beltline Kroger) in Poncey Highland.

NPU-Action: Motion to support recommendation of NPU-N carries on voice vote.

Board of Zoning Adjustment Application(s) – BZA

[V-19-88](#) 20 Golf Circle NE (Review and Comment Only)

Applicant, Angel Shockey, seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to 1) reduce the required front yard setback from 35 feet to 30 feet and 2) reduce the required rear yard setback from 15 feet to 11 feet – for a single-family addition.

Comments: This property is located in Ansley Park. It was not reviewed by PHCA.

NPU-F Action: Motion to support Ansley Park and NPU E carries on Voice Vote

[V-19-90](#) 649 Elmwood Drive NE (Review and Comment Only)

Applicant seeks to appeal a Certificate of Occupancy issued by the Atlanta Office of Buildings.

Comments: This appeal was not reviewed by the VHCA.

NPU-F Action: None taken

[V-19-107](#) 1697 North Pelham Road NE (Vote Required)

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to 1) reduce the northside yard setback from 7 feet to 3 feet, 2) reduce the southside yard setback from 7 feet to 4 feet, 3) reduce the rear yard setback from 15 feet to 5 feet, 4) allow an accessory structure to exceed 30 percent of the floor area of the main house to 38 percent and 5) applicant seeks a special exception from the zoning regulation to allow for active recreation in yards adjacent to street.

MLPA Report: Approved 13-0-0

Comments: None

NPU-F Action: Motion to recommend approval carries on voice vote.

Zoning Review Board Application(s) – ZRB

Application	Property Address	Public Hearing Date
U-19-11 (Vote Required) Applicant seeks a special use permit to operate outside dining. PROPOSED TERRACE PLAN , SITE PLAN	1492 Piedmont Avenue NE	June 6 or 13, 2019

Comments: On consent agenda – application has been withdrawn

U-19-12 (Review and Comment Only) Applicant seeks a special use permit to operate law offices in the Druid Hills Historic District/Ponce de Leon Corridor. SITE PLAN	1189 South Ponce de Leon Avenue NE	June 6 or 13, 2019
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Comments: Druid Hills voted not to oppose.

NPU-Action: None taken

10. Old Business

11. New Business

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm.