

NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING UNIT – F

Monday, January 20, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Hillside Facility
1301 Monroe Drive, Atlanta, GA 30306-3439



CONTACT INFORMATION

Debbie Skopczynski, **Chair** – 404.874.7483 or chair@npufatlanta.org

Doug Young, **City of Atlanta, Planner** – 404.330.6702 or dyoung@AtlantaGa.Gov

Leah LaRue, **City of Atlanta, Assistant Director** – 404.330.6070 or llarue@atlantaga.gov

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks
 - The meeting was called to order at 7:00 pm. A quorum was present.
 - Motion to accept the agenda carries on voice vote. - Motion Approved
2. Approval of Minutes
 - November and December
 - i. The November and December 2019 minutes have been posted on the NPU-F website and a link was sent to those on the NPU email list. Thanks to Aruna Narasimhan for preparing both. Motion to approve the November 2019 and December 2019 minutes carries on a voice vote. - Motion Approved
3. Calendar Announcements - None
4. Reports from City Departmental Representatives
 - Atlanta Fire Department – Station 19 North Highland, Station 29 Monroe Drive; Derek Harris, Battalion Chief
No Report
 - Atlanta Police Dept – Zone 6, Zone 2 – Major Senzer; Captain Singh
Sgt Galvan from Zone 2 reports that there was an undercover operation at The Man Cave. The Man Cave was cited and closed. The process is very slow going to court. The Man Cave is now structured as an event location which allows bringing in its own alcohol to give away which is legal.

He also stressed the importance to not leave your car running which will decrease the chance of it being stolen. There are reports of people sliding into cars at gas stations.
Please report all crimes immediately, do not think that the police are too busy to respond. They are adding more resources to solve crimes.

- Fulton County Prosecutor – Zone 6, Zone 2 – Nemonie Nooks
No Report
- MARTA Police
Sgt Johnson states there is a spike in vehicle crime, no more specifically targeted cars. Criminals go into cars if they see something visible. Juveniles have been caught and arrested.
MARTA is preparing for the Final Four.
- Bureau of Housing and Code Compliance – Office Jeter
No report
- Public Works Code Enforcement – Officer Ferguson
No report
- Office of the Solicitor's – Andrew Hughes, Solicitor
No report
- Watershed Management, Spence Peck, Watershed Ambassador,
speck@atlantaga.gov, 404-546-1203

Spence Peck states the 1% municipal option sales tax on the ballot on March 24th, will go to Watershed Mgmt. This will be \$150M a year. Please remember to vote.

The level 1 drought has been rescinded. Protect your pipes by keeping the heat on, let water drip. There is a toilet rebate program and a senior citizen discount.

- Public Works
No report

5. Comments from Elected Officials – None

6. Presentations – None

7. Planner's Report - Doug Young – Assistant Director, Urban design
The 43rd Design Awards is coming up and 2020 nominations are being accepted. Nominations for the Community Design Awards will be accepted at the February meeting.
April is National Historic Preservation Month.

8. Neighborhood and Committee Reports

- Lindridge-Martin Manor
50+ planted trees and bushes.
The general meeting is Feb 5th at 7pm.
January 23rd is board meeting.
- Morningside-Lenox Park
No Report
- Piedmont Heights Civic Association
No Report

- Virginia-Highland Civic Association
Plans for Firestation 19 construction should begin in the Summer
- Edmund Park
No report
- Emory/CDC Area/Druid Hills
Focus group for Druid Hills beginning soon.
- Parks, Trees, and Environment
Trees have been planted in Lindridge-Martin Manor.
- Public Safety
No report
- Education Committee
Chairperson needed, let Debbie know if you are interested.
- Chair Report
 - i. The Department of City Planning has announced the 2020 Community Impact Grant Program (formerly the NPU Grant Program). NPU-F is eligible for a grant up to \$4,000 (and maybe a little more if there is money left over.) The document has been sent to neighborhood chairs. As in previous years, asking that the neighborhoods submit their projects by 2/15 and if more than \$4,000 is requested, we'll do some haggling. The NPU will vote on the grant request at the February meeting.
 - ii. As announced last month, I attended a Morningside Elementary School renovation meeting on December 17th. The focus of the meeting was to get input from the community members – including Go Team and PTA members – on priorities for what to preserve, what to change, etc. Top priorities included preserving the historic façade, new gym and cafeteria. Plans for Inman School were not discussed. Design plans will be shown in February. Still looking for someone to represent the NPU.
 - iii. Jake Duffy, who lives in the Morningside neighborhood/Manchester District, agreed to serve as the Alcohol Permits Chair, replacing Jane Rawlings. (See New Business). Motion to elect Jake as Alcohol Permits chair carries on voice vote..
 - iv. NPU-L is organizing an NPU Co-Ed kickball league. Really. Interested? see Debbie.
 - v. APAB held its annual Neighborhood Matters Awards celebration on Saturday. We tried a new format this year and it turned out to be a special event for recipients. Felicia Moore was a guest speaker, brunch was served during the event, the room was packed. 12 awards were given including 3 Advocate Awards -- one for PEDS, one to Bill Bozarth who is APAB Rep to Invest Atlanta and one to the Ben Massell Dental Clinic (provides free dental services to Atlanta.
 - vi. A flyer was distributed at the APAB meeting calling for my impeachment as APAB president for "consorting with Planning Relative to Complaints about NPU elections", and Violations of the "Georgia Open Meetings and Open Records Act".

- vii. Heads up – Legislation was introduced by Councilmembers Antonio Brown, Farokhi, Overstreet and Sheperd to make significant changes to the NPU system. The proposed recommendations were sent to Council without talking to any current NPU leaders. Most of the proposals will require changes to our by-laws and the way we operate. The legislation will be on our agenda as a Public Notice next month– no votes will be asked to be taken. Brown’s office is expecting it to go to Council for a vote in March. There may be a public hearing sometime in February. If you have a relationship with a Councilmember, please contact them asking that this fast-moving train be slowed down so that we have time to review the legislation and comment.
- viii. The Chair is appointing Kay Stephenson as APAB Alternate. Motion to appoint Kay as alternate carries by voice vote.
- ix. Neighborhood Presidents were asked to update their neighborhood contact information and confirm the NPU Reps. I’ve received responses from most, but there are a few stragglers. Will follow-up with them this week so I can get the information to the City and update our website.

9. Matters for Voting

MATTERS FOR VOTING

Consent Agenda

Special Events Applications

Event	Date	Event Type	Recommendation
2020 Kid Fit Strong Fitness Challenge Festival Harold Daniel	Piedmont Park March 8, 2020	Class E 1,500 Participants	Support
Persian Community Festival Randall Fox	Piedmont Park April 4-5, 2020	Piedmont Park Class E/1,500 participants	Support <i>Removed</i>
Walk to End Lupus Teri Emond	Piedmont Park April 25, 2020	Class D & Assembly 8,000 Participants	Support <i>Removed</i>
Whine Walk Run 5K Patrice Peters	Piedmont Park May 2, 2020	Class E & Assembly 250 Participants	Support <i>Removed</i>
Let Your Light Shine Festival Sashe Omogiate	Piedmont Park May 16, 2020	Class E 200 Participants	Support
Southern Cocktails in the Park Festival Jim Shumake	Piedmont Park June 13, 2020	Class E 600 Participants	Support
Piedmont Park Arts Festival Randall Fox	Piedmont Park August 15-16, 2020	Class E 1,999 Participants	Support

Board of Zoning Adjustment Applications

Application	Request	Recommendation
V-19-230 631 Park Drive NE	Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to reduce the required east side yard setback from 7 feet to 3.5 feet and	VH: No activity NPU: Defer

	rear yard setback from 15 feet to 5 feet to construct a detached garage in the rear yard.	
V-19-231 627 Park Drive NE	Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to reduce the required east side yard setback from 7 feet to 3.5 feet and rear yard setback from 15 feet to 5 feet to construct a detached garage in the rear yard.	VH: No activity NPU: Defer

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda after removing Persian Community Festival, Walk to End Lupus, and whine, Walk Run 5K carries on voice vote. - Motion Approved

Special Event Applications (MOSE)

Event Name	Class/Participants	Event Location
Park Tavern Oyster Fest 2020 Festival Paul Smith	Gated 1,500 Participants	Park Tavern February 8, 2020

Comments: same event as before

NPU-F Action: motion to support carries.

Park Tavern Springfest Festival Paul Smith	Gated 1,500 Participants	Midtown-Park Tavern February 29, March 7 and March 15, 2020
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Comments: same event as before nothing has changed

NPU-F Action: motion to support carries.

Persian Community Festival Randall Fox	Class E 1,999 Participants	Piedmont Park April 4-5, 2020
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Comments: Removed from Consent Agenda, concern about the number of participants. Website indicates that 30,000 are anticipated.

Jennifer Humphries here. This festival has been around since 2013 and open to the public. Expect 1,999 participants, the website has been troublesome and incorrect. Last year had 1,999 (maybe 1,998 participants)

NPU-F Action: motion to support carries.

The Atlanta Dogwood Festival Rebekah Jones	Class A 90,000 Participants	Piedmont Park April 17-19, 2020
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Comments: 84th year; no changes

NPU-F Action: motion to support carries.

Walk to End Lupus Teri Emond	Class D 8,000 Participants	Piedmont Park April 25, 2020
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Comments: Also an Assembly permit. Walk will take place entirely in Park. Removed from Consent Agenda – no one present.

NPU-F Action: no one present

Whine Walk Run 5K Patrice Peters	Class E 250 Participants	Piedmont Park May 2, 2020
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Comments: Removed from Consent Agenda – no one present

NPU-F Action: no one present

Alcohol License Applications (LRB)				
Name of Business	Type of Business	Applicant	Property Address	Request
Onyx	Nightclub	Tashonia Pittman Roach	1888 Cheshire Bridge Road NE	Change of Ownership

MLPA report: No comments

Comments: There were general concerns about past operations by adjacent residents in the Manchester District of Morningside. The business closed last February then opened for 2 dates on 11/23 and 12/3 which was the last day of operation. The business was purchased 12/7/2019. Issues around parking were brought up by the community and the application seems sketchy. The use of search lights to promote event is illegal. There will be onsite security with new owners. The new owner and attorney said they would discuss issues with community prior to going to the LRB.

NPU-F Action: 1. Motion to defer failed. 2. Motion to recommend denial --44 ayes, 25 nays. Motion to deny carries.

Papi's Cuban & Caribbean Grill	Restaurant	Reynaldo Regalado	1540 Avenue Place	Annexation
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DHCA report: No Concerns

Comments: Applicant not present

NPU-F Action: Motion deny without prejudice - motion carries.

Board of Zoning Adjustment Applications (BZA)

[V-19-265](#) 1480 Lanier Place NE

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulations to 1) reduce the required front yard setback from 35 feet to 28.7 feet to construct a front porch, 2) reduce the required north side yard setback from 7 feet to 4 feet and 3) reduce the required south side yard setback from 7 feet to 3 feet to construct a new accessory structure.

MLPA Report:

Comments: Neighbor asks for 4ft vs 3 ft setback (revised referral certificate)

NPU-F Action: motion to approve 36 to 7

[V-19-280](#) 1676 Noble Drive NE

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to 1) reduce the required rear yard setback from 15 feet to 3.3 feet and 2) reduce the required east side yard setback from 7 feet to 1 foot.

MLPA Report: Approved.

Comments: *Amended referral certificate: rear yard setback change from 15 feet to 3 feet and east side yard setback from 7 feet to 3 feet.*

Neighbors approve to rebuild garage it is dilapidated.

NPU-F Action: Motion to approve – motion carries by voice vote.

[V-19-282](#) 1634 Johnson Road NE

Applicant seeks a variance to exceed the maximum total floor area allowed for an accessory structure from 30 percent of the main structure to 50 percent of the main structure in order to construct an accessory structure.

MLPA Report: approved by MLPA

NPU-F Minutes January 20, 2020

Comments: existing carport falling apart- plan to demolish and rebuild carriage house and add 1284 square feet.

NPU-F Action: motion to approve – motion carries.

10. Old Business

V-19-276 1042 Mc Lynn

Revised referral certificate: Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulations to eliminate minimum distance of ten linear feet behind the front façade of the principal structure to 1 foot for the front facing garage door.

Comments: This application was voted on at the December 2019 meeting and a recommendation was made to recommend denial. At the meeting, the referral certificate stated that he had requested a variance for a porch, but the applicant stated that he changed his plans and the porch would be built. A motion to rescind the previous decision of the NPU would be required before the NPU made another recommendation.

There was a lengthy discussion about the variance and how the applicant will build the garage facing the street vs. in the back or side of the house. Neighbors attended siding with the applicant as his plans is better for water drainage. Others opposed his plans stating that garages facing the street should be in the suburbs not the city.

Question is called to rescind last months motion 31 to 23.
Motion to approve – motion carries 29 to 23.

11. New Business (see Chair's Report)

- Election of Alcohol Permits Chair – Jake Duffy (Morningside/Manchester)

12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 PM.