

NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING UNIT – F

Monday, December 21, 2020 at 7:00 PM

Please pre-register by clicking [HERE](#)
Dial-In: 646-558-8656, access code, 92815131493#
Meeting ID: 928 1513 1493



CONTACT INFORMATION

Debbie Skopczynski, **Chair** – 404.874.7483 or chair@npufatlanta.org
Kay Stephenson, **Vice-Chair** – kay.stephenson@gmail.com
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

Post Agenda, Consent Agenda, By-Laws ,minute

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks
 - The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm
 - A motion by Kay Stephenson and seconded by Rich Sussman to amend the agenda to add a presentation by Gerry Neumark on the new Inspector General Board carried by a vote of 14 Yeas and 0 Nays.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the minutes carries by a vote of 14 – 0. Kay Stephenson motioned Jane Rawlings 2nd.

3. Announcements

Refer to Consent Agenda for information.

4. Reports from City Departmental Representatives

Atlanta Fire Department Station 19 North Highland, Station 29 Monroe Drive Battalion Chief Derek Harris	Chief Greg Gray (Station 15 th on 10 th Street) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• December is historically busiest for structure fires - we have had multiple fires across the city.• Fire Safety – have working smoke and carbon dioxide alarms available at Fire Stations• Remain vigilant - Keep heaters away from combustibles, check on our elderly, relatives,
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	<p>neighbors and friends.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With Covid, we have an uptick in issues and concerns. Please wear mask and social distance. • We have had a large number of automatic fire alarms, mostly businesses and mostly (around 90%) are false alarms. Please try to eliminate these false alarms. • We have around 15 responses to automatic fire alarms – trying to reduce this as best as we can.
<p>Atlanta Police Department</p> <p>Zone 2 – Major Andrew Senzer</p> <p>Zone 6 – Major Peter Ries</p>	<p>Major Senzer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Getting ready to close out the year strong • We are making strides to fix issues with clubs and street racing • Putting audits in place to help enforce licenses for clubs masquerading as restaurants – pushing for a probationary period to hold more accountable upfront. • Street racing is still an issue. We have had success with loud exhaust statute that is on the books with State of GA. We cannot enforce unless the violators stop for us. We still have a no chase policy for street racing. But we have seen success with judges impose up to \$1000 fine for these exhaust systems. We have also seen success with intell going back and hold ring leaders and organizers accountable. This issue won't go away overnight and we have a good template on handling. <p>Major Ries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reminder to try and reduce probability of auto theft by removing items that appeal to being stolen.
MARTA Police	
Fulton County Prosecutor	
<p>Officer of the Solicitor</p> <p>Andrew Hughes</p>	
<p>ATL311</p> <p>Barbara Dougherty</p>	<p>Non emergency call center – please call, email or use app for all non emergency issues or call 311 from within city limits.</p> <p>To follow-up on Code enforcement issues go to Citizen Accella website.</p>

<p>Public Works Code Enforcement Officer Ferguson</p>	<p>Officer Byrd from Code Enforcement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Atlanta Municipal Court trying to catch up by doing re-inspections on current court cases but not initial inspections. • Only doing initials by contacting individuals by bringing them into voluntary compliance. • If you see a violation, please take a picture, and use ATL 311 to report the violation • For the homeless camps – this will fall under APD – tickets will be issued if people are in violation. <p>Officer Ferguson from Public works –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Garbage, bulk, yard debris and recycle is still being picked up let us know if it is not and we will send someone out.
<p>Watershed Management Spencer Peck speck@atlantaga.gov 404-546-1203</p>	<p>Lisa Baker (filling in for Spencer)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No water cutoffs per the Mayor during pandemic • Please don't put leaves in storm drain that can cause floods. • No fats and oils in drains • Paperless billing campaign – take advantage of getting bills electronically – we have incentives for this- win an Amazon Echo by signing up by January 31, 2021 • Be careful of individuals posing as Watershed employees, we will never come to your door for you to pay your bill.

5. Comments from Elected Officials

<p>Councilmember Jennifer Ide</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excited for Gerry Neumark to join as member of new Inspector General Board • Thanked the board, City Employees and Jane Rawlings for all they do for issues around Cheshire Bridge licensing • LRB audit of their processes will come out soon • Dept of Transportation will share thoughts on Monroe Complete Street Project - plans coming soon in February or March
<p>State Reps Park Cannon, Stacy Evans Olivia Buckner – Chief of Staff</p>	<p>Olivia Buckner - Stacy Evans Chief of Staff - Stacy Evans</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Working on Street racing and Fireworks issues • Contact olivia@stacyevans.com with questions

olivia@stacyevans.com	
Others	-

6. Consent Agenda

Special Events Applications

Application	Request	Recommendation
Rescue Dog Games (Date Change) (Originally supported on 4/20/20)	Piedmont Park October 16, 2021	Continue to support
Peachtree Junior + AJC Peachtree Road Race (Date Change) (Original Application supported 12/16/19. First date change supported 6/15/20)	Piedmont Park July 3-4, 2021	Continue to support

Board of Zoning Adjustment

Application	Request	Recommendation
V-20-139 2459 Elizabeth Ann Lane NE	Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulations to 1) reduce the required southern side yard setback from 7 feet to 3 feet, 2) reduce the required rear yard setback from 15 feet to 0 feet, and 3) exceed the maximum lot coverage from 50 percent to 55 percent in order to convert a two car garage into an accessory dwelling unit with a single-car garage.	LMMNA: Defer
V-20-177 1330 North Highland Ave	Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to 1) reduce the required west side yard setback from 7 feet to 3 feet 6 inches. 2) reduce the required rear yard setback from 15 feet to 9 feet, 3) exceed the maximum height of an accessory structure from 20 feet to 22 feet 6.5 inches and 4) exceed the area of an accessory structure from 30 percent of the main structure to 71 percent of the main structure in order to construct a second story addition on an existing accessory structure (garage)	MLPA: Defer

NPU-F Action: Motion to approve the consent agenda made by Kay Stephenson 2nd by Rich Sussman carries by 14 yay 0 nay and 0 abstentions.

7. Presentations

- Gerry Neumark – On the governing Board of the Inspector General (IG Board)
- Ethics board no longer exists. It is now the IG board now that we have an Inspector General – Shannon Managult starts in January. This process took almost a year. Lots of different interviews and the best person was picked.

- This reconstitution now allows us to deal more serious cases such as fraud, waste, abuse, bribery for example where before we were locked into ethics code and not able to do much.
- Board went from 7 to 9 members including a forensic office, that serve a term of 3 years.
- 3 divisions – Ethics Division, Contract Compliance Division and IG.
- One main change is we have become an appellate board.
- Appellate hearings are held at 6 pm third Thursday of every month.
- Call integrity hotline at 800-884-0991 to report any city employee needs investigating.

8. Planner's Report – Doug Young

- Increased illegal construction during pandemic
To report unpermitted construction activity email codebustersdcp@atlantaga.gov or call 404.865.8550
For more information visit <https://www.atlantaga.gov/Home/Components/News/News/13482/1338>
- Food Truck program increase in January for more information email bkamber@atlantaga.gov
- For public hearings visit: <https://www.atlantaga.gov/government/departments/city-planing>
- For NPU Voting activity visit NPU Dashboard <https://www.npuatlanta.org/npu-dashboard>
- For info on the CDP visit www.atlcitydesign.com/comprehensive-development-plan
- To stay informed, follow us on social media @npuatlanta

9. Neighborhood and Committee Reports

Lindridge Martin Manor	Neighborhoods addressing the homeless problem – what to do when you displace people in homeless camps. The stimulus package has allowed people to be placed and have services. Please bear with the city agencies. There will be several cleanups and is an ongoing problem.
Piedmont Heights	No report
Morningside Lenox Park	No report
Virginia-Highland	Chase Johnson has established a go-fund me account to raise funds to help the VaHi businesses stay in business Please go to gofundme.com and search for Virginia Highland or use this link https://gofund.me/a0c89ced Piedmont Heights and Virginia Highland safety

	committees have collaborated to give meals to fire station and police departments.
Edmund Park	No report
Emory/CDC area/Druid Hills	No report
Parks, Trees & Environment	<p>Stephanie Coffin asked to announce - Tree planting by Trees Atlanta 40 trees on both sides of the street in VaHi and 19 trees around Briarcliff will be planted on Saturday January 9th. This will be a masked social distancing event. Please show up to help.</p> <p>GA Power is planning tree pruning cycle for trees in the right of ways. They have reexamined their process.</p> <p>Look for an email for meeting with GA Power.</p>
Chair Report	<p>SAP – The Virginia-Highland Planning Committee is reviewed an SAP to develop the site at 841 N. Highland with a small medical office, 32 dwelling units and sufficient parking that will accommodate the off-site parking special exceptions for the bars and restaurants in the Atkins Park note of VaHi. Thanks to Jack White for responding on the NPU's behalf.</p> <p>Grant program – Department of City Planning again will be providing NPUs with up to \$4k through their Community Grant Program. The deadline for submission of the application is Feb 4th. The NPU will vote on the requests at our January meeting. If your neighborhood is interested, please contact me before January 10th.</p> <p>Received 2 requests:</p> <p>MLPA – to repair the boardwalk in the Morningside Nature Preserve</p> <p>MLPA – Friends of Herbert Taylor Park and Daniel Johnson Park to place signs and trail maps</p> <p>APS Grady Stadium Renaming – . A Google Forms survey is available to provide suggestions and comments on the renaming of the Grady Stadium (which serves the entire city). A link to a Google Form document can be found on the Consent agenda.</p> <p>It is time for the Comprehensive Development Plan to be updated. The current CDP was adopted in 2016. One of the primary reasons NPUs were established in 1974 was to have input into the CDP so this is one of the most important things we do. Expect several significant changes this year:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A consulting firm was hired to project manage the development - The CDP will derive from the Atlanta City Design vision so expect that the final document will look and feel different - The CDP will link and synch to other documents and studies that have been produced in the last several years including the Atlanta Transportation Plan, the Atlanta City Design Nature study and others. - (This is really important). The Character Areas and Future Land Use designations are being rewritten which will change our CDP maps. You have probably heard the mayor talk about changes to the zoning code to allow for more density which can create more affordable housing opportunities. This is where it will happen. - I have been asked to participate on the Public Leadership Group which is made up of representatives from Invest Atlanta, the Beltline and other stakeholders. I believe that this is the first time the NPUs will participate at this level of CDP planning. There is also a Technical Advisory Group and Stakeholder Advisory Group. NPUs will have opportunities to provide input and attend meetings throughout the process. - Expect to hear more in February/March about the process. The timeframe for heaviest NPU involvement will be March through August when we will need to vote - How we can prepare: - Familiarize yourself with Character Area and Future Land Use designations. Understand what they are and how they are used. Consider the current Character Area and land Use designations in your neighborhood. Are they correct? This will help you assess the impact of changes. - Re-read our NPU Policies and consider whether they need to be updated, tossed out or enhanced. You can find these policies in the CDP document. These are also used by Planning when evaluating a rezoning request. - Are there other NPUs we need to partner up with? <p>There are 2 NPU Committee chair openings: Zoning Committee which will shepherd the CDP process for us and Education Committee.</p>
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	<p>The November and December APAB meetings have been held since the last NPU-F meeting. Actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I was elected in November to a 3rd and final term as president. - APAB modified its By-Laws to add NPU Chairs as "members" who will have voting rights when the delegate or alternate is not present, and act as APAB Committee Chairs. This brings the membership of APAB up to 75 members (was 50) - Planning has asked that NPUs that meet on City holidays change their meeting dates so that City employees do not have to work on that date. That would include us since we meet on 2 federal holidays. Are you interested in changing the meeting dates in January and February? Note: the NPU determined that since we have been meeting regularly on MLK Day for over a decade we'd continue to meet on that date - APAB is recommending that NPs provide a link on their agendas to CCI's Civic Engagement Survey. See the Consent Agenda for the link. - APAB's Education Committee is establishing a Student Ambassador Program to promote Civic Engagement for students 18 and up. They are having their first meeting in January. APS is on-board to sponsor the program. A flier should be sent out in the next couple weeks.
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10. Matters for Voting

Alcohol License Applications (LRB)				
Name of Business	Type of Business	Applicant	Property Address	Request
Welcome FoodMart	Grocery Store	MD Kawsar Chowdhury	730 Barnett Street	Change of Ownership

NPU-F Action: Motion to approve by Jane Rawlings 2nd by Kay Stephenson 11-1 the motion carries.
(Erik Verriest (opposed) mentions to keep an eye out for the number of children that hang out in that area)

Board of Zoning Adjustment Applications (BZA)

[V-20-136](#) 1746 Noble Drive NE

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to reduce the front yard setback from 35 feet to 20.3 feet and to increase the maximum lot coverage from 50 percent to 60.27 percent for an addition to an existing single-family dwelling.

MLPA Report: Approve 13-0

NPU-F Action: Motion to recommend approval by Rebekah Faulkner 2nd by Kay Stephenson carries by 7 to 5.

V-20-151 1106 Virginia Avenue NE

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulations to 1) reduce the required front yard setback from 35 feet to 28.64 feet, 2) reduce the required west side yard setback from 7 feet to 6.1 feet and 3) exceed the maximum lot coverage from 50 percent to 54.54 percent in order to construct an addition and to convert an existing duplex to a single family residence.

VHCA Report: Summary: Remove existing front porch and replace with a new front porch; remove old front porch steps and replace with wider steps; expand the ex. Kitchen and enclose a portion of deck for a new mud room, also convert sunroom in the side yard into a screened porch. Planning Committee and VHCA Board recommendations: Approval, unanimous, conditioned on reception of statement from applicant acknowledging end of previous legal nonconforming duplex status. That was received 11-4-20.

Comments:

NPU-F Action: Motion to recommend approval by Kay Stephenson 2nd by Rebekah Faulkner carries 10-0.

V-20-156 1159 Cumberland Road NE

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to reduce the required front yard setback from 35 feet to 33.2 feet in order to enclose an existing porch.

MLPA Report: Approve 13-0

Comments:

NPU-F Action: Motion to recommend approval by Rebekah Faulkner 2nd by Kay Stephenson carries by 12 ayes 0 nays 0 abstentions.

V-20-160 960 Drewry Street NE

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to 1) reduce the required east side yard setback from 7 feet to 3 feet, 2) reduce the required rear setback from 15 feet to 10 feet and 3) exceed the maximum floor area of an accessory structure from 30 percent of the main structure to 35 percent of the main structure in order to construct a two-car garage with a second floor studio.

VHCA Report: Planning Committee and VHCA Board recommendations: Approval, unanimous, conditioned on reception of statement from applicant acknowledging the final impervious lot coverage will be above 50% and any increase in it will require an additional variance application.

Comments: VaHi board recommends approval any increase will require another variance.

NPU-F Action: Motion to recommend approval by Kay Stephenson 2nd by Rebekah Faulkner carries by 10 ayes 1 nay and 0 abstentions.

MATTERS FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT

Alcohol License Applications (LRB)				
Name of Business	Type of Business	Applicant	Property Address	Request
<u>AZTEC TRAVEL (Main)</u>	Restaurant	Jarina Ke Aloha Maile Naone	939 Ponce de Leon Avenue	Change of Agent
<u>AZTEC TRAVEL (Additional Facility)</u>	Restaurant	Jarina Ke Aloha Maile Naone	939 Ponce de Leon Avenue	Change of Agent

Comments: Jane Rawlings - Will there be live entertainment? There is a bar/nightclub below the restaurant. This is the location of El Ponce restaurant.

- 11. Old Business – none
- 12. New Business – none
- 13. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:48pm.