

# NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING UNIT – F



Monday, December 20, 2021 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](mailto:chair@npufatlanta.org)

Kay Stephenson, **Vice-Chair** – [kay.stephenson@gmail.com](mailto:kay.stephenson@gmail.com)

Doug Young, **City of Atlanta, Planner** – 404.330.6702 or [dyoung@atlantaga.gov](mailto:dyoung@atlantaga.gov)

Leah LaRue, **City of Atlanta, Assistant Director** – 404.330.6070 or [llarue@atlantaga.gov](mailto:llarue@atlantaga.gov)

# Minutes

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks
  - The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm

2. Approval of Minutes

Thanks to Aruna Narasimhan for taking the minutes last month. The November minutes have been posted on the NPU-F website and a link was sent to those on the NPU mailing list and verified members.

Motion to approve the minutes was moved by Kay Stephenson and seconded by Rich Sussman and carried by a vote of 21 ayes 0 nays

3. Announcements - No announcements

4. Reports from City Departmental Representatives

<b>Atlanta Fire Department</b> Station 19 North Highland, Station 29 Monroe Drive Battalion Chief Derek Harris	
<b>Atlanta Police Department</b> <b>Zone 2 – Major Andrew Senzer</b> <a href="mailto:asenzer@atlantaga.gov">asenzer@atlantaga.gov</a> <b>Zone 6 – Major Peter Ries</b> <a href="mailto:pjries@atlantaga.gov">pjries@atlantaga.gov</a> , Capt. H. <a href="mailto:Zenelaj@atlantaga.gov">Zenelaj@atlantaga.gov</a>	Major Senzer: Police had some organizational changes, but Major Senzer and Reese remain in current assignments. New Zone 2 captain is Jason Smith and Peter Malecki for zone 6. We are seeing an overall reduction of crime for zone 2 by 4% compared to 2019 which was -12%.  Just a reminder when you are out and about make sure items are secured and not visible in your vehicles. Make sure weapons are secured in a lock box. Schedule deliveries and make sure you retrieve the package as soon as they are delivered or call a neighbor. Pay attention to surroundings when entering and leaving cars.

	<p>We did do a compliance check at Club Platinum, our license and permit unit found that they do not have a valid permit. But it is pending. They were told to cease and desist.</p> <p>Major Ries: Welcome Captains Smith and Malecki. We did have a shooting at 1544 Piedmont Road at The Hideaway Bar on 12/04. It was a verbal altercation. One person assaulted the other then shot him. It was an isolated incident and should have closure soon. This location is on our radar. We will report with further issues. We have had a couple of auto thefts in Virginia Highland. A few have been keys left in car. Please don't leave keys in the car. Final note is please wear masks.</p>
<p><b>APD Code Enforcement</b> Delores Bryant Officer Lyles – In Rem manager</p>	
<p><b>ATL311</b> Constance Harris</p>	<p>ATL311 - Constance Harris - ATL311 is the Non-Emergency Call Center for City of Atlanta Services, and we are open Monday-Friday from 7am-7pm. You can contact us by - 1. Dialing 3-1-1 inside city limits or (404)546-0311. 2. Visiting us online at <a href="http://www.ATL311.com">www.ATL311.com</a>. 3. Emailing us at <a href="mailto:ATL311@atlantaga.gov">ATL311@atlantaga.gov</a>. 4. Downloading &amp; reporting issues via our app by searching "ATL311" in your app store. 5. Sending us a message on social media. Just search "ATL311" on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Reddit, NextDoor, and YouTube Sign up for COVID-19 emergency notifications by texting "ATLSTRONG" to 888777.</p> <p>PAD (Policing Alternatives and Diversions Initiative): To make a PAD Community Referral for non-emergency quality of life concerns related to mental health, substance use or extreme poverty, please call and press 1 when the automated voice asks if you would like to make a PAD Community Referral. PAD only accepts Community Referrals through the ATL311 phone line Monday-Friday, 7am-7pm. For more information visit <a href="http://www.atl311.com">www.atl311.com</a>, Constance Harris, from the Office of the interim director represented ATL 311.</p>
<p><b>Public Works Code Enforcement</b> Officer Ferguson <a href="mailto:vferguson@atlantaga.gov">vferguson@atlantaga.gov</a>, 678-221-8215.</p>	<p>Pete Francis DPW Sweet Officer– bulk will not be picked up. 404-938-1183, <a href="mailto:pfrancis@atlantaga.gov">pfrancis@atlantaga.gov</a></p> <p>Yard trimmings drop off locations are Key Rd (old landfill) and 1540 Northside Dr and James Jackson Parkway.</p>

5. Comments from ElectedOfficials

State Rep <b>Stacey Evans</b> <a href="mailto:stacey@staceyevans.com">stacey@staceyevans.com</a>  <b>Olivia Buckner</b> – Chief of Staff <a href="mailto:olivia@staceyevans.com">olivia@staceyevans.com</a>	New redistricting plan has all of NPU-F in HD 57 (Stacey Evans). This district is now more compact and respects neighborhood boundaries.  Local redistricting will begin soon. Sign up for updates.
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6. Consent Agenda

Applications	Request	Recommendation
<a href="#">V-21-308</a> <b>1009 Drewry Street NE</b>	Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to reduce the required front yard setback from 35 feet to 15 feet 4 inches for a portico addition over an existing stoop in the front of an existing single-family residence.	VHCA: Approve
<a href="#">V-21-309</a> <b>13 Highland Park Lane NE</b>	Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to 1) reduce the required north side yard setback from 5 feet to 3 feet 4 inches in order to enclose an area under an existing deck.	MLPA: Approve

**NPU-F Action:** Motion by Jack White 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rich Sussman to approve the Consent Agenda carries by acclamation.

7. Matters for Voting

**Special Event Applications (MOSE)**

Event Name	Event Location	Event Date
<a href="#">Pure Heat Community Festival</a> Melissa Scott	400 Park Drive NE Class C/ 19,999 Participants	September 4, 2022

Comments: Going back to the Charles Allen / 10<sup>th</sup> Street area, the way it was before Covid. Adding police to cover the rainbow area for traffic flow.

Kay Stephenson recommends we do not get approvals for events more than 10 months out.

Melissa Scott replies that it is difficult to get permits without having dates in place.

**NPU Action:** Motion to support by Kay Stephenson 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick Sussman

20 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions, motion to support carries.

<a href="#">AIDS Walk Atlanta &amp; Music Festival</a> Michael Kahane & Ann Piejko	Piedmont Park Class D/ 3,000 Participants	September 24, 2022
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Comments: Route is around Piedmont Park, including Monroe Drive, 11 – 12:30 pm  
 Event should be over by 2pm. Don't expect any changes in 2022.

**NPU Action:** Motion to accept by unanimous consent, by Jack White 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rebeka Faulkner

Motion carries by unanimous consent.

**Alcohol License  
Applications (LRB)**

Name of Business	Property Address	Request
<a href="#">Sprouts #519</a> Elmira Khuzeeva	1845 Piedmont Avenue NE Retail Grocery Supermarket	Change of Agent

Comments: Represented by Mindy Thompson, Sard and Associates. Over 10 years of experience. No other changes. First license for alcohol (previously for beer and wine only).

Motion to support by Kay Stephenson and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jack White.

**NPU Action:** Motion carries by 22 ayes, 0 nays and 0 abstentions.

**Board of Zoning Adjustment  
Applications (BZA)**

Application
<a href="#">V-21-213</a> 875 Glen Arden Way NE Applicant seeks a special exception from the zoning regulations to 1) exceed the maximum height of a fence in the front yard and half depth front yard from 4 feet to 6 feet (along Glen Arden Way and Brookridge Drive) and 2) allow a privacy fence where one is otherwise prohibited.

VHCA Report: Approve

Comments: Proposing an all wood 4' solid fence with an additional 2' lattice top. VaHi also believes that they need a variance to build a wall however, Planning disagrees.

NPU-F Action: Motion to recommend approval subject to inclusion of an additional variance for a wall made by Jack White 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rich Sussman carries by a vote of 23 ayes, 0 nays 0 abstentions

<a href="#">V-21-299</a> <b>626 East Morningside DR NE</b> Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to 1) reduce the required west side yard setback from 7 feet to 3 feet, 2) increase the height of an accessory structure from 20 feet to 24.5 feet and 3) increase the maximum total floor area of an accessory structure from 30 percent of the main structure to 53 percent of the main structure in order to construct two accessory structures (garage/carriage house and a pool pavilion)
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MLPA Report: Dianne Barfield – Barfield Consultants / Mark Arnold/Brian Feld  
Jeremy Reese – Homeowner

Zoning Committee member had questions regarding tree impact. The architect provided documents to address these concerns.

Neighbors were not notified of this application until after Tuesday’s Zoning Committee meeting. Homeowners were planning to reach out in person in addition to the registered mail notifications sent out on Wednesday. This is a very short time for neighbors to review plans and possible impact. **MLPA**

**Recommendation - Approval**

Comments: Jeff Kidwell states that he was not aware of the application until the day before and is opposed of this variance. Building a 3000 sq foot townhome in the back yard is not appropriate to this neighborhood.

Jeremy Reese sent certified letter and personally handed a letter to be neighborly to inform them of the variance and the project. Jeff is only neighbor that is opposed. Jeremy states this is an improvement to the property.

**NPU-F Action:** Motion to defer one month made by Rich Sussman 2nd by Rebekah Faulkner carries by a vote of 16 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions. Deferral is to allow the applicant time to meet with neighbor to discuss his concerns.

**V-21-300 1334 Edmund Park Drive NE**

Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning regulation to reduce the required rear yard setback from 15 feet to 3.5 feet to construct a porch at the rear of an existing single-family residence.

EP Report: No disagreement.

Comments: Applicant (Lori) wants to build a covered porch to mimic the house next door at 1330 Edmund Park Drive. No impacts to trees. She has a short backyard. (18')

**NPU-F Action:** Motion to recommend approval made by Jack White 2nd by Kay Stephenson carries by a vote of 15 ayes, 0 nays, 0 abstentions.

8. Presentations – None

9. Planner’s Report – Doug Young

For information about NPU University courses, visit [www.npuatlanta.org/npucatalog](http://www.npuatlanta.org/npucatalog) or call [404.546.0158](tel:404.546.0158)

For public hearings or other department information visit <https://www.atlantaga.gov/government/departments/city-planning>

To register for the ATL Zoning 2.0 idea lab visit <http://atlzoning.com/idealabs>

Follow NPU voting activity on the NPU dashboard: <https://www.npuatlanta.org/npu-dashboard>

10. Neighborhood and Committee Reports

<b>Lindridge Martin Manor</b>	Teaming with Piedmont Hieghts as we have for the last 10 years to provide Thanksgiving dinner over to the fire department they were very appreciation. On December 14 <sup>th</sup> the bridge near peachtree creek was dedicated lots of city officials were there. This the link between for the beltline for greenway, 400 trail and southpoint trail.
<b>Piedmont Heights</b>	We did not have a meeting in December. Selecting officers in January
<b>Morningside Lenox Park</b>	We have collected toys for the APD toy drive. We are looking to upgrade our security patrol vehicle. Sydney Marcus park is going to break ground and will be closed through March including the playground. The Morningside Nature Preserve suspension bridge is closed for repairs and it is dangerous. Do not climb over the barricades. Civil engineers are evaluating the bridge and looking to repair quickly.
<b>Virginia-Highland</b>	VaHi Tour of Homes – Saturday March 19 <sup>th</sup> . Sign up to volunteer <a href="https://signup.com/go/tVgAnLK">https://signup.com/go/tVgAnLK</a> . Volunteers get two free tickets to attend the tour.  Our first Annual Winter Fest was a huge success. The APD officers providing security say about 10,000 attended.

<b>Edmund Park</b>	No report
<b>Emory/CDC area/ Druid Hills</b>	No report
<b>Parks, Trees &amp; Environment (Rich Sussman)</b>	<p>Youth work program starting in June. It is 5 weeks. Middle or high school students can apply in February.</p> <p>Anyone with children 5 -18 can attend can work for Trees Atlanta for \$25 a week.</p> <p>Please do not put yourself in danger and cross the bridge as it is under repair.</p>
<b>Education (Leah Matthews)</b>	No report
<b>Public Safety</b>	Already covered by Police reports.
<b>Chair Report</b>  -	<p><b><u>Community Impact Grants –</u></b></p> <p>Close-out – Must file our 2021 Community Grant Close-out form by 12/31 or not be eligible for 2022 funds. I’ve received reports from both Piedmont Heights, and Morningside, but the Morningside summary still needs some work. I’m going to be out of town after 12/23, so please get it to me sooner rather than later so that we don’t jeopardize our ability to get a grant in 2022.</p> <p>2022 – I’ve sent the 2022 Community Grant package to the neighborhoods and to previous project managers. Because the deadline for submission is 2/4, we MUST vote on projects at our January meeting. So far, I have not received any interest (and that’s ok). A couple changes in the program:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the NPU’s maximum award is \$5,000 (it was \$4,000)</li> <li>- projects will be reviewed and awarded by a panel. In the past, just about everything was approved.</li> <li>- There is an additional \$1,500 training incentive. Someone from the NPU must attend the NPU chair training, the secretary/officer training on 1/15 and Parliamentary training.</li> <li>- There apparently is no longer an APAB attendance requirement in 2022.</li> </ul> <p>I attended the required Grant Close-out training this month, and Kay and I met the APAB attendance requirements so NPU-F is eligible. There are specific requirements to receive the grant, and there are restrictions on what the grant can be used for. If anyone is interested, let me know so I can send a copy of the grant package to you and you can see what is required.</p> <p><b>Neighborhood Directory</b></p> <p>Planning sent out a Survey Monkey questionnaire to all neighborhoods listed in the Neighborhood Directory. This is published online and apparently there is a paper version, to city departments. If you received the survey, please fill it out -- it only takes a couple minutes – and return by 12/31.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- If you did not receive a copy and are a neighborhood president, let me know so that I can send a copy to you.</li> <li>- Some neighborhood presidents use a generic email address, which means it doesn’t matter who the president is at the moment. Because so many neighborhood elections will be held after the deadline, I suggest you just leave the name blank.</li> <li>- The way the process was described, after 12/31, each NPU chair will get a list and be asked to confirm that the neighborhood organizations are legit. I assume that some tweaking of the info can be done then.</li> </ul> <p>NPU reps – each year I ask n’hood presidents to confirm their n’hood reps to the NPU. I’ll do this in late January after MLPA and PH have their officer selections. I also</p>

	<p>ask for 'hood Committee chair info so that I can forward emails that I receive from the city on a variety of issues. The NPU Chair gets a lot of notifications, like for Filming Permits, Noise Variance permits, Buffer Encroachment notices, sub division requests, beltline SAPs, Temporary alcohol licenses that need to be shared.</p> <p><b>NPU officers</b> – The ethics department is requiring that the Chair, Vice-Chair, zoning chair(s), and APAB Delegates/Alternates attend ethics training. It is scheduled on Jan 22.</p> <p>APAB met on Saturday. Doug Shipman, Council President-Elect was our featured speaker. He said citizen engagement is a key component to council committee chair appointments. He also said that he is exploring ways for the public comment portion of the Council meetings to be more meaningful. (Now, comment is on the phone the night before and it's iffy that Council members are even listening since you can't see them on screen.) When asked, he said that he would support a Council work session on the Tree Ordinance re-write. This morning, Council voted to file both versions of the ordinance which was the request of NPU-F last month.</p> <p>Leah LaRue said that there have been some discussions that City Hall would open to the public in January. No decisions have been made. Planning will be sending out a survey asking for NPU preferences for their meetings.</p> <p>This was my last meeting as President. Anne Phillips, chair of NPU-Z will be president in 2022.</p> <p>NPU-F is going to continue to meet virtually until further notice. We need to decide if we want to go back to Hillside (or if they'll take us back) or find a new location.</p> <p>Also, I want to put out a thought-starter: should the NPU move our meetings to the Third Tuesday or Wednesday night. Two reasons: We avoid meeting on the MLK Holiday in Jan and President's Birthday Holiday in Feb where we have little city participation and it would not conflict with city council meetings which are held on Mondays.</p>
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11. Text Amendments (please see attachment) - None

12. Old Business - none

13. New Business – none

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:58pm. Motion by Kay Stephenson 2nd by Rebeka Faulkner.

**Happy Holidays!!**