

# NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING UNIT – F

Monday, December 19, 2022 at 7:00 PM



## 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 7:04 p.m.

Motion to adopt the full agenda was adopted with no objection.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

Thanks to Carol Shunnarah for taking the minutes last month. The November minutes were posted on the NPU website, and a link sent to those on the NPU mailing list which includes verified members.

Motion to approve the minutes was moved by Rich Sussman and seconded by Jane Rawlings and carries by a vote of unanimous consent.

### 3. Announcements

No announcements for tonight.

### 4. Reports from City Departmental Representatives

<b>Atlanta Fire Department</b> Station 19 North Highland, Station 29 Monroe Drive Battalion Chief Derek Harris	Ronald Slatton – Battalion 3 – We have been busy with fires due to space heaters being too close to combustibles. Also, homeless starting fires. Please keep an eye on your elderly neighbors. Check the batteries on your fire alarms. We have had some personnel changes and you may see some new faces. Let's welcome them.
<b>Atlanta Police Department</b> <b>Zone 2 – Major Allen Mitchell</b> <b>Zone 6 – Major Webster</b>	Major Webster – We had a pretty good month trending down with vehicle crimes. We attribute this to residents keeping cars clean. We have seen an uptick in mail thefts. You can ship packages to stores instead of your house. Please do not mail checks or gift cards. Please be smart about what you send. Locked mailboxes are good.  Kay Stephenson asks for an update on the hit and run on Lanier as well as the shooting at the Plaza theatre. No



	<p>update on the hit and run but there was an arrest for the Plaza shooting. Kay also states we have 5 approved locations for license plate cameras.</p> <p>Bonnie Brown asks about the law around graffiti – the law is that the owner has the right to whether there is graffiti or not. For public property dial 311.</p> <p>Major Mitchell – Zone 2 is also experiencing an uptick on mail and package thefts. He reiterated to send packages to another location.</p> <p>Across the zone we have seen an increase in auto theft due to keys left in cars. Please go to <a href="http://connectatlanta.org">connectatlanta.org</a> to register your camera. This helps us catch criminals.</p>
<p><b>ATL311</b> Johnny Wilson</p>	<p>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:</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 ATL311 at 404-546-0311 and press option 1 for Supportive Services- PAD Community Referrals. PAD only accepts Community Referrals through the ATL311 phone line Monday-Friday, 7am-7pm. For more information visit <a href="http://www.atlantapad.org">www.atlantapad.org</a> or email <a href="mailto:info@atlantapad.org">info@atlantapad.org</a>.</p> <p>If you would like to leave ATL311 feedback from today's meeting, please take our survey by clicking this link: <a href="https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ATL311Meeting">https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ATL311Meeting</a>.</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 – Annual Christmas tree recycling will be January 7<sup>th</sup></p> <p>Also, you can drop off. Drop off locations for just the tree – no decorations. If the tree is huge you have to schedule for bulk pick-up.</p> <p>650 Ponce de Leon 2525 Piedmont Road 1033 Research Center Drive</p>

5. Comments from Elected Officials

<p>State Reps Park Cannon, <b>Stacy Evans</b> <a href="mailto:stacey@staceyevans.com">stacey@staceyevans.com</a> <b>Kennedae McClung</b>– Chief of Staff</p>	<p>No updates from Stacy Evans.</p>
--	-------------------------------------

6. Consent Agenda

**Special Events**

Event Name/Applicant	Class/ # Participants	Event Location/ Date	Recommendation
Pure Heat Community Festival Melissa Scott	Class C/ 19,000 Participants Recurring Event	Piedmont Park September 3, 2023	Defer

**Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA)**

Application	Request	Neighborhood Report	Recommendation
<a href="#">V-22-182</a> 544 Elmwood Dr NE	Applicant seeks a variance to reduce the south side setback from 7ft to 0.4ft and to reduce the north side setback from 7ft to 0ft.	Defer	<b>Application withdrawn (no action required)</b>

**NPU-F Action: Motion by Jack White 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jane Rawlings to approve the Consent Agenda carries by a vote of 12 in favor, 0 opposed.**

7. Matters for Voting

**Alcohol License Applications (LRB)**

Name of Business	Applicant	Property Address	Request
Johnny's Pizza Daniel Shane Dailey	Daniel Shane Dailey	1810 Cheshire Bridge Rd	Restaurant Change of Ownership

Alcohol Committee Report: MLPA – no issues

Comments: Applicant did not appear at this meeting.

**NPU-F Action:** Motion to report to the city that the applicant did not appear made by Kay Stephenson carries without objection.

REVIEW AND COMMENT

<b>Alcohol License Applications (LRB)</b>				
Name of Business	Type of Business	Applicant	Property Address	Request
<a href="#">Excuse my French</a>		Aaron Mattison	675 Ponce De Leon Ave NE (NPU-M)	Restaurant New Business

Comments: Rich Sussman recommends that we support the action of NPU-M. This is supported with no objections.

## Board of Zoning Adjustment Applications (BZA)

[V-22-181](#) 571 Park Dr NE

Applicant seeks a variance to reduce the eastern side-yard setback from 7ft to 4ft, reduce the rear-yard setback from 15ft to 10ft, and exceed the maximum lot coverage from 50% to 59.4% for construction of active recreation (swimming pool) addition and driveway improvements for existing single-family dwelling.

VHCA Report: Jack White – we spent a lot of time on this. The VaHi Board recommended approval with one objection

Comments: Adam Stillman – Architect showed plans to add turnaround area in driveway, remodel deck and add swimming pool. The city states the side setback variances are not needed. The new driveway will be permeable storm water treatment.

No tree removal.

**NPU-F Action:** Motion to recommend for approval made by Jack White 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rebekah Falkler (without sideback variance) carries by a vote of 14 ayes and 0 nays.

8. Presentations - None

9. Planner's Report – Doug Young

Doug Young, Interim Director, Office of Design, 404-330-6702, [dyoung@atlantaga.gov](mailto:dyoung@atlantaga.gov)

- **NPU University** - NPU University offers free courses in community leadership, planning, and civic participation. NPU University will be back in January with an exciting curriculum for 2023 including a Community Planner Certificate (CPC) program. Thank you to all of you who took one of our classes this year.

To register for NPU University courses or for more information, call 404.546.0158 or visit <https://www.npuatlanta.org/npuuniversity>

- **Community Impact Grant** - The Information Session for the 2023 Community Impact Grant will be held on Wednesday, December 14th from 6:00PM to 7:00PM via Zoom. This mandatory session is required for the project manager or Chairperson of all NPUs who will apply for funding to complete impactful community projects in 2023. To qualify, NPUs must have successfully closed out any previous year grant awards. Applications will be due on February 28, 2023.
- **Atlanta Zoning 2.0** - Atlanta Zoning 2.0 is a comprehensive process to rewrite the existing Zoning Ordinance. Please plan to join us in the new year as the Office of Zoning continues to host focused workshops. 'Citywide Alternatives Continued' will be held on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, 6:30PM at R.I.C.E. - 504 Fair St SW Atlanta, GA 30313. Please visit [atlzoning.com](http://atlzoning.com) for more details.

10. Neighborhood and Committee Reports

<b>Lindridge Martin Manor</b>	Rich Sussman – We had a neighborhood event on December 9 <sup>th</sup> .
<b>Piedmont Heights</b>	Bill Compton – no report.

<b>Morningside Lenox Park</b>	Marla Johnson – we said goodbye to our president, Ben Nemo, and welcome our new one, Donald Campbell.
<b>Virginia-Highland</b>	<p>Leah Matthews – Official Firehouse warming opening party which coincided with Winterfest. We are targeting a Ribbon cutting ceremony on January 7<sup>th</sup>.</p> <p>New school opening August 2023. Our planning committee is busy with all the new development projects going on in the neighborhood. We will have more meetings on this.</p> <p>Our safety and transportation committee met with Atlanta Schools to go over safe routes for the new school in 2023.</p> <p>50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration is planned for April timeframe.</p>
<b>Edmund Park</b>	No report
<b>Emory/CDC area/Druid Hills</b>	N/A
<b>Parks, Trees &amp; Environment (Rich Sussman)</b>	Rich Sussman congratulates Stephanie Coffin on her letter to Ponce Library about Crepe Murder (ruin a crepe myrtle tree). This is in response to the cutting of the crepe myrtle trees that were cut. Please reference the GA circular before cutting crepe myrtle trees.
<b>Education (Leah Matthews)</b>	<p>New Howard Middle School principal, Ms. Hollis is starting soon. On Dec 5<sup>th</sup> voted for Virginia Highland Elementary school name for the former Inman School. Any interested parties can sign up for a tour.</p> <p>We are working on safe routes for schools since not everyone will have bus services. East of Monroe will not have service and west of Monroe will have bus service.</p>
<b>Public Safety (Kay Stephenson)</b>	Zone 6 neighborhoods have gotten together to cater a meal for APD Zone 6 for 3 shifts. The city doesn't own the building and is reluctant to fix up the building. We bought them sturdy tables and shelving. We are working to fix the floors. This is so the officers feel they have a better environment to work in. We have delivered gift certificates from DBA BBQ to the firefighters.
<b>APAB (Kay Stephenson, Delegate, Debbie Skopczyński, Alternate)</b>	<p>APAB elections were held at the November APAB meeting. The election for President was held at the December APAB meeting because of a challenge. Also, Planning announced that they will be following the instructions of the Law Department and will ask each NPU to only provide one name as the voting representative from each NPU. Currently, each NPU has a delegate and alternate and the voting representative can change each meeting depending on who is present. The ruling conflicts with APAB by-laws which provides additional challenges.</p> <p>APAB has announced that they are planning a</p>

	<p>Neighborhood Matters awards program in March to honor a person or organization in each NPU for their service to the community. Please be thinking of possible nominees in our NPU. We will need to select someone no later than February. More to come.</p>
<p><b>Chair Report</b></p> <p>-</p>	<p>The 2023 Community Impact Grant was announced last week. The Project Manager training is on December 14<sup>th</sup>. If you are interested in being a project manager, let me know. The max grant is \$5,000, with a \$1,500 bonus if an officer of the NPU attends 3 specific NPU-U classes (includes Chair Orientation, elected officials training, and Parliamentary training.) I recommend the Parliamentary training for the new neighborhood presidents. The deadline for submission for a grant is February 28<sup>th</sup> (which means we have to vote at our February meeting.) Please start thinking about projects now.</p> <p>The Close-out for the 2022 CIG is 12/31. If we don't submit on time, then we will not be eligible for a grant.</p> <p>I have received two Special Administrative Permits since the November meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SAP-22-195 at 2184 Lenox Road NE in Lindridge-Martin Manor. This is for plans to demolish 2 detached storage sheds and construct 4 2j-story residential units each with an attached 2-car garage. LMM reported that they had no comments.</li> <li>- BL-22-070 at Cooledge/Monroe/Kanuga which is an application of the Atlanta Botanical Gardens to build a self-storage facility (in the former Cantoni location). VaHi and Councilmember Wan has met with the applicant who has agreed not to file for permits until January, VaHi also sponsored a neighborhood meeting to answer questions and the limitations to what the neighborhood and NPU can do to stop the application. Recommend that those interested should watch for articles in the VaHi Voice.</li> </ul> <p>Elected officer's training is January 12<sup>th</sup>. I have no idea who Planning invites to this training class – let me know if you get an invite.</p> <p>I attended the annual Chair's orientation which featured a presentation from ethics, Sgt. Thompson from the LRB and Ebony Barley of Special Events. Sgt. Thompson said he is following up with NPUs when they submit a vote of Denial for an alcohol license. Ebony Barley says that they now have an NPU and Community Relations Manager who will be contacting NPUs when they vote to deny a special events application. Both of these steps should</p>

	<p>make an NPUs recommendation of denial more meaningful.</p> <p>ATLDOT has announced another Holiday Moratorium. No lane, road or sidewalk closures for construction projects will be allowed beginning Wednesday through the New Year.</p> <p>Because at least 3 of our neighborhoods have new presidents, I am going to schedule a one hour call in early January to discuss what they can expect from the NPU and their preferences for handling some of the routine communications that I forward to them from the city (film permits, noise variance permits, code enforcement, SAPs, noise variations, zoning, etc.).</p> <p>NPU-F will continue to meet virtually on the third Wednesday of the month. If you haven't already, don't forget that you have to register for the new zoom room to get a new link to the meeting.</p>
--	---

- 11. Old Business - None
- 12. New Business - None
- 13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm. Motion by Jane Rawlings.

## PUBLIC NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

<b>NPU-F New Meeting Day</b>
<b>Effective January 2023, NPU-F will meet virtually on the Third Wednesday of each month.</b>