

# NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING UNIT – F



Wednesday, February 15, 2023 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)

### 1. Welcome and Opening Remarks – Meeting called to order at 7:07 pm

- The agenda is adopted without objections.

### 2. Approval of Minutes

The January 2023 NPU-F meeting minutes are adopted without objections.

### 3. Announcements

- At next month's meeting, the Portman multi-use project on Ponce de Leon and Ponce Place, next to the Beltline, will be on the agenda for a vote. An NPU-F planning committee meeting has been scheduled for February 27th (the last Monday of the month) at 7 pm, on Zoom. If you have concerns, or just want to learn more about the project which has been widely discussed in the press and at neighborhood info sessions, please attend. The VaHi Planning Committee has been working with the developer, VHCA board and community for months and is preparing a set of conditions that I'm hoping will be ready to share.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Atlanta Zoning 2.0 focused workshop is scheduled for Feb 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM at the Buckhead library or on Zoom. There is limited seating at the library and folks are asked to Zoom in. The link is on the Consent Agenda. The Zoning 2.0 series is designed to explore new zoning approaches and alternatives that were identified in the [2016 Zoning Ordinance Diagnostic Report](#).

### 4. Reports from City Departmental Representatives

<b>Atlanta Fire Department</b> Station 19 North Highland, Station 29 Monroe Drive	Jason McLain - Battalion 3 - <a href="mailto:jmclain@atlantaga.gov">jmclain@atlantaga.gov</a> Captain Kevin Liedigk presented for AFRD - Battalion 3. <a href="mailto:KJLiedigk@atlantaga.gov">KJLiedigk@atlantaga.gov</a> . Captain Liediak is acting chief for Battalion 3. AFRD will be checking hydrants in March. Residents should change smoke detector batteries when clocks change. 85 AFRD recruits completed training in
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	<p>January. The department is still hiring. Station 19 renovations are complete.</p>
<p><b>Atlanta Police Department</b>  <b>Zone 2 – Major Allen Mitchell</b>  <b>Zone 6 – Major Webster</b>  aweberster@atlantaga.gov</p>	<p>Captain Ben Vayens, Zone Two Assistant Zone Commander, bvayens@atlantaga.gov, 404-323-6344  Important links: connectatlanta.org, onesafecity.com, Non-Emergency number- 404-658-6666</p> <p>Captain Vayens - for the first 45 days of this year, the zone experienced 20 vehicle break ins and catalytic converter thefts. Items left in cars attract thefts. Officer Brooks arrested 3 individuals – all connected with car thefts. Connect ATL is the linked camera system and includes LPRs. One Safe City is another City initiative. The nonemergency number listed above is available to obtain resources for nonemergency situations. Captain Vayens stated that the recent police presence in VaHi was connected with recovery of an explosive ordinance device.</p> <p>Major Webster (Zone 6) stated that the zone experienced an uptick in vehicle break ins. A couple has been apprehended. Burglaries are also up.</p>
<p><b>ATL311</b></p>	<p>Cheyenne Forbes was present for ATL311. Yard trimmings will not be collected the week of February 6. Yard waste will be collected every other week.</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: □□1. Dialing 3-1-1 inside city limits or (404)546-0311. □2. Visiting us online at www.ATL311.com. □3. Emailing us at ATL311@atlantaga.gov. □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 SeeClickFix□□Sign up for City of Atlanta emergency alerts by texting “NOTIFYATL” to 888777.□□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 www.atlantapad.org or email info@atlantapad.org.</p>

	<p>☐☐ Mayor Dickens has declared 2023 The Year of the Youth! This citywide initiative will work to equip Atlanta's young people with the resources they need to thrive. You can learn more information at <a href="http://ATLYouthEngage.com">ATLYouthEngage.com</a>☐☐ 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>Officer Francis – Contractors are assisting DPW with picking up yard trimmings. Landlords should be vigilant about tenants leaving belongings on the curb.</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>Kennedie McClung</b>– Chief of Staff <a href="mailto:kennedie@staceyevans.com">kennedie@staceyevans.com</a></p>	<p>Chris Collins for Rep Evans' office. The office is busy with the legislative session. He encouraged residents to subscribe to Rep Evans newsletter.</p> <p>An NPU resident suggested that Councilmember Wan and Rep Evans work together to improve the Cheshire Bridge/Lindbergh Drive intersection going east.</p> <p>Interested in receiving our weekly newsletter? Sign up here: <a href="http://www.staceyevans.com">www.staceyevans.com</a>.</p>
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6. Consent Agenda

**Special Events**

Event Name/Applicant	Class/ # Participants	Event Location/ Date	Recommendation
<p><b>GCA's Spring Community Day</b> Tonette Price Erica Lanier present</p>	<p>Class E 1,900 Participants Recurring Event</p>	<p>Piedmont Park April 19, 2023</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p><b>2023 Kidfitstrong Fitness Challenge Spring Festival</b> Howard Daniel-Present</p>	<p>Class E 1,500 Participants Recurring Event</p>	<p>Piedmont Park April 30, 2023</p>	<p>Support</p>
<p><b>Out of the Darkness Walk</b> Kristen Petillo Present</p>	<p>Class D 4,500 Participants Recurring Event</p>	<p>Piedmont Park November 5, 2023</p>	<p>Support</p>

- Special events – if your event will be posting no parking signs, please include the streets on the East side of Monroe. You can call or email me to get a complete list of streets.
- **NPU-F Action: Motion by Kay Stephenson 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rich Sussman to approve the Consent Agenda carries by a vote of 56 in favor, 0 opposed.**

7. Matters for Voting

**Board of Zoning Adjustment (BZA)**

V-22-196 (Amended) 1072 Monroe Drive NE

Variance to increase the maximum lot coverage from 50 percent to 64.5 percent for construction of driveway for an existing single-family dwelling. [ACCESS EASEMENT](#)

VHCA Report: Recommended Denial

Comments: Applicant is not present. VH planning committee met with the applicant. Concrete has been poured behind the home. The committee offered the applicant an alternative but he declined.

**NPU-F Action:** Motion to recommend denial made by Jack White 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rebekah Falkler carries by a vote of 34 in favor, 0 opposed.

**Alcohol License Applications (LRB)**

Name of Business	Property Address	Request
<a href="#">Six Feet Under</a> Harry R. Mitchell Jr.	1824 Cheshire Bridge Road	Restaurant Change of Ownership
<p>Comments: Applicant present. Applicant meets parking requirements, restaurant capacity is 90. 41 parking spaces are available. MLPA board recommends approval.</p> <p><b>NPU-F Action:</b> Motion to approve made by Jane Rawlings 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rebecca Falkler carries by a vote of 71 in favor, 1 opposed.</p>		
<a href="#">Toranj</a> Altaf B. Popatiya	1620 Piedmont Avenue	Restaurant New Business
<p>PHCA Report: Recommend support of this new license with a suggestion to more specifically identify existing parking spaces.</p> <p>MLPA Report: Support the application</p> <p>Comments: Rashad Robertson and Nilofer Hamarani were present for applicant. A PHCA board member suggested that the applicant submit a detailed parking plan.</p>		

**NPU-F Action:** Motion to approve made by Jane Rawlings 2nd by Kay Stephenson carries by a vote of 57 in favor, 2 opposed.

<a href="#">Go Puff</a> Jean R. Joseph	2233 Faulkner Road	Retail Package Change of Agent
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Comments: Applicant has requested a deferral to March. There has also been a change in agent. New agent is Cheyenne Y. Farmer.

From 2022: NPU-F approved the application for a new business at this location at its July 2021 meeting. The current application is for a change of agent for an existing retail package store to sell beer and wine. Operating hours are Mon-Sun 10AM-3AM. The GB License LLC was denied an alcohol license by Cobb Co for failure to meet distance requirements. GB License LLC appealed the denial and sought a waiver to the distance requirement which was granted by the Cobb County Board of Commissioners and an alcohol license issued. Neither the agent nor the location in COA has had an alcohol license denied, suspended or revoked within the past 24 months.

**NPU-F Action:** Motion to defer made by Jane Rawlings 2nd by Kay Stephenson carries with no objections.

<a href="#">Club Platinum</a> Sineet Tesfay	1905 Piedmont Road	Nightclub Adult Entertainment Change of Ownership
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Comments: MLPA voted unanimously not to support. Attorney Hakim Hilliard represented the applicant. Ms Tesfay attended online. The application was denied by the NPU in 2021 and 2022. The property is zoned MRC2C. With a maximum capacity of 150, it does not meet parking requirements. The application does not meet distance requirements. There is currently no business license at the location. This application is not a change of ownership, rather it is a change of license. The applicant has misrepresented facts on prior applications. There are numerous complaints from neighbors and the business has sold alcohol without a valid license. The license expired on 12/31/21. Ms Rawlings stated the underlying reasons that support denial of the application. A temporary license is currently being used to operate. Following are some of the issues raised by NPU-F residents and responses -

It appears that the lease is held by operator under dispute. It is an active lease with different agents on the property. There are noise and parking issues. Guns are stashed illegally. It is a legal but nonconforming use.

LRB will decide on license.

A business owner adjacent to the Club stated a number of concerns, chief being that he cannot contact the owner.

The final day that the previous business operated at the location was July 4, 2022.

Armed security carrying assault rifles is detrimental to the neighborhood.

Plans for managing shortage of parking spaces are not clear.

Legal issues need to be resolved before matter is voted on but the applicant has the right to submit an application.

All of the issues need to be worked out before NPU support can be granted.

**NPU-F Action:** Motion to deny made by Jane Rawlings 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kay Stephenson carries by a vote of 64 in favor of denial, 3 opposed to the motion. A subsequent hand count showed 74 in favor of the denial motion, 2 opposed

<a href="#">Atlanta Eagle</a> William Ramey, Jr.	1492 Piedmont Avenue NE	Restaurant Change of Agent
<p><b>Ansley Park report:</b> Rose and Mary Nell attended the Ansley Park Zoning Committee meeting at which the new agent, William (Richard) Ramey attended. Richard mentioned he was going to have speakers for music on The Eagle patio. He also mentioned the business continues to have minority ownership with Marco Penna, the previous agent. A sound study was conducted on the so-called sound improvements made by HV entertainment last year. No reduction in sound volume was detected, as conducted by Merck. Richard stated he has made additional improvements. However, we are still woken up by noise from the venues. At the NPU E meeting, Rose Holston proposed the change of agent be <b>approved with the stipulation that no speakers are allowed on the patio</b>. It is my understanding, NPU-E agreed with that recommendation.</p> <p><b>PHCA Report:</b> Recommend support of the change of agent noting no complaints since the changeover in October to Atlanta Eagle. The applicant had also met with the neighboring Ansley Park association who did not oppose this application. Vote was unanimous 8-0. Comments: Agent present. Change of agent for existing restaurant. Lisa Morchower is attorney.</p> <p><b>NPU-F Action:</b> Motion to approve made by Jane Rawlings 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kay Stephenson carries by a vote of 33 in favor, 9 opposed. The motion was conditioned on no amplified speakers on the patio, subject to the City of Atlanta noise ordinance. Ms Morchower stated that speakers should be allowed at Atlanta Eagle consistent with the noise ordinance.</p>		
<a href="#">KRA Haus</a> Kandice Burns	442 Plasters Ave NE	Restaurant New Business

Comments: Applicant has requested a deferral to March.

**NPU-F Action:** Motion to defer made by Jane Rawlings 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill Compton carries without objection.

### Special Event Applications (MOSE)

<a href="#">ASO Concert in the Park</a> Bob Scarr	Class D 9,999 Participants Recurring Event	Piedmont Park June 22, 2023
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Comments: Recurring event.

**NPU-F Action:** Motion to support made by Rich Sussman 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kay Stephenson carries by a vote of 31 in favor, 0 opposed.

<a href="#">13th Annual Atlanta Ice Cream Festival</a> Kevin James	Class B 22,000 Participants Recurring Event	Piedmont Park July 22, 2023
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Comments: Applicant present. Free entry to the festival.

<b>NPU-F Action:</b> Motion to support made by Kay Stephenson 2 <sup>nd</sup> by Holly Sasnett carries by a vote of 28 in favor, 0 opposed.		
<a href="#">Pure Heat Community Festival</a> Melissa Scott	Class C 19,000 Participants Recurring Event	Piedmont Park September 3, 2023
<p>Comments: Applicant not present.</p> <p>Motion to defer the application made by Rich Sussman and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kay Stephenson. Motion carried without objection.</p> <p><b>NPU-F Action:</b> Deferral</p>		
<a href="#">ONE Musicfest--A Piedmont Park Conservancy fundraiser</a> Mark Banta & Terrell Henderson	Gated Event 40,000 Participants Piedmont Park Conservancy Fundraiser	Piedmont Park October 21-23, 2023
<p>Comments: Applicant not present.</p> <p>Motion to defer the application made by Rich Sussman and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Kay Stephenson. Motion carried without objection.</p> <p><b>NPU-F Action:</b> Deferral</p>		

8. Presentations - None

9. Planner's Report – Doug Young, Interim Director, Office of Design, Dept. of City Planning, 404-330-6702, [dyoung@atlantaga.gov](mailto:dyoung@atlantaga.gov)

NPU University courses are continuing.

A Zoning 2.0 workshop is scheduled for February 28.

Additional updates: <https://www.atlantaga.gov/government/departments/city-planning/neighborhood-planning-units/updates>

10. Neighborhood and Committee Reports

<b>Lindridge Martin Manor</b>	Board met in January. Membership drive is planned for late March.
<b>Piedmont Heights</b>	N/A

<b>Morningside Lenox Park</b>	Busy centennial year for MLPA. Master plan engagement meeting is set for March 9 at 6:30.
<b>Virginia-Highland</b>	VH Planning Committee is concluding negotiations on the Portman project. All are welcome at meetings.
<b>Edmund Park</b>	N/A
<b>Emory/CDC area/ Druid Hills</b>	N/A
<b>Parks, Trees &amp; Environment (Rich Sussman)</b>	
<b>Education (Leah Matthews)</b>	The Chair has a flyer with information on the redistricting meetings.
<b>Public Safety (Kay Stephenson)</b>	
<b>APAB (Debbie Skopczynski, Voting Member)</b>	APAB met on January 28 <sup>th</sup> . APAB officers and voting members were sworn in the Deputy City Clerk. Appointments were made to Beltline TADAC and the ACRB. A resolution supporting the recommendations of City in the Forest was introduced for review. Rich, Holly and Stephanie Coffin have all provided input. It now looks like it's been pulled from the February agenda. I'm checking to see if it's being amended and will get back to you,
<b>Chair's Report</b> -	<p>We've received several project proposals for the 2023 Community Impact Grant. The NPU will vote tonight on supporting the projects under new business.</p> <p>I attended the Mayor's first Neighborhood Summit along with about 200 other NPU, neighborhood, Atlanta schools and non-profit organizations as well as representatives from city hall. The mayor spoke about his Year of the Youth initiative which he said will include young people programs from "diapers to degrees". There were focus groups to get input on affordable housing, economic development and vitality, infrastructure planning, place-based public safety, youth development and education and youth development grant orientation. I participated in a discussion on the development of an Atlanta Thriving Neighborhood Index. I spoke to several of my NPU counterparts as I left and folks felt it was a good session, but were not optimistic that there would be much follow-through.</p> <p>NPU-F will continue to meet virtually on the third Wednesday of the month.</p>



## 12. New Business

- 2023 Community Impact Grant Proposals

Requestor	Project Manager/ Contact	Requested Amount	Project	Previous Grants	Final Award
Piedmont Heights Civic Association	Bill Compton	\$1,500	PH neighborhood sign @ Montgomery Ferry and Piedmont (does not include installation)	2021	\$1,500
Lindridge Martin Manor (LMM)	Rich Sussman	\$2,500	Purchase and plant approx. 25 native plants at Armand Park	2022- different location	\$700- \$1,800
Friends of Sidney Marcus Park (MLPA)	John Pappas	\$2,300	New park sign at new entrance on Sherwood Road (does not include installation)	1 <sup>st</sup> time request	\$2,300
Friends of HT/DJ Park (MLPA)	Marti Breen Will Hazelton	\$0	Purchase and plant native plant species at Daniel Johnson Park (amended request, was \$1000)	2021, 2022	\$0
Friends of Orme Park (VaHi)	Mark Arnold Lee Wilson	\$500	Purchase and plant native species in Orme Park (amended request, was \$1500)	1 <sup>st</sup> time request	\$1,500
NPU-F Administrative Cost	Debbie and Kay	\$500	Google workspace monthly charge and domain name renewal	1 <sup>st</sup> time request	\$500
Total		\$7,300			\$6,500
Total grant available to NPU-F		\$6,500	Note: We have requested and been granted additional dollars in previous years		

### 2022 Grants:

Kiosks for Sunken Garden and Lenox-Wildwood Parks in the MLP neighborhood- \$3,900  
 Native tree planting along the Meadow Loop Trail in Lindridge Martin Manor -\$2,250  
 Professional services and signage (for Herbert Taylor/Daniel Johnson Parks) - \$1,350  
 TOTAL AWARD - \$7,500

### 2021 Grants:

Daniel Johnson/Herbert Taylor Park: Integrated Landscape Design and plantings - \$3,000  
 Piedmont Heights: Refurbishment of solar powered radar sign and education workshop- \$1,045  
 Total Award \$4,045

2023 Grant Applications Amendments: Friends of HT/DJ withdrew their application. LMM has reduced their request to \$700. Full \$1500 has been restored to Friends of Orme Park. Total for NPU-F adds up to \$6500.

**NPU-F Action:** Motion to approve the Community Impact Project Proposals including the requested amounts was made by Kay Stephenson 2nd by Holly Sasnett carries by a vote of 21 ayes 0 nays. As amended above.

PHCA is fiscal agent. Their treasurer will manage the paperwork. Thanks to Holly Sasnett for finalizing the grant amounts.

## 13. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 9:48 pm. Motion by Kay Stephenson 2nd by Rich Sussman.

## PUBLIC NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Provided for informational purposes. Votes/comments are neither required nor expected.

### **Freight Transportation Plan | Public Open House**

Atlanta Department of City Planning is conducting a freight transportation plan to improve moving goods in and around the industrial districts and surrounding neighborhoods in Northwest Atlanta. Register for the final Virtual Public Open House (March 1, 2023, from 6:00 PM to 7:00 PM). Please visit the project website to register and review draft reports and proposed recommendations at [www.freightATL.com](http://www.freightATL.com). Questions and comments can be emailed to [FreightATL@atlantaga.gov](mailto:FreightATL@atlantaga.gov).

### **NPU-F New Meeting Day**

**Effective January 2023, NPU-F will meet virtually on the Third Wednesday of each month.**