NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING UNIT

Wednesday, February 19, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Please pre-register by clicking <u>HERE</u> Meeting ID: 845 9824 9006

Dial In: +1 646-558-8656 Access Code: 845 9824 9006#



CONTACT INFORMATION

Debbie Skopczynski, **Chair** – 404.874.7483 or <u>chair@npufatlanta.org</u>
Selena Xayavong, **City of Atlanta, Substitute Planner** – (470) 808-1042 or <u>SXayavong@atlantaga.gov</u>
Leah LaRue, **City of Atlanta, Director** – 404.330.6070 or <u>llarue@atlantaga.gov</u>

Minutes

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Welcome to the February meeting of NPU-F.

Selena Xayavong from the Department of City Planning is seating in for our assigned planner, Doug Young. There are no additions to the agenda, and it is adopted without objection.

2. Approval of Minutes

 Thanks to Kathryn King for preparing the minutes last month. They are on the NPU-F website and placed in the chat. A link was included on the Reminder email sent to the NPU-F mailing list. The January 2025 minutes are adopted without objection.

3. Announcements

- We are joined by Jahnee Prince, Commissioner of City Planning, to walk us through the text amendments on the agenda. The text amendments will be discussed following the Consent Agenda. Also joining us are representatives from the NPU support team who will be taking notes on comments made during the ordinance discussion.
- We have received word that Mayor Dickens chose to not sign the LRB's recommendation to approve the alcohol license at Club Platinum. Instead, he took no action for 60 days and the license was approved. We expect Club Platinum to reopen shortly.
- The Piedmont Park Conservancy Master Planning process is wrapping up. Please go to the Piedmont Park website to see some of the recommendations that are being made and provide your comments. The public comment period closes in early March.
- 4. Reports from City Departmental Representatives

Atlanta Police Department

Zone 2 – Major Vaynes

Zone 6 – Major Webster

Lt. Jeffrey Henderson, Zone 2 Evening shift, 404-227-3545 jphenderson@atlantaga.gov

As mentioned, Club Platinum alcohol license has been renewed and they have opened. He provided a traffic summary for Zone 2. Traffic stops are up 20%. We are currently leading all 6 APD zones in arrests.

As always, we continue to push the Clean Car Campaign. A lot of the theft from autos are crimes of opportunity where we're seeing laptops and other large items being left inside the car. We can all do our part in just keeping our car clean. If you are carrying a firearm while you're in your vehicle, use a lock safe for the car to make sure if your car is broken into,

	individuals don't have access to that firearm, and it will keep another firearm off the streets from the bad guys.
	It would be helpful if you would connect your video recorders at your businesses or home to our system via the connectatlanta.org website.
	Question regarding homeless encampments under the bridges: All of our supervisors have been tasked to go under the bridges to look for individuals. We're making contact and recording them on our body cams. If they set fires, they will be arrested.

	Capt. Alneta Harris, Zone 6 Asst Zone Commander, atharris@atlantaga.gov
	There has been an uptick in crime in Virginia-Highland, mostly with vehicle break-ins and 7 stolen vehicles. In Morningside-Lenox Park, we have seen the same thing as well as 3 burglaries.
	In NPU-F there have been no aggravated assaults, homicides, or anything of that nature.
ATL311 Tamika Merriweather	Reminder that they are using social media (example - Instgram, Facebook), platforms as a way to report. You can also reach us at 311.
Public Works Code Enforcement (S.W.E.E.T)	Officer Lawrence, lilawrence@atlantaga.gov
	We are still on a bi-weekly schedule for yard trimming collections. Reminder that if you have more than 20 bags, you must call ATL311for a special bulk removal. The max bag weight is 35 pounds.
Watershed Management	Aisha Brown, aibrown@atlantaga.gov678-637-1041 City cell No report.
Fulton County Solicitor	Janel O. Bowles, Solicitor Senior Counsel, City of Atlanta, Office of the
Janel O. Bowles, Solicitor Senior Counsel, City of	Solicitor,
Atlanta, Office of the Solicitor	jbowles@atlantaga.gov 770-542-7759 No report.
Office of Neighborhood Ombudsman Clyde Mitchell	No report

- 5. Department of City Planning: Legislative Update (Moved to Voting Matters Text Amendments)
- 6. Comments from Elected Officials

Councilmembers Alex Wan, awan@atlantaga.gov, 404-330-6049 Amir Farokhi, District 2, 404-330-6038	-HB581 legislation approved by voters last November which was to cap property tax assessment increases to not exceed the CPI, unless a municipality took action. The City of Atlanta has opted out with the rationale that the city already has a cap of 2.6% each year. It's called a floating exemption that is automatically
Liliana Bakhtiari , District 5, 404-330-6048	calculated on the property tax bill. Also, in the last 5 years, the CPI has been above 2.6%. Fulton County, has opted in but they already have a cap of 3%. Atlanta Public Schools has opted Out and has no cap.

-Office of Inspector General – changes Council passed are pretty much the structure in that office currently. Legislation suggested by the administration was modified to retain the structure for appointment to the oversight board including appointment of a representative of APAB and one from the League of Women Voters. Also included requirement that a subpoena for personal records must be signed by a judge. Any criminal investigations will be handled by the GBI and/or the State Attorney General.

-Amsterdam Walk: In the last few days, I was informed of several developments and notified the MLPA and VHCA presidents and NPU chair.

AW will go before Invest Atlanta tomorrow to have approved a legal vehicle that facilitates a long-term easement of Evelyn Road. Invest Atlanta is tying their approval to affordable housing. Their approval does not approve the project.

Two amended papers will be submitted to Council. The land use change will be sent to the CD/HS Committee and the rezoning paper to the Zoning Committee. He received agreement with the chairs of both committees that they will hold those papers until the neighbors have an opportunity to digest the language.

CM Matt Westmoreland and Alex have been in touch with Planning and they have not received the new papers. Copies will be distributed to the neighborhoods and NPU for dissemination.

Some of the changes:

- Evelyn Road will follow the current street and will not cut into the hill.
- There will be 3 buildings, instead of 4
- The max height is 9 stories
- Portman is abandoning the 50-foot buffer behind Highland
 Park Lane

The community asked for continued transparency with a community meeting to discuss the changes when available and Alex committed to do so.

-Allure Alcohol License Revocation: Good news. At a court hearing in February, the revocation was upheld. It is believed that a decision of the Court of Appeals will also prevail.

State Rep

Stacy Evans

stacey@staceyevans.com

Rachel Schiffer, Chief of Staff

Please feel free to reach out to Rep. Stacey Evans at stacey.evans@house.ga.gov or to Rachel at rachel@staceyevans.com. You can sign up for our newsletter at https://staceyevans.com. We will be holding a town hall on March 12 at 7pm to discuss the ongoing legislative session. Register to join us at this link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/SkgLYjUAQHadGDN 3mnGf_g

7. Consent Agenda

Board of Zoning Adjustment

Application/	Request	N'hood	Recommendation
Address		Report	
V-25-6 750 Drewry Street NE	Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning ordinance to 1) reduce the front yard from the required 35 feet to 25 feet, 2) reduce the east side yard from the required 7 feet to 2 feet 6 inches and 3) reduce the required front porch from the required minimum 8 feet deep to 5 feet deep.	Site plan conducted, neighbors notified, no neighbor opposition, VHCA board approved unanimously	VHCA: Recommend approval
V-25-14	Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning	Site plan conducted,	VHCA:
936 North Highland	ordinance to 1) reduce the half-depth yard from	neighbors notified, no	Recommend
Avenue NE	17.5 feet to 6.8 feet, 2) reduce the rear yard setback from 15 feet to 8 feet and 3) reduce the south side yard setback from 7 feet to 3 feet.	neighbor opposition, VHCA board approved unanimously	approval

LRB Applications

Name of Business	Property Address	Request	<u>Recommendation</u>
Mistora	1620 Piedmont Avenue	Restaurant	Defer at the request of the
Jacob Isliker		Change of Ownership	applicant

Special Events

Event Name/Applicant	Class/# Participants	Event Location/ Date	Recommendation
Christ Covenant Easter Worship	500 Participants	Piedmont Park Legacy	Defer
Service	Not for profit/No entrance fee	Fountain – April 20, 2025	
Leslie Dickinson	No alcohol/Church choir		
Indigenous House Atlanta	Class E/1,999 Participants	Piedmont Park Large	Support
John Dennis		Pavilion	Not present
		May 18, 2025	
ATL Spring Market	Class E/	Piedmont Park	Support
Sydney Howell	1,950 Participants	May 31-June 1, 2025	Not present
Pride Run ATL 5K	Class D/	Piedmont Park – Chas	
Temilola Marshall	3,000 Participants	Allen Gate	Support
	Recurring event	June 1, 2025	
Cafe City Festival	Class E/	Piedmont Park - Meadow	
Queen Brown De Thiam	1,000 Participants	June 8, 2025	Support
			Not present
Piedmont Holiday Market	Class E/	Piedmont Park	
Randall Fox	1,750 Participants	November 29-30, 2025	Support

Consent agenda requirements: All Class E events and one-day Class D events that are recurring. Neighborhood and gated events are not eligible.

NPU-F Action: Motion to approve the consent agenda, removing Indigenous House, ATL Spring Market, and Café City Festival for not being present at the meeting, by Kay Stephenson and 2^{nd} by Tom Schwab carries by a vote of 23 ayes, 0 nays.

3. Matters for Voting

Text Amendments - Zoning Ordinance (Zoning Review Board)

Z-25-4

An Ordinance to amend the 1982 Atlanta Zoning Ordinance, as amended, to amend Section 16-26.003, entitled "Conditions of Granting a Variance"; to create a new Section 16-26.008 entitled "Administrative Zoning Setback Variances for the Preservation of Trees"; to create a new Section 16-20.003(f) entitled "Variances for the Preservation of Mature Trees"; and for other purposes. FACT SHEET

Hearing: March 13 or April 3, 2025

Comments:

- -Suggestion to include front and rear yard setbacks in administrative variance to preserve those trees in those setbacks
- -Concern about notice of administrative variance to adjacent neighbors who will be impacted
- -Concern that when an application comes to the NPU with several variance requests, that the NPU should be notified that an administrative variance has also been granted
- -Concern about how this will be recorded and reported for how it affects the tree canopy. Quarterly reports have not been updated since 2023.
- How will this apply under Zoning 2.0?

NPU-F Action: Motion to approve the use of administrative variances to the side yard setback for the express purpose of saving priority trees 6 inches or larger, with amendments to require including notice to neighbors of the administrative variance, and that the package that is sent to the NPU for other variances include a notation that an administrative variance has already been granted for a part of the project

made by Kay Stephenson and 2nd by Marla Johnson carries by a vote of 12 Ayes 4 Nays

Z-25-5

An Ordinance by Councilmember Howard Shook to amend the 1982 Atlanta Z oning Ordinance, as amended, by amending the definition of a "Party House"; and for other purposes. FACT SHEET Hearing: March 13, 2025

Comments:

- The ordinance was rewritten for clarity and to make it easier for APD to enforce.
- Why are parties that don't charge a fee excluded? Most people who call APD don't know if a fee has been charged or not.

NPU-F Action: Motion to approve made by Kay Stephenson and 2nd by Tom Schwab carries by a vote of 26 Ayes 0 Nays.

Proposed Legislation - Atlanta City Council - Review and Comment

24-0-1687

An Ordinance by Councilmember Byron D. Amos to amend Part III - Land Development Code, Part 20 — **Short-Term Rentals**, to add a short-term rental license requirement for multi-family complexes; to revise the application requirements for a short-term rental license; to create location limitations on the issuance of short-term rental licenses; to clarify the requirements for short-term rental licensees and short-term rental agents; to revise the consequences of violating the terms of a short-term rental license; to increase the short-term rental application fee; to continue to ensure that short-term rentals are paying applicable state and local taxes; and for other purposes. <u>AMENDMENT TABLE</u>

CD/HS Public Hearing: March 25, 2025

Comments may also be submitted to your Councilmembers Wan, Farokhi, Bakhtiari*, CD/HS Committee members: Jason Winston (chair), Jason Dozier (VC) Michael Julian Bond, Mary Norwood, Matt Westmoreland.

Each person may speak up to 3 minutes, you must sign up to speak and cannot give your time to anyone else.

Comments: No comments.

24-O-1691 Tree Protection Ordinance

An Ordinance by Councilmember Michael Julian Bond to amend the Atlanta City Code, Part II (General Ordinances), Chapter 158 (Vegetation), Article II (Tree Protection), to adopt a **new tree protection** ordinance for the City of Atlanta; and for other purposes. FACT SHEET

CD/HS Public Hearing: March 25, 2025

Comments: Would recommend that this should include more info on diseases that affect trees. We have these tree diseases more frequently and they hit specific trees. Would encourage the arborist department to report on the death of trees to help us track tree diseases.

- Please attend Trees Atlanta's Zoom Lunch and Learn presentation on the proposed new TPO on February 25th. There are good changes but some that the tree advocates are VERY concerned about. Sign up to attend here. https://www.treesatlanta.org/get-involved/events/lunch-and-learn-whats-proposed-for-atlantas-new-tree-protection-ordinance-a2BUd00000166i6MAA

Comments: Are we doing a good thing for lower income areas by providing affordable housing credit? These areas also need green spaces and the benefits of a healthy tree canopy.

NPU-F Land Use Policies

Residential Neighborhoods

NPU-F's residential neighborhoods include Edmund Park, Lindridge Martin Manor, Morningside-Lenox Park, Piedmont Heights, and Virginia-Highland (including the entire Atkins Park Historic District) as well as specified areas of Druid Hills. Policies F-1 to F-9 are specific to the residential and commercial districts in NPU-F.

- **F-1:** Protect the historic integrity and character of existing single-family districts in NPU-F. Unless specifically supported by neighborhood master plans, assemblages and re-zonings of such districts to higher-density residential, commercial, or mixed-use categories should be rejected.
- F-2: Protect the low-density multi-family residential character of the St. Charles-Greenwood district.
- **F-3:** Evaluate proposals, especially those along the Monroe Drive corridor, for land use changes and rezoning amendments in light of their overall impacts on the quality of life, transit, density, and compatibility with neighborhood, NPU, and city plans and goals, including those referenced in F-1.
 - Support alternatives and approaches that decrease parking requirements
 - Discourage further strip development. Encourage consolidation and redevelopment of existing strip retail centers to be compatible with adjacent neighborhoods using neighborhood commercial zoning principles.
 - Oppose zoning and retail creep from existing commercial districts into adjacent residential areas.
- **F-4:** Utilize substantial foliage to preserve the character and livability of existing residential communities and screen them from the impacts of new parking decks.
- F-5: Promote individual mobility and provide improved and safer conditions and facilities for pedestrians and cyclists.
- **F-6:** Preserve existing and promote the establishment of new Open Green Space. We support and promote the maintenance and maintenance of our tree canopy.
- **F-7:** Support inter-modal transit planning and functionality that will address the 'last mile' challenge. Emphasize more local access along new transit lines.
- **F-8:** Observe and protect the parks, stream and riparian corridors in NPU-F.
- **F-9:** Given the cumulative effect of significant development within NPU-F over the last 5 years without any expansion of public transit, recognize that transit facilities, in particular light rail transit or other transit alternatives in the Beltline overlay district, would ideally be constructed concurrently with any further redevelopment within NPU-F generally, and in particular within Subarea 6.

Office/Institutional Area including Emory University*/CDC/Villa International/Synod of the South Atlantic of the Presbyterian Church (*including property in the City of Atlanta, north of North Decatur)

- F-10: Minimize impact of facilities and expansion in surrounding neighborhoods.
- **F-11:** The highest densities should be at the center or along major roads and highways and transition to lower densities at the edges to protect and buffer surrounding neighborhoods. Surrounding neighborhoods should be buffered from noise and lights.
- **F-12:** Minimize the use of adjacent neighborhood streets for parking by establishing adequate parking requirements and encouraging shared parking arrangements. Encourage well designed public parking.
- **F-13:** Encourage integrated modes of transportation including pedestrian, bicycle, auto, private shuttles and the use of public transportation.
- **F-14:** Encourage Emory's development of the Haygood Drive/Ridgewood Drive corridor and the Gatewood Road/Luckie Lane corridor on its campus consistent with policies F-10 through F-14.

Amendments:

- Motion to substitute the words "must be" to "would ideally be" in F-9 made by Jack White and 2nd by Stephanie Coffin carries by a vote of 9 ayes, 2 nays.
- A recommendation to add the word "parks" to F-8 was made without objection.
- A recommendation to replace "saving" with "expansion" to F-6 was made without objection.
- A motion by Jack White to remove F-1 and F-2 died without a second.

NPU-F Action: Motion to adopt with the approved amendments was made by Kay Stephenson and 2nd by Tom Schwab carries by a vote of 17 Ayes 2 Nays

2025 Community Impact Grant Projects

- i. Friends of Orme Park Ecosystem Restoration \$1,000 \$1,500
- ii. Virginia-Highland Safety Patrol Banners \$1,000 \$2,000
- iii. NPU-F Website Administration \$475
- iv. VHDA North Highland Beautification Project (hanging baskets) \$2,628 \$3,000

Total Request: \$5,103 - \$6,975

Motion to add an additional project, LMMNA Armand Park installation of plants and grasses made by Rich Sussman, 2nd by Kay Stephenson, carries without objection. Request is \$1,500-\$2,000.

NPU-F Action: Motion made by Tom Schwab and 2nd by Rich Sussman to approve all 5 projects carries by a vote of 17 ayes and 0 nays. New total grant request: \$6,603 - \$8,975.

Special Event Applications (MOSE)		
Event Name	Event	Event Date
Indigenous House Atlanta		Piedmont Park Large
_	Class E/1,999 Participants	Pavilion – 400 Monroe Drive
John Dennis		May 18, 2025

Comments: Applicant not present and removed from Consent agenda.

NPU-F Action: Motion to defer carries without objection.

ATL Spring Market	Class E/1,950 Participants	Piedmont Park
Sydney Howell	Class E/1,950 Participants	May 31-June 1, 2025

Comments: Applicant not present and removed from the consent agenda.

NPU-F Action: Motion to defer carries without objection.

Tacos and Tequila	Gated/For profit/Entrance fee	Promenade/Legacy Fountain
JD Lovett	2,000 Participants Alcohol/ Amplified music	– 400 Park Dr May 4, 2025

Comments: Concern about load-in on Park Drive on Saturday night 6 pm-10 pm. Applicant was asked to be sure Park Drive

residents are able to easily access their properties. Event organizers said there would be foot escorts.

NPU-F Action: Motion to approve by Rich Sussman, 2nd by Kay Stephenson carries by a vote of 11 Ayes 2 Nays

Cafe City Festival		Meadow @ Piedmont Park
Queen Brown De Thiam	Class E/1,000 Participants	-1320 Monroe Dr NE
		June 8, 2025

Comments: Applicant was not present and removed from the consent agenda.

NPU-F Action: Motion to defer carries without objection.

Juneteenth Atlanta Parade and Music Festival	Class D/8,500 Participants Recurring	Piedmont Park June 14-15, 2025
Bob Johnson	ŭ	, ,

Comments: Applicant not present.

NPU-F Action: Motion to defer made by Rich Sussman and 2nd by Kay Stephenson carries by a without objection.

Atlanta Journal Constitution	Class A/FF 000 Partising rts	Diadragat Dayl
Peachtree Road Race	Class A/55,000 Participants	Piedmont Park
Julia Manseau-Toth	Recurring	July 4, 2025

Comments: Major change – Peachtree Jr. event is moving to Lenox Square.

NPU-F Action: Motion to approve made by Tom Schwab and 2nd by Kay Stephenson carries by a vote of 14 Ayes 0 Nays

Atlanta Ice Cream Festival	Class B/22,000 Participants	Piedmont Park
Kevin James	Recurring	July 25, 2025

Comments: no changes

NPU-F Action: Motion to approve made by Tom Schwab and 2nd by Kay Stephenson carries by a vote of 14 Ayes 0 Nays

Pure Heat Community Festival	Class C/19,999 Participants	Piedmont Park - 400 Park Dr NE
Melissa Scott	Recurring	August 31, 2025

Comments: Applicant not present.

NPU-F Action: Motion to defer made by Rich Sussman and 2nd by Tom Schwab carries without objection.

Atlanta Pride Festival	Class A/305,000 Participants	Piedmont Park – 1320 Monroe Dr
Glen Paul Freedman	Recurring	October 11-12, 2025

Comments: No major changes.

NPU-F Action: Motion to approve by Tom Schwab and 2nd by Kay Stephenson carries by a vote of 13 Ayes 0 Nays

Atlanta Alive	Class C/ 1,900 Participants	Piedmont Park – The Meadow
Joseph Turnbull		November 14-16, 2025

Comments: Applicant not present.

NPU-F Action: Motion to defer made by Tom Schwab and 2nd by Kay Stephenson adopted without objection.

9. Presentations - None

10. Planner's Report - Selena Xayavong - Substitute Planner

Links to the Planner's report announcements:

- 2025 Planning Initiatives: https://www.atlantaga.gov/government/departments/2025-planning-initiative
- NPU: Community Impact Grant program: https://www.atlantaga.gov/government/departments/city-planning/neighborhood-planning-units/community-impact-grant-program
- NPU-University: https://www.npuatlanta.org/npuuniversity
- NPU Updates: https://www.atlantaga.gov/government/departments/city-planning/neighborhood-planning-units/updates
- NPU Dashboard: https://coaplangis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/39ccf768f0

11. Neighborhood and Committee Reports

Lindridge Martin Manor	The LMMNA Board will meet on 2/26 on Zoom. New President Tucker Thames will preside. The LMM community garden is being rebuilt this month. Last year's flooding destroyed it.	
Piedmont Heights	The next meeting will be held March 4 th . A community clean-up of the commercial districts and Beltline will be held March 15th.	
Morningside Lenox Park	MLPA's event line-up for 2025 is now on their website.	
Virginia-Highland	Virginia-Highland District Association has published their calendar of events. Porchfest will be back in May.	
Emory/CDC area/Druid Hills	No report	
Parks, Trees & Environment (Rich Sussman)	No report.	
Education (Jason Holmes)	Not present	
Communications (Marla Johnson)	No report.	
Public Safety (Kay Stephenson & Susan Kanellos)	No report.	
Alcohol Licensing (Tom Schwab)	A lot of research has been done on the Mistora LRB application. They will be meeting with PHCA and MLPA prior to the next meeting. Club Platinum is opening; be sure to call 911 with any violations and request a police report. The LRB approved the application because there were lots of calls for service, but no reports.	
APAB (Kady Dewees, Voting Member)	Kady attended the February 25 th meeting of APAB.	
2025 Community Impact Project	Four projects have been submitted for approval. The grant application will be submitted in March. (Note: an additional project was added during the meeting.)	
The Chair Report	Thanks to Commissioner Jahnee Prince and her team for attending our meeting tonight and providing insight to the 4 proposed ordinances we discussed.	
	We've already discussed most of the NPU activities this month so I will not be providing a report.	
	Please review the Consent Agenda for upcoming meetings and opportunities for review and comment of current Planning initiatives.	

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

The meeting was adjourned at 10:17 pm. Motion made by Rich Sussman and 2nd by Tom Schwab.

PUBLIC NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Plan A: Atlanta's Comprehensive Development Plan

The Department of City Planning (DCP) is continuing the planning process to update Plan A: Atlanta's Comprehensive Development Plan meeting the Minimum Planning Standards set by the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and the Georgia Planning Act. The comprehensive plan sets forth the vision, goals, policies, and actions for future growth and development in Atlanta. In-person Community Meetings end February 6.

Public review and comment on the draft maps and chapters is extended to Monday, March 10.

See www.AtlantaForAll.com for drafts and information to participate. For additional questions, please email PlanA@AtlantaGA.Gov.