

NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING UNIT

Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Please pre-register by clicking [HERE](#)

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 chair@npufatlanta.org

Tom Schwab, Vice-Chair -

Doug Young, **City of Atlanta, Planner** – 404.330.6702 or dyoung@atlantaga.gov

Leah LaRue, **City of Atlanta, Director** – 404.330.6070 or llarue@atlantaga.gov

Minutes

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

The agenda was adopted with no objections.

2. Approval of Minutes

The April minutes are now ready for review.

Motion to adopt April 2025 minutes made by Tom Schwab, 2nd by Rich Sussman carries without objection.

We'll catch up with the May minutes next month.


3. Announcements

We will begin our annual review of NPU-F bylaws next month so that they can be approved by the NPU and submitted to the City by the end of September (as required by ordinance). If you have any recommendations for bylaw changes, please contact either Tom Schwab or the Chair. The NPU-F executive committee will meet the 4th Monday of July to make recommendations. Proposed changes will be reviewed at the August NPU meeting and voted on in September.

4. Reports from City Departmental Representatives

Atlanta Fire Department Station 19 North Highland, Station 29 Monroe Drive Captain Jason White	<p>We have just had 35 recruits graduate and are still trying to fill some much-needed positions in the field. The recruitment process is still open. Please refer them to visit our atlantafirerescue.com.</p> <p>Any donations to any fire house must go through the Fire Foundation. Their website is atlfrf.org. You can fill out the information there and donate any items you wish to donate. Stop by your local fire house and the Captain or Lieutenant will guide you on anything they need.</p> <p>Breakfast with the Bravest: He wishes to congratulate all the folks who accepted awards there and all the donors from the area. They really appreciate it.</p>
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<p>Atlanta Police Department</p> <p>Zone 2 – Major Ben Vayens</p> <p>Bvayens@atlantaga.gov</p> <p>404.323.6344</p> <p>Zone 6 – Captain Alneta Harris</p> <p>Zone 6 Assistant</p> <p>atharris@atlantaga.gov</p> <p>470.825.1534</p> 	<p>Citywide we are down 12% overall in crime. Zones 6 is down 5%, Zone 2 is down 11%. In Zone 2, 32% of their overall crime is theft from motor vehicles.</p> <p>Please consider a gun lock box for your vehicles. We had 628 firearms stolen so far this year in Atlanta; 91 were in Zone 2.</p> <p>Hosted the first FIFA match; they will be doing 12-hour shifts. The first match went really well. They are looking forward to five more matches until the first week of July.</p> <p>Q: from Sabrina Robbs related to shots fired near their Cheshire Bridge high rise. This concerned some residents. Who do we contact for concerns? Major Vayens will look into this incident. If they are able to locate any shell cases, they will turn them in. They will then run them through their system.</p> <p>Officer Williams says Zone 6 had 66 property crimes, down over 37% from previous 30 days. It had a slight increase in aggravated assaults. A shooting on May 25 on Cheshire Bridge is being investigated. Club soccer games at Mercedes-Benz Stadium are causing increased traffic.</p>
<p>APD Code Enforcement</p> <p>Atlanta Police Department</p> <p>Officer Andrea J. Williams</p> <p>470.547.7339</p> <p>Code Enforcement Section</p> <p>Officer Vincent Jeter</p> <p>Vcjeter@atlantaga.gov</p> <p>470-547-7339</p>	<p>If you have some properties of concern, they do have the stats for the community which they will send to the NPU-F Chair. If you send Officer Jeter any specific addresses, he will look them up for you.</p>
<p>ATL311</p> <p>Tamika Merriweather</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dial 3-1-1 <i>inside city limits</i> or 404-546-0311 2. Visit and chat at www.ATL311.com 3. Email at ATL311@atlantaga.gov 4. Mobile App by searching “ATL311” in your app store 5. Social Media @ATL311 <p>Sign up for City of Atlanta emergency alerts by texting NOTIFYATL to 24639.</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 the option to speak with ATL311 Supportive Services. 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>If you would like to leave ATL311 feedback from today’s meeting, ask</p>

 <p>ATL311 SUPPORTIVE SERVICES AND PAD ARE NOW OPEN UNTIL <i>Midnight</i></p> <p>To make a referral, dial 311 (404-546-0311 outside the city limits) and select option 3.</p> <p>*You MUST call in to make a referral*</p> <p>Introducing the new ATL311 Live Agent Chat Assistant!</p> <p>Hello! My name is AVA Artificial Virtual Assistant</p> <p>Customers who are seeking extra support are now able to connect with Ava!</p> <p>Highlights of the live agent chat feature:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send or receive photos and documents. • Representatives can initiate voice calls with customers. • Supervisors can join the chat with customers if needed. • Receive transcripts from live agent chat sessions. <p>To reach Ava, you can either go to atl311.com or open the mobile app and click the icon located in the lower right corner. For voice assistance, dial 404-546-0311.</p> <p>SEARCH ATL311 TO DOWNLOAD THE APP</p> <p>Download on the App Store GET IT ON Google play</p> <p>311 OR 404-546-0311 ATL311@ATLANTAGA.GOV WWW.ATL311.COM FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA @ATL311</p>	<p>us questions, or report any outstanding issues, please take our survey by clicking this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ATL311Meeting.</p> <p>If you would like to have ATL311 present for a Community Meeting or Community Event, please feel free to complete the form below and the Community Affairs Coordinator will reach out to you within two (2) business days: https://forms.office.com/g/JzTWX3gHx1</p> <p>Each case is closed by the Department that handled the issue. If it is closed prematurely, please contact 311.</p>
<p>Public Works Code Enforcement</p> <p>Officer Spurlock</p> <p>ejspurlock@atlantaga.gov</p> <p>470.755.5253</p>	<p>S.W.E.E.T., the Solid Waste Education and Enforcement Team, serves to promote public safety, public health, and the welfare of the citizens of the city of Atlanta. We also oversee all sanitation regulations for the city of Atlanta.</p> <p>If your trash is missed, please call ATL 311.</p> <p>If you see illegal dumping, please contact them. It seems small limbs sometimes aren't being collected with the brown bags, but they aren't bulk. Please put them in brown paper bags for now. The issue is under discussion. They have responsibility for property maintenance.</p> <p>Q: who's responsible for graffiti on buildings? That's APD Code Enforcement.</p>
<p>Parks and Recreation</p>	<p>No report.</p>
<p>Watershed Management</p> <p>Aisha Brown</p> <p>aibrown@atlantaga.gov</p> <p>678-637-1041 City cell</p>	<p>No report for now but please reach out to her with any concerns.</p>
<p>Fulton County Solicitor</p> <p>Janel O. Bowles, Solicitor Senior Counsel, City of Atlanta, Office of the Solicitor,</p> <p>jbowles@atlantaga.gov</p> <p>770-542-7759</p>	<p>The prosecuting arm of the City. We support the citizens of Atlanta through educational services and resources. In addition to prosecuting any code violations, anything in the municipal code including traffic, DUI, housing code violations, zoning, building, we handle those in the municipal court.</p> <p>The Housing Court had an open house last week. They put together a group to discuss what the court does and how it can be helpful. Issue of</p>

	<p>nuisance and blighted properties came up and they were concerned. If you know there is a case pending in court, the judge said the court would like to hear from all locals on how the issue affects the community.</p> <p>Q: The Happy Herman case was referred to criminal court for code enforcement. Their office would handle that.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2299 Cheshire Bridge, cc-2024-02445, Civil Complaint Filed • 2297 Cheshire Bridge, cc-2024-02444, Civil Complaint Filed • 2277 Cheshire Bridge, cc-2024-02484, Civil Complaint Filed
<p>Office of Neighborhood Ombudsman Clyde Mitchell, Neighborhood Relations Manager, alongside Dr. Jodi Merriday</p> <p>clmitchell@atlantaga.gov 404.510.8498</p> <p>Exe-jmerriday@atlantaga.gov 470.316.2382</p>	<p>Please reach out if we can be of assistance. We can elevate concerns to departments, help you find information, mediate disputes, and explore options to resolve outstanding constituent and neighborhood issues.</p>

5. Comments from Elected Officials

<p>Councilmembers</p> <p>Alex Wan, awan@atlantaga.gov, 404-330-6049</p> <p>Amir Farokhi, District 2, 404-330-6038</p> <p>Liliana Bakhtiari, District 5, 404-330-6048</p>	<p>There is a virtual meeting on Monroe Drive.</p> <p>Monroe Safer Streets Zoom, Tuesday June 24, 6:00 pm - bit.ly/MonroeSS2506 or Zoom Meeting ID 831 0883 073</p> <p>Tree Ordinance finally approved. The recompence was raised from \$30 per inch to \$140 per inch. It will be tied to inflation going forward. The maximum recompence per project was raised and maximum fines for illegal cutting down of trees. Allowances put in there for affordable housing projects. Also included allocations for additional staff positions including an arborist from the Tree Trust Fund.</p> <p>Goes into effect January 1, 2026. He agrees that it didn't go far enough but at least the standards were raised.</p>
<p>Michael Julian Bond, Post 1, City Council</p> <p>404.</p> <p>mbond@atlantaga.gov</p>	<p>Amber Madison here for Council Member Bond.</p>

6. Consent Agenda

Board of Zoning Adjustment

Application/ Address	Request	Neighborhood Report	Recommendation
V-25-81 2236 Melante Dr NE	Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning ordinance to increase height of fence within half-depth front yard from 4 feet to 6 feet.	LMMNA board approved unanimously	LMMNA: Recommend approval
V-25-106 916 Virginia Circle NE	Applicant seeks a variance from the zoning ordinance to 1) reduce the front yard setback from 35 feet to 21 feet and 2) reduce the west side yard setback from 7 feet to 3 feet 4 inches.	VHCA: Site visit conducted, no neighbor opposition, Board voted unanimously	VHCA: Recommend approval

License Review Board

Application/ Address	Request	N'hood Report	Recommendation
Here Today Kwasi Adadevoh	736 Ponce De Leon Ave NE	Restaurant Change of Ownership	Defer at request of applicant

Special Events

Event Name/ Applicant	Class/# Participants	Event Location/ Date	Recommendation
ATL Donut Festival Michelle Lewin	Class E/ 500 Participants	Piedmont Park – 1320 Monroe Drive NE July 13, 2025	Support
ATL Holiday Market Sydney Howell	Class E/1,950 Participants	Piedmont Park December 13-14, 2025	Support
Light the Night Kristin Oliver	Class E/500 Participants	Piedmont Park- 10th St at Charles Allen October 4, 2025	Support
Atlanta Jingle Bell Jog Victoria Seahorn	Class E/899 Participants	Piedmont Park – 10 th Street & Piedmont 1320 Monroe Drive December 21, 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 by Tom Schwab, 2nd by Wiley Summerville, carried by a vote of 18 ayes and 0 nays.

7. Matters for Voting

Special Event Applications (MOSE)

RnB in the Park Timothy Hudson	Gated/2,000 Participants	Piedmont Park Promenade/ Legacy Fountain July 19, 2025
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Comments: Ricky Marshall will be the contact on the day of the event regarding any issues.
469.595.4625 info@rnbinthepark.com

NPU-F Action: Motion to approve made by Rich Sussman, 2nd by Marla Johnson carried with a vote of 14 ayes and 2 nays.

Red Bull Showrun Atlanta Michael King & Kyle Schackert	Class B/49,999 Participants	Piedmont Park Meadow Area & Charles Allen Gate August 9, 2025
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Comments: Applicant not present.

NPU-F Action: Motion to defer made by Wiley Summerville, 2nd by Tom Schwab, carried does NOT carry with 3 ayes and 10 nays.

Motion to recommend denial made by Kay Stephenson, 2nd by Bill Compton, carried with 12 ayes and 0 nays. The reason for denial is their failure to appear.

One Music Fest 2025 Doug Widener & Terrell Henderson	Gated/140,000 Participants Recurring event	Piedmont Park October 25-26, 2025
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Comments: Did not appear.

NPU-F Action: Motion to defer made by Tom Schwab, 2nd by Kay Stephenson, carried with no objections.

Atlanta Alive Joseph Turnbull	Class C/19,000 Participants	Piedmont Park – The Meadow November 14-16, 2025
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Comments: Did not appear

NPU-F Action: Motion to defer made by Tom Schwab, 2nd by Kay Stephenson, carried with no objections.

2026 Atlanta Science Festival Exploration Expo Tanner Garrard & Jordan Rose	Class D/9,999 Participants	Piedmont Park (Charles Allen Entrance, Triangle & Meadow) 1320 Monroe Drive NE March 21. 2026
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Comments: Will be present

NPU-F Action: Motion to approve made by Rich Sussman, 2nd by Tom Schwab, carried with a vote of 17 ayes and 0 nays.

Concert in the Park Justin Richardson	Class D/9,999 Participants Recurring event	Piedmont Park - 400 Park Drive April 19, 2026
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Comments: Atlanta Symphony Orchestra

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

Alcohol License Applications (LRB)

Name of Business	Applicant	Property Address	Request
Thyme Restaurant Bar	Kandice Burns	1937 Piedmont Circle NE	Restaurant New Business

Comments: Piedmont Heights asked to have this deferred.

NPU-F Action: Motion to defer made by Tom Schwab, 2nd by Bill Compton carried by a vote of 17 ayes and 0 nays.

Board of Zoning Adjustment Applications (BZA)

V-25-124 1180 University Drive NE

Applicant seeks a special exception to increase the height of a fence and drive gate in the front yard from 4 feet to 6 feet.

MLPA Report: While all reasons for granting a variance were met, the committee concluded that the security of the congregation was paramount and justified the request. No letters of opposition were provided.

Comments: A significant number of support letters were provided, no letters from the adjacent neighbors were provided.

NPU-F Action: Motion to approve made by David Lile, 2nd by Marla Johnson carried by a vote of 23 ayes and 0 nays.

8. Presentations - None

9. Planner's Report – Doug Young

Director, Office of Design, Dept of City Planning and NPU F Planner - dyoung@atlantaga.gov

Wellborn Drive application was denied

Find direct links to more info on the DCP updates page

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

Track applications in the NPU Dashboard

<https://coaplangis.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/0edb5ee66955448d9edf659e3472b3ee>

Register for Urban Plan Academy

<https://www.npuatlanta.org/event-details/urban-plan-academy-3>

RSVP for Chronicling Stankonia

[The South's Got Something to Say: Author Talk & Panel Discussion — Atlanta City Studio](#)

10. Neighborhood and Committee Reports

Lindridge Martin Manor	Had a good martini party, well attended. Thanks to Jane and Hannah for organizing the event.
Piedmont Heights	No report.
Morningside Lenox Park	Just got notice that their Morningside Community Foundation's non-profit tax exempt just finally got its status from the government. They are excited to begin raising money for their parks.
Virginia-Highland	Had a very successful Summerfest. Appreciated all the volunteers. Had more sponsors this year. Have a lot of volunteer work going on in John Howell Park and Orme Park. VHCA is making changes to their tax organization structure right now.
Edmund Park	No report.
Emory/CDC area/ Druid Hills	No report.
Parks, Trees & Environment (Rich Sussman)	The South Fork Conservancy will be holding its annual Creek Rising event again this year in September. Tickets will be on sale soon. He'll put info in the chat next month. If you see a neighbor planting a tree right now, try to convince them to wait until the fall. Great Southeastern Pollinator census is being held on August 21. Our Fulton County part will be up in Chastain Park this year. Participation is from 9-12 noon. Laurel wilt is hitting our spice bushes and sassafras trees. Nothing to do about it.
Education	No report. If you are interested in APS' activities, send Debbie an email and she will send you his recent report.,

(Jason Holmes)	
Communications (Marla Johnson)	No report.
Public Safety (Kay Stephenson & Susan Kanellos)	Lindridge Martin Manor is looking for a safety chair. If interested, send an email to board@lmna.org.
APAB (Kady Dewees, Voting Member)	No report.
2025 Community Impact Project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - I have excellent news – we have received the CIG Funds for 2025. Each project now needs to submit an invoice for the full amount of their grant to VHDA (our fiscal agent) for their award amount and they will transmit the funds to you either through Zelle or by check. - I'll send an email to the projects later this week with reminders for maintaining records for the close-out: keep all invoices and take pictures. You must provide invoices for the full amount of the grant. - The 4 projects that were funded include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Friends of Orme Park - \$1,496 o VH Safety Patrol Banners - \$2,000 o VH District Assoc Planters - \$2,000* o Armand Park Native Plannings - \$1,920 - I appealed the grant award because we did not receive the training bonus for attending 3 NPU-U courses. * As a result, we were given an additional \$1,000 which has been applied to the VaHi District association which did not receive the full amount of their request. - It's important to keep me informed on the status of your projects.
The Chair Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 816 Adair Circle variance: The BZA has approved this variance. I still have not received an opinion from the Law Department. As I mentioned last month, the issues raised concerning who is eligible to vote will be considered in our By-law review next month. There will also be some modification to our protocol for determining voting eligibility. - We've been following an SAP at 442 Plasters, in the PH Armour/Ottley area. The SAP has been approved with conditions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A sign must be erected at 441 Armour Pl clearly visible from the parking lot that these parking spaces are only to be used for the business at 442 Plasters Ave matching the hours defined in the parking agreement. 2. The business at 442 Plasters Ave must remain an eating/drinking establishment and may not have operating hours outside of 6 PM – 2 AM, Monday – Sunday. - I received a response from the SAP Plan Reviewer who said our lack of parking concerns would be addressed when they applied for an alcohol license and if there is insufficient parking, then they won't get a business license. WRONG. The LRB considers parking to be a zoning issue. In the meantime, the applicant submitted a notarized statement from the business where they are leasing spaces which the property owner says is invalid. This has turned into a serious issue. Tom Schwab and Bill Compton have been staying on top of this issue and have engaged Alex Wan who says will address with the Law Dept. - The Atlanta Municipal Court hosted an Open House on <u>June 13, 2025, at 10:00 AM</u> to provide information about its Housing and Code Enforcement Division. This was sponsored by City Planning who is looking for ways to make improvements. Stephanie Coffin and DeLille Anthony attended and Stephanie is compiling a list of concerns from NPU-F.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moving forward on (finally) getting the Piedmont Heights Master Plan incorporated into the 2025 CDP (Plan A). It will be on our agenda for a vote in the next couple of months. - Following the highly successful, but overwhelmingly difficult for some VH neighbors, Porchfest, I convened a debrief session with the VaHi District, event organizers, and neighbors who were impacted (including a porch host). We discussed ideas for improving pedestrian safety, parking, restrooms and participant behavior. - Speaking of special events – I need help with working with the Midtown Neighbors Association on two big events in PP later this year (Shakey Knees and One Music Fest). If you live near PP and have a stake in the outcome of the events, please send me an email. There will be some meetings coming up in the next couple of months with the producers for both. There's a lot of stuff that we can't fix the way we like, but we are able to make it better by working with the event organizers so that these events are tolerable and enjoyable by neighbors.
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11. Old Business - None

12. New Business - None

13. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm. Motion made by Kay Stephenson and 2nd by Tom Schwab.