

NEIGHBORHOOD PLANNING UNIT

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 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

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

- First order of business is to adopt the agenda
 - Motion to approve made by Kady DeWees and 2nd by Kevin Cronin. The agenda is adopted without objection.

2. Approval of Minutes

- Motion to approve the December minutes was made by Kevin Cronin, 2nd by Kady DeWees. The December minutes were adopted without objection.
- Motion to approve the January minutes was made by Kevin Cronin, 2nd by Kady DeWees. The January minutes were adopted without objection.

3. Announcements

- We will be voting tonight on projects for the 2026 Community Impact Grant during Matters for voting. I asked for project summaries to be submitted by Feb 13th, and a list has been provided in the chat. If you are approved by the NPU-F, you must provide more details no later than Feb 25 so that I can complete the application and submit it to Planning by Feb 28th. If you miss the deadline, then your project will not be submitted. I don't want to jeopardize other projects.
- Please be sure to look at the Public Announcements at the bottom of the agenda. Several pieces of legislation are now being considered by City Council. A fact sheet on the tax interest legislation is in the Chat. It includes contact info if you have any questions. Please let your Councilmember know if you have an opinion or want to make comments.
- Draft V2 of the ATL Zoning 2.0 Zoning Ordinance and Official Zoning Maps was released at the end of December. These materials will be available for review at the link below: [ATL Zoning 2.0 | Atlanta's new Zoning Ordinance for the 21st century](#). Public comments will be accepted through April 8, 2026. Comments may be submitted directly through the website above (preferred) or emailed to atlzoning2@atlantaga.gov



4. Reports from City Departmental Representatives

<p>Atlanta Fire Department Station 19 North Highland, Station 29 Monroe Drive</p> <p>Battalion Chief Derek Harris</p> <p>Battalion Chief Christopher Martin</p>	<p>No report.</p>
<p>Atlanta Police Department</p> <p>Zone 2 – Assistant Zone Commander Captain Kevin Knapp krknapp@atlantaga.gov</p> <p>Morning Watch Commander Lt. Mike Young Works 9pm-7am mayoung@atlantaga.gov 404.610.9756</p> <p>Zone 6 – Lt. James Carroll jcarroll@atlantaga.gov</p>	<p>Zone 6: We had 1 burglary and 2 thefts from autos, versus 5 during the previous 28 days. We had 5 auto thefts versus 19 the previous 28 days. They are holding steady at 7 for all other larcenies.</p> <p>Zone 2: Aggravated assaults are up 26% year-to-date compared with last year. The vast majority of these are domestic violence in nature. Many of them resulted in an arrest on scene. The one incident throwing off our numbers year-to-date is our incident from 2470 Cheshire Bridge in the apartment complex. The original report listed 8 of our officers as victims of aggravated assault. We are remedying that since only 5 of our officers are victims of aggravated assault. That should improve our numbers.</p> <p>Mr. Elante Ray, a multi-cycle felon, was arrested and the investigation is ongoing. All the officers are fine and have returned to work.</p> <p>Robberies are down 42% year-to-date compared to last year. Theft from vehicles is down 59%, stolen vehicles down 54%.</p> <p>The one crime driving us in Zone 2 is shoplifting. Even though we are down 21% year-to-date, it is still driving our crime. Last week alone we had 16 reported shopliftings; 8 of those resulted in an arrest on scene. For three of those the suspect was ID'd and warrants are outstanding for them. Video was secured for five of them.</p> <p>Q: Any update on burglary from 841 Adair Ave?</p> <p>A: They have identified one of their top burglary suspects and don't wish to share any further information at this time. They plan to secure warrants for a larger package to take to Fulton County.</p>
<p>APD Code Enforcement</p> <p>Atlanta Police Department Code Enforcement Section Officer Andrea Williams anjwilliams@atlantaga.gov 470-547-7339 Officer Parham for Officer Williams 404.295.6045</p>	<p>They regularly work on any complaints. Sometimes the complaint gives the wrong address. They try to find the correct address and investigate the issue within 24 hours.</p>

<p>ATL311 Tamika Clark-Merriweather tmerriweather@atlantaga.gov</p> <p>Muhammad Hafeez, Policing Alternatives and Diversion Initiative Director of Community Engagement (PAD) Muhammad@atlantapad.org/ 470.860.1242</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dial 3-1-1 inside city limits 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>PAD (Policing Alternatives and Diversions Initiative): please call ATL311 at 404-546-0311 and press the option to speak with ATL311 Supportive Services</p>
<p>Public Works Code Enforcement Officer McClendon, Department of Public Works SWEET Officer Pete Francis 404.273.0685</p>	<p>They are introducing a new initiative. A SWEET officer will be assigned to each Council district; plus, 3 at large officers. Residents can reach out directly to their council member and that SWEET officer is empowered to investigate and reach directly to the respective arm of service. They can resolve the issue in a more timely manner than going through 311.</p>
<p>Office of Neighborhood Ombudsman Clyde K. Mitchell clmitchell@atlantaga.gov 404.510.8498</p>	<p>Organized a meeting with the neighborhood organizations’ presidents.</p> <p>Sabrina Robbs, Community Engagement Coordinator for Cheshire Bridge High Rise, requested a meeting with Mr. Mitchell and/or Ms. Clark-Merriweather. She was also invited to Mr. Mitchell’s neighborhood organization meeting. Srobbs@integral-online.com</p>

5. Comments from Elected Officials

<p>Councilmembers Alex Wan, District 6 (he/him) awan@atlantaga.gov 404-330-6049 Committee Assignments: City Utilities Transportation Committee (Chair) Finance/Executive Committee Chairs</p> <p>Kelsea Bond, District 2 (they/them) (470) 831-9487 kbond@atlantaga.gov Committee Assignments: Zoning City Utilities Community Development/Human Services</p>	<p>No reports.</p> <p>Bianca Garcia is the Constituent staffer for District 2, Council member Kelsea Bond. They are starting to regularly send out a newsletter to highlight the legislation that is passed, and would welcome any information on any events in VaHi and Atkins Park to put into their newsletter.</p>
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<p>City Council at Large Michael Julian Bond, Post 1, mbond@atlantaga.gov 404.330.6770</p> <p>Matt Westmoreland, Post 2</p>	<p>Council member Westmoreland shared that he is chairing the Community Development/Human Services Committee that oversees the city's work around housing affordability, workforce development, economic development, parks and rec planning.</p>
<p>State Rep Stacy Evans stacey@staceyevans.com</p>	<p>Not present</p>

6. Consent Agenda

Special Event Applications (MOSE)			
Event Name	Event Date	Event Class/ # Participants	Recommendation
ATL Spring Market Sydney Howell	Piedmont Park May 30-31, 2026	Class E/ 1,950 Participants 2 nd year event	Approval
Pure Heat Community Festival Melissa Scott	Piedmont Park – Charles Allen & 10th Street – 400 Park Drive September 6, 2026	Class C/ 19,999 Participants Recurring Event	Did not attend
Northside Hospital (formerly AJC) Peachtree Road Race Julia Manseau-Toth	Piedmont Park July 4, 2026	Class A/ 55,000 Participants Recurring Event	Deferral at request of applicant

Board of Zoning Adjustment Applications (BZA)			
Application	Request	Neighborhood Report	Recommendation
V-25-248 901 Los Angeles Avenue NE	Applicant seeks a variance to reduce the front yard setback from 35 feet to 22.18 feet, 2) increase the lot coverage from 50 percent to 54.82 percent, 3) increase the paved area in driveway from 1/3 to pervious pavers at 93.84 percent, 4) increase the maximum width of the driveway from 20 feet to 55.76, and 5) reduce the recess of a front facing garage from 10 feet	VHCA: Defer at request of applicant	Defer
V-26-11 794 North Highland Avenue NE	Applicant seeks a special exception to reduce the required parking from 39 spaces to 2 spaces.	VHCA: 2 Site visits conducted, no opposition, VHCA Planning and Board	Approval

		approved unanimously	
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Note: All special event representatives and LRB agents are required by ordinance to attend an NPU meeting so please speak up so we can see you on camera.

Motion to approve, minus Pure Heat who is not present, made by Kevin Cronin, 2nd by Kady DeWees carried by a vote of 25 ayes, 0 nays.

7. Matters for Voting

Special Event Applications (MOSE)

Event Name	Event Size / # Participants	Event Location	Event Date
Red Bull Showrun Atlanta AMENDED Michael King	Class B/ 49,999 Participant	Piedmont Park Meadow Area & Charles Allen Gate 10 th Street	March 28, 2025

Motion to approve made by David Taylor-Klaus, 2nd by Arun Singh, carried by a vote of 15 ayes, 1 nay.

I'm So ATL Arts & Culture Festival Eric Barnes	Class D/ 9,999 Participants	Piedmont Park – The Meadow, Oak Hill & Active Oval	August 7-9, 2026
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Comments: Event takes place while school (Midtown HS and Children’s School) is in session. Have you discussed with both schools? Will you disrupt bus schedules? Traffic in am, pm? Access to park during set-up. Security during event? No sound checks while school is in session. Bike/scooter storage? Will you encourage attendees to take MARTA, Beltline?

Pureheat Community Festival Melissa Scott	Class C/ 19,999 Participants	Piedmont Park – Charles Allen & 10th Street – 400 Park Drive	September 6, 2026
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Comments: Representative did not appear at meeting.

2026 Community Impact Grant Proposals

Date Submitted	Requestor	Project	Previous Grants	Amount
Jan 28	Piedmont Heights Civic Assn (Bill Compton)	Gotham Way Park-removal of invasives (\$1,500) and planting of bushes, flowers, and grasses (\$500)	2020, 2024	\$2,000
Feb 7	Lindridge Martin Manor Neighborhood Assn (Rich Sussman)	Community Garden - to plant fig, Cherokee plum, and service berry trees in community garden	2022, 2023, 2024, 2025	\$1,500

Feb 15	Virginia-Highland Civic Assoc and Virginia-Highland District Association (Kevin Cronin and Katie Voelpel)	Install pedestrian safety flags and mounting holders from Ponce to Morningside Village	VHDA -2025	\$500
Feb 15	Friends of Smith Park (Micah Coleman)	Replace native azaleas planted using 2024 CIG funds and inadvertently destroyed by City maintenance workers. Also, signage asking not to destroy plantings.	2024	\$1,200
Feb 16	Virginia-Highland Civic Assn (Miguel Barrios)	Signage and motion detector lighting at North Highland Park		\$2,000
			Total	\$7,200

Motion to approve all projects made by Rich Sussman, 2nd by Bill Compton, carried by a vote of 14 ayes, 1 nay.

Board of Zoning Adjustment Applications (BZA)

See Consent Agenda

8. Presentation

- Fulton County: Public health and Public Safety updates | Jessica Corbitt
Here to give updates to two facilities in the City of Atlanta that are serving individuals who have a mental health issue, need, or to provide a diversion opportunity from jail.
- The Center for Diversion and Services opened in January 2025. It provides an option for law enforcement, an alternative to jail for individuals who are committing a low-level, non-violent offense. Typically, these offenses must be a chargeable offense, typically related to either being unhoused, or having an untreated mental health need, or substance use. The police officer encounters the individual and elects to bring them to the Center for Diversion and Services. Once the individual gets there, they have access to counseling, to food, laundry, showers, connection to housing referrals and services, a sobering room, intake, and case management.
- Over the last year, we're very proud that well over 1,000 individuals have been diverted from jail because of this facility. Every police department within Fulton County, including the city of Atlanta APD, MARTA police, Capitol Police, and Georgia Tech Police are eligible to use this service. People typically stay around 17 hours on average.
- If you see an Officer engaging with a person you know in your community, you can ask the Officer if the Center is an option for this encounter. This is pre-arrest diversion so the person is not taken to jail.
- A new behavioral health crisis center was opened in the fall of 2024. They served 1,400 people in 2025 at this facility. There are 3 levels of care, you do not need insurance, and no appointments are needed. Peer support if available, as are observation beds for folks in true crisis. People are typically there for 72 hours.
- Finally, if you do not have a homestead exemption, apply for one by April 1st.

9. Planner's Report by Redowan Kaushik (Substitute Planner)

- NPU University (NPU-U) has two upcoming courses designed to help residents engage more effectively at the neighborhood and city meetings. NPU 101 explains how Atlanta's

Neighborhood Planning Unit System works and how community input shapes local decisions, while Basic Parliamentary Procedures builds the skills.

- In 1978, the Atlanta Urban Design Commission honored its first Awards of Excellence class. The designs that enhance our city. Four decades later, the annual awards continue to highlight excellence and achievement in the local architecture, land use, and forward design balanced with preservation. The competition for the Awards of Excellence is free to enter and open to the public. Anyone can submit nominations for projects, programs, individuals, and groups. For more information, please visit the website.
- The City of Atlanta is now accepting project submissions for our capital improvements program. The City of Atlanta is now accepting project submissions for our capital improvements program. Phase 1 goes live this fall and will include permitting and zoning updates. Phase 2 will go live in Spring 2027, with code enforcement updates. More information will be coming this summer, and updates will be posted on our website.
- Reminder, draft version 2 of Atlanta Zoning 2.0 is open for public review and comment through April 8, 2026. The draft will be available online, and comments can be submitted directly in the document using the Conveyor tool.

10. Neighborhood and Committee Reports

Lindridge Martin Manor	City Zoom link failed so they had no meeting last night. It's been rescheduled to next week.
Piedmont Heights	They will have another Beltline cleanup on Saturday, March 14 th . Last year they had over 100 volunteers.
Virginia-Highland	Had a Trees Atlanta planting of over 50 trees last weekend. First annual Mardi Gras Parade went well. They will have a presentation by Selig Group on Monday at the Virginia -Highland Church. Selig owns property from Bonaventure and Ponce down, plus four properties going west and their plans to develop these properties. New affordable housing property being developed at the Presbyterian Church. Va-Hi History tours this weekend.
No reports	Morningside Lenox Park Edmund Park Emory/CDC area/Druid Hills Parks, Trees & Environment (Rich Sussman) Education (Jason Holmes) Communications (Marla Johnson) Public Safety (Phyllis Wingo & Susan Kanellos) Zoning & Economic Development (Kady DeWees) APAB (Kady DeWees)
Community Impact Grant	2025 Update. Debbie received a preliminary audit report with only one issue. 2026: There is a bonus for three attendees to training programs. Next course is on Zoning, then a class on Parliamentary Procedures. This is a recommended class; online for two hours. It would be great for new officers or committee members. We need people to attend these to get credit for

	the courses.
The Chair Report	We need a vice-chair for this position. Debbie especially needs help as she gets back to good health. Look at the Zoning maps to ensure what we expected is what is going to happen.

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

Motion to adjourn by Rich Sussman and 2nd by Kevin Cronin, carried without objection.
Meeting adjourned at 9:21 PM.