

## **NPU-T Meeting Minutes August 8, 2007**

The General meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm EST by Chair Jerry "Tacuma" Brown without a quorum present. No issues requiring a vote were presented while awaiting the arrival of the necessary officers, and a quorum was established at 7:35 pm.

### **1) Invocation**

A moment of silence was observed, after the Chair asked everyone to keep Secretary Scott Smith in their thoughts and prayers. Mr. Smith has been NPU-T's secretary for 4 years and his father recently passed away in Chicago.

Mr. Brown also advised that donations collected at the sign-in table would go towards either flowers for Mr. Smith's family or a donation to his father's church building fund, as requested by the family.

### **2) Approval of Agenda –**

- a) A motion was made by Vice Chair Kwabena Nkromo to approve the agenda as published with deviations as the Chair deemed necessary to accomplish the business of the NPU. This was seconded by Henry Ingram.

Vote: Yes- 5; No- 0; Abstain- 0 → Motion Carried

### **3) Approval of July Minutes**

- a) Copies of the July 11, 2007 minutes were distributed for review.
  - i) The Chair announced that the donations received of \$87.17 for Fireman Hinkley's family had been supplemented by him and a total of \$100 was delivered by cashier's check to the Hinkley family on July 13, 2007. Minor typographical corrections to the minutes were announced by the Vice Chair.
  - ii) A motion was made by Kwabena Nkromo to approve the July minutes as amended and corrected. This was seconded by Henry Ingram.

Vote: Yes- 7; No- 0; Abstain- 0 → Motion Carried

### **4) Police, Fire, and Community Prosecutor's Updates**

#### **a) Police:**

- i) Zone 1: Major Dallas reported that crime is up by 22%, especially burglaries of vacant homes and auto thefts. The police are conducting sweeps to arrest streetwalkers and are working with Code Enforcement to placard vacant houses. He thanked everyone for their participation in National Night Out.
- ii) Zone 4: Major Perdue (404-756-1903) reported the same problems as in Zone 1, also pedestrian robberies around the West End MARTA Station. 40 arrests were made at the flea market on Abernathy for assorted crimes. He asked for the community to support the police as their "eyes and ears" in reporting crime.

#### **b) Fire:**

- i) Officer Jonathan Oliver of Station #17 (404-853-7000) reminded everyone that all fire stations are blood pressure stations and that no outside burning is allowed because fire will spread quickly in drought conditions. Smoke detectors, car seats, and carbon dioxide detectors are

still available, but box fans have all been given out. The Chair said that the Mayor's Office is trying to get more fans donated.

c) **Community Prosecutor** – There was no report.

5) **Neighborhood Associations Reports**

a) No reports.

6) **Committee Reports**

a) **Housing Code Enforcement** - Scott Smith, Chair

i) No report.

b) **Crime Task Force** – Kwabena Nkromo, Chair

i) No report. (email [Kwabena.nkromo@gmail.com](mailto:Kwabena.nkromo@gmail.com) to join the online work group forum)

c) **Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs** - Kwabena Nkromo, Chair

i) No report.

d) **Education** - Oni Oluremi, Chair

i) Oni Oluremi reported that Atlanta Public Schools will reopen on Monday, August 13, and that two single-gender schools will be operating this year.

e) **Executive Committee** - Jerry “Tacuma” Brown, Chair

i) No report.

f) **Zoning & Land Use** - Oni Holley, Chair

i) No report.

7) **Planner's Report** - Chauncer McLaughlin

a) Mr. McLaughlin ([cmclaughlin@atlantaga.gov](mailto:cmclaughlin@atlantaga.gov)) discussed the zoning items on the agenda. See Items #10 and #13 of these minutes for details.

8) **Atlanta Planning Advisory Board Report (APAB)**

a) Vice Chair Nkromo reported that APAB has been in turmoil recently, which is significant for NPU-T because if APAB is not effective it is one less opportunity for us to have input into our government. The Chair explained that in his 15 years of involvement with APAB, it has accomplished some great things, but sometimes the North and South sides of Atlanta have different problems and that affects APAB's operation. NPU-T usually works together with other southside NPU's rather than taking issues to APAB independently. Each NPU chair or that chair's designee serves on APAB. The Vice Chair explained that APAB is intended to be a city-wide body with city-wide concerns.

9) **Presentations**

a) Dialb Robertson, Program Director of the Department of Parks and Recreation of the City of Atlanta ([DKRobertson@atlantaga.gov](mailto:DKRobertson@atlantaga.gov); (404-817-6934) reminded everyone that all city parks can be used free of charge. Ongoing programs include football and Little League.

b) Clarice Mackie, Chair of the Southwest Beltline Study Group ([mackiec@bellsouth.net](mailto:mackiec@bellsouth.net); (404-428-4149) reported that funding for public transportation for the Southwest portion of the Beltline has

been disallowed. She asked those concerned to attend the Beltline quarterly public meeting to be held the next day. Deborah Scott, Executive Director of Georgia Stand-Up [(Strategic Alliance for New Directions and Unified Policies) (404-581-0061)] explained that the Atlanta Regional Commission is responsible for removing the transportation funding, a million dollars. She also reported that a Beltline clean-up in the West End has been scheduled for October 20, but said that she had been told no one in the West End is involved. The Chair said that comprehensive Beltline information and presentations are available if people are interested in those being scheduled; and that it would be very helpful if 2 or 3 community members would share the responsibility of attending Beltline meetings during the next 6 or 9 months to bring information back to NPU-T.

- c) Anastasia Sandival reminded us that August 27 is the consent decree deadline for the Greensferry Sewer Separation project. Also that there will be a third party charge to customers who pay their water and other city bills online. Anyone with questions about that charge should call William Horton at 404-589-2674 or their city council representative.

## 10) Zoning

- a) Zoning Review Board    September 6 or 13, 2007                      6:00 p.m.

**U-07-19                      1152 Eggleston Street**

Applicant, Afuape Olufemi, seeks a special use permit to operate a day care center.

The impacted neighborhood organization, WEND, did not meet this month and thus made no recommendation. The Applicant did not respond or show up. The Zoning and Land Use Committee made no recommendation. There was no discussion. Kwabena Nkromo moved to defer this application pending a referral from the impacted neighborhood organization. Oni Holley seconded that motion.

Vote: Yes- 12; No- 0; Abstain- 0 → Motion Carried

- b) **Z-07-75 Text Amendment**

An Ordinance by council member Ivory Lee Young, be it ordained by the council of the City of Atlanta, Georgia, as follows: Section 1. that the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Atlanta be amended, and the maps established in connection therewith be changed so that the following property located at 0 Mitchell Street, S. W. be changed from the MRC-2-C (Mixed Residential Commercial-Conditional) District to to MRC-3-C (Mixed Residential – Commercial Conditional) District, to wit; All that tract or parcel of land laying and being Land Lot 84, 14<sup>th</sup> District, Fulton County, Georgia.

The Planner reported that this amendment relates to the Castleberry Hill area where a small sliver of land was left out of a previous development plan by oversight. This ordinance brings it back into the plan. There was no discussion and no recommendation by the Zoning and Land Use Committee. Edmund McAfee moved to support the text amendment ordinance, and Oni Oluremi seconded that motion.

Vote: Yes - 9    No- 0    Abstain-0 → Motion Carried

- c) Zoning Review Board    September 6 or 13, 2007                      6:00 p.m.

**Z-07-52/ 07-O-0611 - Ordinance                      Text Amendment**

An ordinance by councilmember Clair Muller to amend the Land Development Code, Section 16.28.008(5), to limit the height of retaining walls in front, half depth front, side and rear setbacks, or yards; and for other purposes.

The Planner distributed copies of this residential scale ordinance, listing three key points on the last page. He said that this new ordinance strengthens and goes into more detail about retaining walls. A substitute for the ordinance will be proposed soon. The Chair recommended deferring a

vote on the ordinance to preserve NPU-T's right to vote on it. The Vice Chair asked the Planner for a fact sheet comparing the original ordinance to each revision instead of stand-alone fact sheets. After discussion, Vice Chair Nkromo moved to defer any vote until more information is provided and the substitute ordinance is submitted. Edmund McAfee seconded the motion.

Vote: Yes - 9 No - 0 Abstain - 0 → Motion Carried

#### 11) Chairperson's Report

- a) **James P. Brawley Street Abandonment.** The Chair reported that this street abandonment had appeared on previous months' NPU meeting agendas (April, May, June, July) but that regretfully he had not contacted the impacted neighborhood association, Booker T. Washington Community Association, nor told the applicant to contact them in July when the issue was voted upon. He recommended that we contact City Hall to let them know that our bylaws were not followed and that we wish to hold that application until the impacted neighborhood association can make their recommendation. The Planner advised that the procedure would be to send a letter notifying the City of the NPU's request to rescind July's vote for this reason. Bill Cannon appeared on behalf of the Booker T. Washington Community Association and stated that they would appreciate that consideration. Mr. Cannon moved to rescind last month's vote to approve the abandonment of James P. Brawley Street, and to hold action on the abandonment until the affected neighborhood association makes its recommendation. The motion was seconded by Edmund McAfee.

Vote: Yes -11 No- 0 Abstain - 0 → Motion Carried

- b) The Chair welcomed Ms. Selery Heard back to NPU meetings.

#### 12) Announcements

- a) Citizen Concern Forms were distributed to make it easier for quality of life problems and suggestions to be reported to the City's Department of Public Works.
- b) Neighbors on Lowery Boulevard were advised by a neighbor that prostitution is on the increase and were asked to call "911" whenever they see criminal activity.

#### 13) Public Review and Comments:

##### **ORDINANCE 07-0-1007**

An ordinance by councilmembers Kwanza Hall and Jim Maddox as substituted amending Chapter 110, Article 1, Section 110-3 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Atlanta, Georgia, which sets forth the fee schedule for City of Atlanta's recreation centers, by adding a new subsection 110-3 (a) (9), entitled "Neighborhood Service Centers Room Rental Fees", for purpose of creating a room rental fee schedule for Georgia Hill, John C. Birdine, and Dunbar Neighborhood Service Centers administered by the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs; to create a refundable room deposit fee; to establish that half of all funds generated by such fees shall be deposited into fund account number: 1a01 (general fund) 462201 (building rental) b00001 (revenue center), and that half of the funds generated by such fees shall be deposited into 3p02 (trust fund) 462201 (deposits building rental) n13wo2119999 (Georgia Hill Neighborhood Center); 3p02 (trust fund) 462201 (deposits building rental) n13wo2i29999 (John C. Birdine Center); and 3p02 (trust fund) 462201 (deposits building rental) n13wo2789999 (Dunbar Neighborhood Center); all revenues generated by the refundable room deposit fee at each neighborhood service center shall be deposited into 1a01 (general fund) 462201 (building rental) b00001 (revenue center) and expended from 1a01 (general fund) 529010 (refunds) t31001 (unallocated fund-wide expenses);and for other purposes.

The Planner announced that this Ordinance was on the agenda for information only, that any ordinance sponsored by a council person must go to every NPU for information. The Chair

clarified that NPU-T has no neighborhood center. Clarice Mackie, a resident of the Polar Rock neighborhood, spoke about the affect these fees would have on neighbors who use the John Birdine Center. Rents will go up and may make rental use for community events unfeasable. Representative Kathy Ashe reported that at other NPU meetings she attends, neighbors share the same concern. The Planner agreed to report this policy concern back.

14) **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Donations in the amount of \$34 were received in honor of Scott Smith's father, to be donated to his church's building fund.

Submitted by Deborah Zimmerman, sitting in for Secretary Scott Smith.