

NPU-T Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, October 10, 2007

The General meeting was called to order at 7:30 pm EST by Chairman Tacuma Brown

**1) Invocation**

A moment of silence was observed following remarks by the chairman.

**2) Approval of Agenda –**

- a) A motion was made by Kwabena Nkromo to approve the agenda as published with deviations as the chair deems necessary. This was seconded by Henry Ingram.

Vote: Yes- 8; No-0 ; Abstain-0 → Motion Carries

**3) Approval of Minutes – September**

- a) Copies of the August Minutes were distributed for approval.
  - i) Scott Smith had one change which was made in the final draft of the minutes. The change was done to complete an incorrect sentence contained within the minutes under “Deviation #1.”
  - ii) A motion was made by Kwabena Nkromo to defer the approval of the September minutes until October as the minutes were distributed less than 24 hours prior to the October meeting. This was seconded by Debbie Zimmerman.

Vote: Yes- 8; No-0; Abstain- 0 → Motion Carries

**4) Police, Fire, and Community Prosecutor’s Updates (5 minutes per report)**

**a) Police**

- i) Lt. Cummings (Zone 1) spoke about current police activities within Zone 1.
  - (1) He highlighted that the crime suppression unit continues to work on addressing crime. He also asked the members of the community to be aware of anything that appears out of the ordinary and to call 911 if there is any doubt.
- ii) Major Perdue (Zone 4) spoke about current police activities within Zone 4.
  - (1) He highlighted that the main crimes have been pedestrian robberies, copper thefts and car thefts.
  - (2) He also has highlighted that there is a Citywide Overtime initiative which is being used to ensure that officers are on the street to deter crime and there have been additional arrests made and crime statistics in the last 30 days have shown a decrease in Zone 4 crime.

**b) Fire**

- i) Lt. Blackwell (Station #17) spoke. He highlighted that this week is Fire Prevention Week and they are engaged in several activities around fire prevention within the community.
  - (1) He also highlighted that citizens should change the batteries in their smoke detectors at the same time they observe Daylight Savings time.
  - (2) He also reminded that Atlanta Fire & Rescue continues to provide smoke detectors, blood pressure checks and child safety seats.

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

**5) Neighborhood Associations Reports (3 minutes per report)**

**a) Westview**

- i) There are new officers for the Westview Community Organization. The president for Westview is John Davis.

**b) Executive Community**

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- i) Kwabena Nkromo acknowledged visitors from other NPUs.
- c) Booker T. Washington
  - i) Graham Jackson spoke about several quality of life initiatives they have implemented.
- d) WEND
  - i) Vonda Henning spoke about the WEND website and highlighted work they have done for quality of life.
- e) Ashview Community Development is having a meeting on Saturday, October 13<sup>th</sup> at the Washington Library.

**6) Committee Reports (3 minutes per report)**

**a) Housing Code Enforcement – Scott Smith**

- i) There will be a drive-through the NPU-T community with the Housing Code Enforcement Commissioner. If anyone is aware of the address of any outstanding issues which should be focused on, please provide that address no later than October 11, 2007.
- ii) We have also been advised by US Attorney, Gail Mackenzie, that a guilty plea is expected on Wednesday, October 17 by another suspected mortgage fraud perpetrator. The case involves fraud at 80 properties within the NPU-T area. If the plea is entered, there will be a press release distributed after the plea is made. Members of the community are encouraged to attend the sentencing.

**b) Crime Task Force – Jasper Boykin**

- i) No report

**c) Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs – Kwabena Nkromo**

- i) Kwabena spoke about the upcoming “Model Mile” of the Beltline project and wanted to know whether a special presentation on the beltline status.
- ii) There will be a quarterly Beltline meeting held tomorrow evening at 6pm at the Atlanta Public Schools Headquarters on Trinity Ave.

**d) Education – Oni Oluremi:**

- i) Oni Oluremi talked about the increasing number of schools that are closing.

**e) Executive Committee – Kwabena Nkromo.**

- i) No Report

**f) Zoning & Land Use (Oni Holly) -**

- i) No Report

**g) Bylaws – Scott Smith**

- i) Scott Smith advised that copies of the bylaws are on the information table and we will have copies available at all future NPU-T meetings.

**7) Planner’s Report –**

**a) Planner McLaughlin spoke:**

- i) He highlighted that the City of Atlanta has a Neighborhood Deputy Program and provided information on how to become a deputy. The contact person is Tanya Mitchell (404.330.6197).
- ii) He mentioned the transportation funding issue for the Beltline. Heather Alhadeff (404.330.6787) is the person within the Department of Planning who can discuss the transportation funding issues regarding the Beltline.
- iii) Planner McLaughlin confirmed that 90% of all NPU’s adopted the identical bylaws from previous years, consistent with the action taken by NPU-T.
- iv) He talked through “Item #14” on the Agenda. No action required.
- v) Planner McLaughlin reminded the NPU-T body that nominations for the 2008 slate of officers must be completed today.

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**8) Atlanta Planning Advisory Board Report (APAB representative or NPU-T delegate)**

- a) No report

**9) Presentation(s)**

- a) Atlanta Housing Code Enforcement - Dakarta Richardson spoke.
  - i) She introduced the individual from the special enforcement unit which is focusing on the vacant and open houses.
  - ii) She brought a copy of the violations from the last 30 days. She also left a map of the violations that have been reported in the last 30 days.
  - iii) There have been 45 violations that have been brought into compliance and 262 violations on the books under investigation.
  - iv) October 22<sup>nd</sup> is the date for the property will be the date for several properties on Sells Ave. The courtroom is 6D.
  - v) Ms. Richardson highlighted that many of the issues in NPU-T are in Zone 1 and the partnership with that precinct has room for improvement.
- b) Watershed Management – Anastasia Sandoval spoke.
  - i) She reminded the community of the outdoor watering ban.
  - ii) She highlighted that the major pipe work in the NPU-T area has been completed and the final paving is in progress.
- c) City of Atlanta office of Transportation - Cotina Caruthers spoke.
  - i) She provided a concerns sheet that members of the community can complete to report an issue.

**10) Zoning**

**Board of Zoning Adjustment                      October 19, 2007                      1:00 P.M.**  
**V-07-243                      1151 Donnelly St. (845 Lawton Street)**

Applicant, Sylvester Powell, seeks a special exception from zoning regulations to erect a 6' wrought iron fence in the required front and half-depth front yards whereas it is otherwise prohibited.

The Discussion: The fence is being proposed around the 7<sup>th</sup> Day Adventist Church. They have been approved to erect a 4' fence and they are seeking a higher fence as a method of theft deterrence. This property is in both NPU-T and NPU-S based on the property borders. This property is not covered by any active neighborhood association.

The Action: A motion was made by Bill Cannon to defer action until WEND can review the application. This was seconded by Kwabena Nkromo.

The Vote: Yes – 10; No- 3; Abstain – 0 → Motion Carries

**Deviation #1 – Street Abandonment of James P. Brawley** – Chairman Brown described the background on the street abandonment. The impacted neighborhood association has not yet made a definitive recommendation on this application.

A motion was made by Bill Cannon to defer action on the street abandonment. This was seconded by Graham Jackson.

The Vote: Yes – 3; No- 6; Abstain – 2 → Motion Denied

A motion was made by Gewn Cain to approve the application. This was seconded by Scott Smith.

The Vote: Yes – 10; No- 2; Abstain – 1 → Motion Carries

**11) Proposed Street Street/Rights-of-Way Abandonment**

- a) Abbott Street, SW between Sells Avenue and Westview Drive
- b) Baldwin Place, SW between Baldwin Street and Westview Drive

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Jason McLinn spoke representing the Atlanta Housing Authority.

The Discussion: The John O. Chiles and WEND neighborhood Association have supported the application.

The Action: A motion was made by Kwabena Nkromo to approve the application. This was seconded by Henry Ingram.

The Vote: Yes – 12; No- 0; Abstain – 0 → Motion Carries

**12) Chairperson's Report**

- a) Chairman Brown welcomed the chairmen from NPU-V and NPU-S.
  - i) LaShaun (NPU-V) spoke about the Citizen's Review Board. Training is currently underway and they are hiring several key staff members. There will be 11 members of the board.

A motion was made by Kwabena Nkromo to extend the end of the meeting by 5 minutes. This was seconded by Henry Ingram.

The Vote: Yes – 11; No- 0; Abstain – 1 → Motion Carries

**13) Announcements**

- a) None

**14) Nominations were taken for Officers to serve NPU-T for 2008**

- a) Oni Holly – Vice Chair
- b) Kwabena Nkromo – Chair
- c) Debbie Zimmerman – Assistant Secretary
- d) Scott Smith – Secretary
- e) Dr. Gwen Porter – Chaplain

**15) Public Review and Comments:**

**Ordinance – 07-O-1953**

An Ordinance by City Utilities Committee to amend chapter 138, section 138-20 and appendix B of the code or ordinance to authorize the imposition of certain fees for encroachments in the right-of-way to modify certain provision; and for other purposes.

**No action required.**

**16) Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 9:03 pm EST**

Donations in the amount of \$10.00 were received.