

Draft Minutes
NPU-T General Meeting Wednesday, February 13, 2008

1. Invocation

The meeting was called to order at 7:33 p.m. by Chair Kwabena Nkromo. NPU-T Chaplain Dr. Gwen Porter introduced Rev. Richard Bright of Atlanta Good Shepherd Church, who delivered an invocation. Dr. Porter discussed Black History in the Bible, and explained that the goal of NPU-T is to celebrate rather than ignore religious diversity in the community by inviting different faith leaders to speak briefly at each meeting. Everyone was asked to include Rick Rivers, President of WEND, in their prayers, as his father passed away recently.

2. Approval of Agenda

Jasper Boykin moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Henry Ingram.

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

3. Approval of Minutes

Vice Chair Oni Holley moved to approve the January 2008 minutes as written. Mark Malaguerra seconded the motion.

Vote: Yes- 14 No-0 Abstain-0 Motion Carried

4. Police, Fire, and Community Prosecutor's Updates

(a) **Police Zone 1.** - no report.

(b) **Police Zone 4.** Lt. Cox, Assistant Commander (404.756.1903) announced that crime has been down since the first of the year except for robberies and gang activity in the West End. Zone 4 is working with the Community Prosecutor and with the Violent Crime Impact Team, a federally funded program focusing on hot spots for guns and drugs.

(c) **Fire.** Officer Jonathan Oliver reported that the City of Atlanta has cut the Fire Department's budget by \$22 million a year, yet somehow the department is still fully staffed. He said no programs have been cut yet. Officer Oliver reminded us that fire deaths go up in the winter because people don't have smoke detectors (call 404.853-7000 to get one installed free). The fire department will train parents on the proper use of child car seats and will provide them to families that qualify financially. The new fire chief, Chief Cochran, is from Shreveport, LA.

(d) **Community Prosecutor.** LaDawn Blackett-Jones, (404.699.5294 or ladawn.blackett@fultoncountyga.gov, 3050 Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. X-6. Ms. Blackett-Jones distributed a monthly update flyer for NPU-T and a Courtwatch Workshop flyer. The courtwatch workshop will be held on Saturday, March 8 from 9:00 am to 12:00 noon at Justice Center Tower, 185 Central Ave SW Courtroom 1D. For information contact Pierre Russell at 404.624.0612. Ms. Blackett-Jones will speak to neighborhood association meetings and is concerned about prosecuting repeat offenders. Reducing burglaries is her primary goal this year. She is also looking for crack houses to be shut down and forfeited in a special program where the houses are renovated for a police officer to live in for a year before the house is resold on the general market. Call her for more information.

5. **GDOT Presentation**

Crystal Paulk-Buchanan, Public Relations Information Specialist from the State of Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) (404.463.6462, crystal.paulk-buchanan@dot.state.ga.us) reported on two major highway projects. First, resurfacing of the downtown connector between University Avenue and 10th Street will begin in March 2008. Work will be done only on the weekends, beginning Fridays at 9 pm until 5 am on Mondays. 3 lanes will be closed in each direction. Scheduled completion date for this project is November 2008.

Second, the 14th Street Bridge in Midtown is under reconstruction. Only southbound lanes of I-75/85 are affected. This project will be finished in May 2010 and will create a new 10th Street exit on the highway.

There will be significant traffic impact from both projects, and DOT's best advice is to use MARTA, or go around Atlanta on I-285 if you are not going downtown.

For more information go to www.dot.state.ga.us or www.georgia-navigator.com or call 511 from any cell phone for specific traffic information. Or call the DOT District Office at 770.986.1011. Information on alternative commuting is found at www.cleanaircampaign.com and www.14thstreetbridge.com.

6. **Neighborhood Associations Reports**

(a) **WEND**. John Pavlin, 2nd Vice President of WEND, www.westendneighborhood.org, reported that WEND is planning a Tour of Homes in May 2008 and needs volunteers; that the Courtwatch program is important to WEND because of copper theft in the neighborhood; that Neighborhood Watch is active in WEND. He reminded everyone that the oldest Fire station in the city, #7 is on W. Whitehall Street and asked everyone to think about donating to them.

(b) **Just Us Neighbors**. Eric Robinson, President, reported that Ted Warren will be the Just Us Neighbors representative to NPU-T. He reported that the Greensferry sewer project damaged some homes in the neighborhood and those have been repaired. However, Ashview Heights (the street) was damaged and has not yet been repaired. Just Us Neighbors will host the NPU-T Executive Committee meeting in April.

7. **Committee Reports**

(a) **Community Ambassador** - No Report.

(b) **Crime Task Force** - Jasper Boykin reported that the next meeting of this work and discussion group will be on Tuesday, February 26 7:00 pm, here at Founders Hall, Shrine of the Black Madonna, 952 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd SW. The group seeks to find alternative ways to fight crime, such as participation in the Atlanta Citizens Police Academy and ACERT (Atlanta Citizens Emergency Readiness Team). 20 people are needed to apply for the next ACP academy class, and those people should apply ASAP because the deadline is March 31 and not everyone will pass the background check. ACERT offers disaster and emergency training to address those problems if and when they occur, and will be providing information to the public at the West End Mall, Publix, and Kroger City Center.

The NPU-T Crime Task Force is particularly interested in restorative justice, especially for juvenile offenders. Anyone interested contact coordinator Jasper Boykin at 404.756-7530 or jboykinjr@gmail.com.

(c) **Economic Development & Consumer Affairs**. Robert Thompson announced the committee's first meeting was held on January 25th. Two main issues have been identified. First, the need for a community food network that uses vacant lots to grow food and identifies farmers market sites; and second, the need for a tourism initiative such as a Pan African trail to take advantage of cultural and historical sites in the community. The committee's next meeting will be held on Thursday, February 21 at 6:00 pm at the Morehouse Leadership Center, Room 350. Meanwhile, an ongoing activity will be the development of informal walking tours - the first such tour is planned to include all historic landmark sites in NPU-T. (Written committee report attached)

(d) **Education** - No Report.

(e) **Executive Committee** - Kwabena Nkromo reported on the Leadership Retreat held February 8 & 9 at the Morehouse Leadership Center. The retreat agenda was distributed. It had included presentations on NPU Roles & Responsibilities; Assets Based Community Development; Community Food Projects; Urban Agriculture; Community Benefits Agreements; Strengthening Neighborhood Associations; Effective Committee Development, and Team Building. All NPU committee chairs attended the retreat. Chair Nkromo thanked the retreat sponsors, who included Georgia StandUp, Morehouse College, Councilwoman Mary Norwood, Capitol City Bank, West End Merchants Coalition, Subway, West End Printshop, Vonda Henry, and others.

Chair Nkromo also thanked Westview neighbors Patrick Berry and Steffi Langer-Berry of NuSpace Media (<http://www.nuspacemedia.com/>) who built the new NPU-T website as a civic service: <http://www.nputatlanta.org>

The Land Use and Zoning Committee is still without a chair. Anyone interested in serving, or who knows of someone who might be qualified for this position, should contact Chair Nkromo.

(f) **NPU-T Non-Profit Council** - No Report.

(g) **Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs** - Evelyn Washington, Chair, thanked Danielle Carney, Chair of the Beltline Subcommittee, for a successful Beltline Cram Session. Danielle is also working on an updated calendar of Beltline events. The Georgia Supreme Court has ruled limiting tax allocation district (TAD) funding to exclude participation by the Atlanta School System. As funding for the Beltline was already a problem for the Southwest area even when lots of funding was anticipated, it's even more important now to become engaged in the process. A groundbreaking ceremony for the Beltline Path will be held at Rose Circle Park on Saturday, February 23 at 12:30 p.m.

The city is investing hundreds of thousands of dollars in the Cleopas Johnson Park so it's also important for us to engage in that process so we can have a say in how that money is spent.

February 28 is the next meeting date for this committee. (Written committee report attached)

- (h) **Public Relations Officer** - Nia Knowles recognized Henry and Fanny Ingram for their longtime support and activity in the community. She also thanked the Grounds Coffee Shop and Jasper Boykin for their donations, which helped make it possible to provide small gifts of recognition to neighbors during the meeting. Anyone who wants to contribute can contact her at niaknowles@solidsourcerealty.com or 404-414-3289.

8. Atlanta Planning Advisory Board Report

Chair Nkromo reported that APAB will hold a retreat the weekend of February 16-17, 2008.

9. Citizens Review Board Report

LaShawn Hoffman, NPU-V Chair, reported that the Citizens Review Board for the Atlanta Police Department has subpoena power as well as the powers to investigate, recommend policy changes, and recommend disciplinary action. It is an 11-member all-volunteer board but has a budget to hire investigative staff. Board members have received 20 hrs of training on police procedures and professional standards. They are now ratifying bylaws. The board meets the 2nd Thursday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at City Hall in Council Room 1.

- 10. **Planners Report** - No Report (Planner was not present)

Deviation from Agenda: Vice Chair Oni Holley moved to extend the meeting by 10 minutes. Denise Rouse seconded the motion.

Vote: Yes-12 No-0 Abstain-2 Motion Carried

- 11. **Zoning:**

Zoning Review Board April 3 or 10, 2008 6:00 p.m.

U-08-4 535 Joseph E. Lowery Blvd.

Applicant, Brenda Gibbons, seeks a special use permit to operate a church.

Discussion: The applicant was present. The affected neighborhood organization, WEND, was still in discussion with the applicant, who will attend WEND's next monthly meeting. Oni Holley moved to defer this item to next month's agenda. Henry Ingram seconded that motion.

Vote: Yes-15 No-0 Abstain-0 Motion Carried

Zoning Review Board April 3 or 10, 2008 6:00 p.m.

Z-08-09/08-O-0201 Text Amendment

An Ordinance by Council member Kwanza Hall to amend the Castleberry Hill Landmark District regulations of the 1982 Zoning Ordinance of the City of Atlanta, as amended, so as to: provide for certain development controls relating to the spacing between establishments licensed to sell alcoholic beverages; revising the off street parking regulations for the establishments licensed to sell alcoholic beverages; prohibiting certain uses and for other purposes.

Discussion: Jasper Boykin moved to defer this item to next month's agenda. Oni Holley seconded that motion.

Vote: Yes-15 No-0 Abstain-0 Motion Carried

Zoning Review Board April 3 or 10, 2008 6:00 p.m.

Z-08-10 Text Amendment

An Ordinance by Council member Howard Shook to amend the City of Atlanta Zoning code to add regulations governing the appearance of parking structures; and for other purposes.

Discussion: Oni Holley moved to defer this item to next month's agenda. Mark Malaguerra seconded that motion.

Vote: Yes-14 No-0 Abstain-0 Motion Carried

12. License Review Board

Graham Jackson, Jr., Chair of the Public Safety Committee, announced committee recommendations for each item.

Applicant	Type of Business	Name of Business	Location Address	Request
Kanwar Tucker - appeared	Convenience Store	Lee Street BP	535 Lee Street	Change of Ownership
<p>Discussion: There was a favorable recommendation and informal community benefits agreement with WEND, the affected neighborhood assn. The CBA was read aloud and will be attached to the NPU's recommendation. Graham Jackson moved and Mark Malaguerra seconded approval of this application.</p> <p>Vote: Yes-15 No-0 Abstain-0 Motion Carried</p>				
Kanwar Tucker - appeared	Convenience Store	Ashby BP	3 Joseph E. Lowery Blvd	Change of Ownership
<p>Discussion: There was a favorable recommendation from the Booker T. Washington Neighborhood Assn, the affected neighborhood assn. Graham Jackson moved and Oni Holley seconded approval of this application.</p> <p>Vote: Yes-14 No-0 Abstain-0 Motion Carried</p>				
David Jaffer - appeared	Convenience Store	Intown Food Mart at MLK	844 Martin L. King Jr. Dr.	Change of Ownership
<p>Discussion: There was a favorable recommendation and informal community benefits agreement with Booker T. Washington, the affected neighborhood assn. The CBA will be attached to the NPU's recommendation. Graham Jackson moved and John Pavlin seconded approval of this application.</p> <p>Vote: Yes-14 No-0 Abstain-0 Motion Carried</p>				
Kanwar Tucker - appeared	Convenience Store	Exxon #507	507 Joseph E. Lowery Blvd.	Change of Ownership
<p>Discussion: There was a favorable recommendation from the Booker T. Washington Neighborhood Assn & Neighborhood Watch, the affected neighborhood assn. Graham Jackson moved and Mark Malaguerra seconded approval of this application.</p> <p>Vote: Yes-14 No-0 Abstain-0 Motion Carried</p>				
Hajira Ahmed - did not appear	Convenience Store	Om.bajrangbali inc. dba/Chevron	923 Lee Street	Change of Ownership

<p>Discussion: There was a favorable recommendation from WEND, the affected neighborhood assn. Graham Jackson moved and Oni Holley seconded approval of this application.</p> <p>Vote: Yes-13 No-0 Abstain-0 Motion Carried</p>				
Makvari Sign - did not appear	Food Store & Gas Station	Prithvi Inc./dba/BP Food Mart	1450 Donnelly Ave	Change of Ownership
<p>Discussion: There was a favorable recommendation from Westview, the affected neighborhood assn. Graham Jackson moved and Oni Holley seconded approval of this application.</p> <p>Vote: Yes-13 No-0 Abstain-0 Motion Carried</p>				

13. **Chairperson's Report.**

Chair Nkromo's report is attached.

13. **Announcements.**

The next meeting of the NPU-T executive committee will be hosted by the Westview Community Association on March 6.

14. **Public Review and Comments:**

Ordinance 08-O-0009

An Ordinance by community Development and Human Resource Committee to amend part 6, chapter 4, article A, section 6-4001(a) of the code of ordinance of the City of Atlanta, Georgia, land development code, entitled "Creation and Composition", so as to change the number of voting members of the Atlanta Planning Advisory Board from twenty four (24) voting members to twenty five (25) voting members; and for other purposes.

Discussion: There was no discussion. No vote was required.

Ordinance 06-O-1908

A substitute ordinance by Public Safety and Legal Administration Committee amending Chapter 162, Article II, Division I, Section 162-33 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Atlanta ("City"), Georgia, on behalf of the Department of Police, Bureau of Taxicabs and Vehicles for Hire ("Department"), for the purpose of increasing the fees the city assesses taxicab drivers and taxicab companies; to create a taxicab re-inspection fee, horse-drawn carriage company permit fee, and a horse-drawn carriage renewal fee; and for other purposes.

Discussion: There was no discussion. No vote was required.

15. The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m. \$20 in donations was received.

Submitted by Debbie Zimmerman, Assistant Secretary

MEMORANDUM

FROM: Kwabena “Cubby” Nkromo, NPU-T Chair
kwabena.nkromo@gmail.com 404.587.2227 www.nputatlanta.org
TO: NPU-T General Body
RE: Chairperson’s Report
DATE: 13 February 2008

It is said that power comes in two forms: organized people and organized money. We are concerned about the question of power as a community because simply put, we need it. We need the power to protect ourselves from harm, both with person and property. We need the power to care for our children, either those in our home or that of our neighbors. And we need the power to create our future, whether grown from the ground or built through good development.

Neighborhood Planning Unit T is working hard to organize ourselves for people power. Since the beginning of our new term, we have called together a remarkable group of citizen volunteers to serve as officers and committee chairs. In addition, we have reached out to our association presidents as partners in the effort to strengthen our neighborhoods, and we will continue to do so. And just this past weekend, the Executive Committee gathered at Morehouse College for a NPU-T Leadership Retreat that moved us even further along the path of an empowered community.

As neighborhoods of mostly working families and individuals, we often find the power of organized money more difficult to achieve. Although we are learning to rediscover and work with our existing assets, many do not possess the kind of wealth that would allow us to easily meet our challenges by simply writing checks. Our greatest potential capital is in the willingness of neighbors to volunteer their time and energy in this empowerment movement. Volunteers are the most valuable currency of NPU-T.

Creating Social Capital

So we are staking our claim on people power. In his book *Roots for Radicals: Organizing for Power, Action, and Justice*, Edward T. Chambers writes, “The social capital of a broad-based [citizens] organization grows only when the organization is in action.... Creating significant social capital requires organizing people on a size and scale that permits them to initiate action (motion), rather than merely reacting to the pressure of others.”

Aren’t we tired of reacting to the “pressure of others”? How many times have we had to mobilize ourselves against an unwanted development in our neighborhood? How long have we been told that our city cannot afford to keep us safe and that our police officers won’t stay on the job? How many times will we be squeezed by projects such as a “Belt” that won’t stay in “Line” with what we want for our communities?

We have to find a way to get out of the vicious cycle of reactivity. Based upon the work volunteers are willing to do, we have identified a set of policies for NPU-T that we believe is proactive and forward thinking. Between now and the next time we gather, we will ask for your review, comments, and eventual endorsement of this policy agenda for this year. Subsequently, we will begin a dialogue with our delegation of elected officials and other partners about how we can work together for success.

Chambers further writes in his book, “The social (or political) capital of a citizen organization is its power to win on its interests”. Our policy agenda, backed by organization and action, will allow us to ask for specific support of our goals from our elected officials and other stakeholders. Their response over the year will allow us to have something to hold them accountable for. Power to the people!

NPU-T 2008 Policy Agenda (Draft)

- 1. Resident Driven Public Safety**
 - 1. Citizens Patrol**
 - 2. Neighborhood Deputies, ACERT, Citizens Police Academy**
- 2. Housing Stock Remediation**
 - 1. Community Land Trust**
 - 2. Dirty Truth Campaign**
- 3. Community Benefits Agreements**
 - 1. Georgia Stand Up as negotiating partner**
 - 2. Preferred developers**
- 4. Asset Based Community Development**
 - 1. Capacity / Asset Mapping**
 - 2. Creating Vibrant Communities, Inc.**
- 5. Urban Agriculture**
 - 1. The Community Food Project**
 - 2. Atlanta Living Foods Initiative**
- 6. Cultural Affirmation**
 - 1. Historic Landmarks**
 - 2. Pan African Trail**

Other Items:

The Executive Committee will meet 7:00PM Thursday March 6th and will be hosted by the Westview Community Organization (location TBA). This meeting is open to the public, but only committee members may participate.

NPU-T Economic Development/Consumer Affairs Committee
Report Jan 2008

Dear NPU-T Members:

I would like to share with you our committee's progress in meeting our goals of developing a healthy, local and sustainable food supply and accessing Atlanta's Tourism industry to date.

We had our first meeting Jan 25 at the Hammonds House Gallery. Present were, Myrna Fuller, Executive Director of the Hammonds House, Gwen Cain from Morehouse, Aiyetoro Kamau, Owner African Djeli, Debbie Zimmerman of Rose Circle Community Garden, Suna Om a local real estate developer and community resident, Evelyn Washington, chair of the Parks and Recreations committee and her husband Marc, Ama Afiriye, Kwabena Nkromo, the NPU-T chair and myself.

We formed two sub committees, one for the Farmer's Market of the NPU-T Community Food Project and the other to plan the Pan African Trail and tourism. Each sub committee was charge with developing a short term plan (next 2-3 months) for the next meeting, which will be Thursday February 21. You can contact me for time and location.

Other important developments include the Community and Housing Initiative's planning Grant for Project Open Market. I will be working with them to plan and promote a Farmer's Market for Cleopas Johnson Park. We also have a commitment from a West End Business owner to use land near the West End Train station for a Farmer's Market. There is at least an acre and a half of land available in the NPU for farming and we are developing a plan and a budget to begin planting this spring. In the mean time we encourage all NPU members to join one of the three community gardens in our neighborhood or to start your own. The committee will put out a statement specifically on the subject soon.

Concerning the Pan African Trail/Tourism piece. I have made a commitment to walk the NPU-T over the next several months in order to access the neighborhood's resources up close and personal. I plan to organize informal walking tours for interested NPU members. The first will of all the National Register of Historic locations in NPU-T.

Sites on the tour will include the Herndon House, Morris Brown Campus, Booker T. Washington High School, Wrens Nest and the West End Historic District. Please contact me at rlthomp2002@yahoo.com or call 687-209-8443 for details.

I also discovered a great neighborhood resource the Shrines of the Black Madonna Computer Lab. Located next door to the book store on Ralph D. Abernathy. It cost \$10 per moth for the entire computer an internet access you can use. Call 404-752-5490 and ask for Fatima Cook. Support Local business.

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Committee Report

Chairperson, Evelyn Washington, evelyn.washington@gmail.com

February 13, 2008

Date of Last Meeting: Thursday, January 31, 2008; 6:30-7:30pm

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, February 28, 2008; 6:30-7:30pm

BeltLine Subcommittee – Danielle Carney, daniellecarney@yahoo.com

The BeltLine Subcommittee seeks to educate residents of NPU-T about the BeltLine and engage them in the planning process.

- ⌚ Successful **Study Group Preparation Meeting** held on January 23rd
- ⌚ GA Supreme Court rejects property tax for BeltLine funding
 - 30% of total budget – 25 years
 - 66% of first phase budget – 5 years
- ⌚ Planning quarterly general and quarterly advanced BeltLine meetings
- ⌚ Creating a comprehensive list of BeltLine related meetings and their relative importance

Urban Agriculture Subcommittee – Kwabena Nkromo, kwabena.nkromo@gmail.com

The Urban Agriculture Sub-Committee has launched a Community Food Project initiative intended to take a comprehensive approach to developing long-term solutions that ensure food security within NPU-T by linking food production and processing sectors to community development, economic opportunity, and environmental enhancement.

- Improving access to high quality, affordable food for our residents;
- Expanding economic opportunities for community residents through business and economic development, improved employment opportunities, job training, youth apprenticeship, school-to-work transition
- Supporting a local food system, from community gardens to urban farms, that provide high quality fresh foods with minimal adverse environmental impact

Parks Subcommittee – Melanie Wofford, communityandhousinginitiatives@hotmail.com

The Parks Subcommittee seeks to support existing 'Friends' groups and to work with Park Pride and the City of Atlanta to create new groups that will support the Parks within NPU-T.

1. Friends of Cleopas Monthly Meeting, Friday, March 14th, 12 to 1pm, John Hope Homes Community Center, 560 Larkin Street

- Engage Atlanta Department of Cultural Affairs in visioning process
- Volunteers needed!!!

Park Pride Lead Volunteer Training, - Ayanna Williams, ayanna@parkpride.org

- Saturday, March 8 9-11am City Hall East
 - Leading volunteers in City of Atlanta Parks

Recreation Subcommittee – Leesa Kellam, leesakellam@aol.com

The Recreation Subcommittee seeks to promote the existing recreational opportunities and to create new ones, especially those that target the youth and senior populations within NPU-T.

Fun Run highlighting the Pan African Trail

Cultural Affairs Subcommittee – no chair

The Cultural Affairs Subcommittee seeks to promote and encourage the existing, vibrant culture within NPU-T.

-END OF REPORT-