NPU-T Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, April 9, 2008

The General meeting was called to order at 7:32 pm EST by Chairman Kwabena Nkromo

1) Invocation

The invocation was presented by Sister Deborah Williams from Redeemed Community Outreach.

2) Approval of Agenda –

A motion was made by Oni Holley to accept the agenda as modified with this was seconded by Jerry 'Tacuma' Brown

Vote: Yes- 10; No-0; Abstain-0 ➔ Motion Carries

3) Approval of Minutes – March

a) Copies of the March Minutes were distributed for approval.

A motion was made by Jerry 'Tacuma' Brown to approve the minutes as published. This was seconded by Oni Holley.

Vote: Yes- 10; No-0; Abstain- 0 ➔ Motion Carries

Deviation #1: Public Relations Officer, Nia Knowles. First time attendees to the NPU-T meeting were recognized. There were 10 first time attendees.

4) Police, Fire, and Community Prosecutor's Updates (<u>5 minutes</u> per report)

a) Police

(a) Major Perdue (Zone 4) spoke:
- **(i)** Major Perdue left copies of the crime statistics with the NPU-T Chair. He did highlight that business burglaries are down but home burglaries have increased.
- **(ii)** New officers are going to be added to both Zone 1 and Zone 4 for the purpose of foot patrol. They will be in place effective May 1.

(b) Ofc. Green (Zone 1) spoke.
- **(i)** Ofc. Green emphasized the importance of calling for suspicious activities.
- **(ii)** Copies of the crime statistics were left with the NPU-T Chair.

b) **Fire –**

(a) Firefighter Smith (Station #7) spoke.
- **(i)** He highlighted that fire hydrant maintenance season is starting
- **(ii)** He also highlighted that children in apartment complexes have been falsely setting off fire alarms resulting in erroneous calls.
- **(iii)** Bill Cannon spoke about the Atlanta Community Emergency Response Team (A-CERT) training that will be held in 2008.

c) **Community Prosecutor** – Ms. Blackett-Jones spoke.
- (a) Copies of the monthly update and the newsletter were distributed. This provided a synopsis of the juvenile justice system.
- (b) A summary of homeowners rights was also distributed.

5) Presentations

a) Foster Care/Adoption – Mr. Guy Nugent
- i) Mr. Nugent was not present.

6) Special Events / Outdoor Festivals

a) Malcolm X Festival (19th Annual)

i) Mr. Saliim presented the details about the planned festival for Saturday, May 24th.

The Discussion: The impacted neighborhood association has voted favorably for this application. A question was asked about a parking plan for the festival. Mr. Saliim highlighted the current plans for parking during the event.

The Action: A motion was made by Jerry 'Tacuma' Brown to approve the application (as the NPU-T has done for the past 15 years). This was seconded by Oni Holley.

Vote: Yes- 21; No-0; Abstain-0 ➔ Motion Carries

7) Neighborhood Associations Reports (<u>3 minutes</u> per report)

a) Westview – Scott Smith highlighted a planned community cook-out being held in May for the staff at Zone 4 and the members of the community.

b) WEND – Ayana Gabriel announced the West End Tour of Homes to be held May 2-4.

c) South Atlanta Farmers Market – Sister Deborah spoke about the Community Garden Farmer's Market being held from May – October this year.

d) Atlanta University Center – Wanda Whiteside spoke about the neighborhood walking tour that took place in The AUC, Castleberry Hill and the former John Hope Homes site.

Deviation #2 – Mr. Williams was introduced as the new Code Enforcement Officer.

8) Committee Reports (<u>3 minutes</u> per report)

a) **Community Ambassador** – Jerry "Tacuma" Brown

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

c) **Economic Development & Consumer Affairs** – Robert Thompson

i) There will be a farmers market co-operative meeting on April 17pm at 7pm in the Q-Time community room (as part of the NPU-T Community Food Project).

d) **Education** – Bishop Bakeeba Ayinde Hampton - Report Attached

e) **Executive** – Kwabena Nkromo

i) Chairman Nkromo highlighted the Policy Agenda Campaign and his recent activities and meetings with elected officials.

ii) Georgia Stand-Up will be hosting a "Policy Institute" beginning in May, 2008.

f) **Land Use & Zoning** – Aston Thompson spoke on the pending applications below.

g) **NPU-T Non-Profit Council** – Melanie Wofford –

h) **Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs (PRCA)** – Evelyn Washington

i) **Public Relations Officer** – Nia Knowles

j) **Public Safety –** Graham Jackson

k) **Code Enforcement –** Scott Smith

i) Mr. Smith highlighted three key areas of concern:

(1) The City of Atlanta budget may result in code enforcement officer positions being cut later in 2008. It is important to contact members of the city council to share individual concerns regarding this potential action.
(2) Attendance at Code Enforcement Trials is critical to ensuring cooperation of the judges to get acceptable rulings for code violations.

ii) Ms. Luster of the Beautification Subcommittee spoke about the Earth Day Activities planned for April 19th.

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

a) Chairman Nkromo advised that APAB has formed an Urban Agriculture Task Force, of which he is chair

10) Citizens Review Board Report: LaShawn Hoffman, SW NPU Representative – not present.

11) Planner's Report –

a) No specific report to highlight.

12) Zoning

Board of Zoning Adjustment May 16, 2008 1:00 P.M.

V-08-69 599 Tatnall Street

Applicant, Jared Samples, seeks a special exception from the zoning regulations to reduce the required amount of parking spaces from 22 parking spaces for a daycare and 10 parking spaces for a private school for total 32 required spaces to be reduced to 12 total parking spaces.

The Discussion: The applicant has not yet met with the impacted neighborhood and has requested a deferral until next month.

The Action: Bill Cannon made a motion to defer this item until the May 2008 NPU-T meeting. This was seconded by Oni Holley.

Vote: Yes- 17 ; No-0; Abstain-0 ➔ Motion Carries

13. License Review Board

Applicant	Type of Business	Name of Business	Location Address	Request
Satwinder Singh Tucker	Food Store	West End Stop & Shop	785 Lee St.	Change of Ownership

The Discussion: The application was present for a review of the application. He highlighted the recent improvements that he made at the property. The impacted neighborhood (WEND) has voted favorably for this application with conditions stipulated. The applicant supports the conditions being placed

The Action: Vonda Henry made a motion to approve this application with the conditions stipulated by the impacted neighborhood. This was seconded by John Davis.

Vote: Yes- 19; No-0; Abstain-0 ➔ Motion Carries

Applicant	Type of Business	Name of Business	Location Address	Request

Solomon Gebru	Convenience Store	West End Food Mart	1107 Ralph D. Abernathy Blvd. #104	Change of Ownership

The Discussion: The applicant was not present. Graham Jackson indicated that the applicant submitted a request to withdraw their application.

The Action: No action needed, as advised by planner McLaughlin.

Applicant	Type of Business	Name of Business	Location Address	Request
Mouctar Bokoum	Food Store	The Quick Stop	587 Joseph E. Lowery Blvd.	Change of Ownership

The Discussion: The applicant was present. The impacted neighborhood (WEND) voted to support the application with conditions. The conditions were acceptable to the applicant.

The Action: Oni Holley made a motion to approve the application with the conditions stipulated by the impacted neighborhood. This was seconded by Vonda Henry

Vote: Yes- 17; No-0; Abstain-3 ➔ Motion Carries

14) Chairperson's Report – no report.

15) Announcements

a) Laurisa Claytor spoke about the breast cancer awareness event taking place on April 18th.

b) State Representative Kathy Ashe made a special presentation to thank Jerry 'Tacuma' Brown for his years of leadership as the chairman of NPU-T. She read a resolution that was passed by the house of representatives.

c) Melanie Woffard spoke about the "Friends of Cleopas Park" meeting being held on Saturday, April 12th.

d) Brent Brewer introduced the documentary.

16) Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 8:52pm.

17) Special Presentation: Screening of local documentary "When a House is Not a Home" (Ayamedia Productions)

Donations in the amount of $86.73 were collected.

107 individuals were recorded on the NPU-T sign-in sheets.

This year we are asking the NPU-T community to participate in the Earth Day activities, sponsored by Keep Atlanta Beautiful. This is a wonderful community service opportunity and represents this year' theme for NPU-T, "Dedicated to building on our strengths in clean, safe neighborhoods."

Event Date: April 19, 2008
Time: 9:00am – until (recommended end time 12:00pm) – Neighborhood Clean-up
Gathering Location: The Mall West End Parking Lot
Organizers: Neighborhood Planning Unit - T
Contact Person: Kimaada Luster, Chairperson, Beautification Sub-Committee
lusterk@fultonschools.org or lusterk@fulton.k12.ga.us or 404-552-0046

Community Projects

1.) NPU-T-wide neighborhood tire round-up

This was done last year and was very effective in cleaning up the excessive tires left in particular areas within the area. We are currently working on getting a tire dumpster placed at the West End Mall, so that items do not have to be taken to Turner Field. If we cannot get the dumpsters, the tires will be transported to Turner Field. We will need at least two pick-up trucks, to transport the tires from the neighborhoods to the dumpsters. Kwabena Nkromo, NPU-T Chairman, will be coordinating this project.

2.) Neighborhood Clean-ups

a.) The neighborhood associations within NPU-T will be nominating two sites within the area that need special attention, in terms of clean-up.

b.) A vote will take place at the next NPU-T meeting, April 9th, to determine the two neighborhoods we will focus on for clean-up. The neighborhoods chosen will be assessed by committee members, to determine what work will be done.
In general the work will involve litter pick-up and minor pruning of overgrown areas.

c.) On Earth Day we will meet in The Mall West End parking lot (Oak Street side), at 8:45am for volunteer sign-up, opening remarks and assignment distribution. We will split the volunteers into two groups and assign them their particular neighborhood. A coordinator for both neighborhoods will be chosen from the Beautification Committee or any willing volunteer, to monitor the supplies, clean-up and workforce. We will carpool to these locations, as to not inundate the neighborhoods with additional cars. We would like for everyone to be at their clean-up location by 9:30am.

Additional Info

1.) Supplies

Kwabena Nkromo will be picking up supplies from Keep Atlanta Beautiful (gloves, bags, and hand cleaner) on Friday, April 4, 2008. These supplies are free of charge and we can get as much as we need.

*We will be using the Shrine of the Black Madonna's, Atlanta Tool Bank account to rent these items, so that the NPU-T does not have to incur a registration fee. A volunteer will be picking up the supplies from The Atlanta Tool Bank by Friday, April 18, 2008

Neighborhood Clean-up (Recommending NPU-T cover this cost)
*4 Push Brooms (2 per site)
*4 Sweep Brooms (2 per site)
*4 Dust Pans (2 per site)
*2 Water Coolers (1 per site)
*20 Trash Grabbers (10 per site)
Total Price: $30.43

2.) Mark Quick, of City Councilman Ceasar Mitchell's office, has graciously offered to draft a flyer, supply the tire and trash dumpsters we will need for our clean-up effort, and contact the Community Court as a source for volunteers.

End of Report

TO: Kwabena Nkromo
NPU –T, Chair

DATE: 04/04/2008

FROM: Bakeeba Hampton
Education Committee, Chair

RE: Monthly Report

This is a brief report highlighting some of the events and activities taken place over the course of March 2008.

Education Committee: Bakeeba Hampton (Chair), Omorede Booth (West End Resident), Mtisha Wilson (CAU Student), Rashida Chitunda (West End Resident), Dothlyn Bennet (West End Resident), Ayana Pines (West End Learning Center) and Mitizi Martelly (West End Resident)

Sub Committee Asset Mapping: Omorede Booth (Chair), Mtisha Wilson & Rashida Chitunda

Old Business:

The asset mapping sub-committee had its training on March 18, 2008 with members from The Community Foundation for Greater Atlanta, Khaatim El (School Board Member) and Chairman Nkromo. This training was beneficial in getting the process rolling to conduct an asset mapping for Youth services within NPU-T. The Sub-Committee meets weekly on Mondays to compare, contrast and map the information collected. The process will end on April 29, 2008 to be made available at the May 2008 NPU –T meeting.

New Business:

a. The Community Affairs Officer form The Atlanta Public Schools will come to our next Education Committee meeting to discus how the Atlanta Public Schools plans to work alongside the Neighborhood Planning Units to ensure that we are abreast of APS initiatives and issues pertaining to our neighborhood schools. The APS representatives from the various departments would attend the meeting as well to respond to specific questions or concerns in NPU –T. The manager would also send out information related to curricula, initiatives, technology and other pertinent information on a quarterly basis.
   In conducting my report at the April meeting I will ask citizens if they have specific questions, problems etc. that needs addressing to present when the group comes to meet with us.

b. The education Committee met with representatives from the Kindezi School (Dean Giles and Pastor Hill) to hear and ask questions, and to tour the site where the school would be located. The School would be located inside the West Hunter Street Church. The grades are K-8, with a class size of six students. The total number of students to occupy site are 216 and the school district is Southwest Atlanta; meaning that students who stay within the southwest Atlanta areas would be included in this population of students. The Kindezi School background information includes the culmination of a charter school in Southwest Atlanta which joins APS commitment to “raising the floor and taking off the ceiling” The school inspiration came from the practices of Bantu African community where the word Kindezi

was taken from –meaning taking responsibility for the protection, tutorial and holistic development of the communities children. The practices are as follows;

i. Differences between children are normal and valuable.
ii. Tutor children directly but also allow space for guided investigation and exploration of the real world.
iii. Positive strong relationships are vital between tutor, parent, child and the entire community.
iv. Teach children through the arts.
v. Teach democracy by practicing it as adults.
    1. **School Vision,** expresses by the name "Kindezi" is a community of teachers and parents sharing the responsibility, privilege, and joy of holistically educating each and every child, preparing them thoroughly for creating success in all facets of life.
    2. **Mission,** based on the belief that all children are highly capable, intrinsically curious and fundamentally good, is to create a nurturing, empowering, and safe small class/small school environment. By design, we will provide Socratic tutorial, arts integration, and project based learning to further each child's creative, cognitive, socio-emotional, and physical potential while instilling in each a love of learning and pride in accomplishment.

The committee supports the proposal and offers Kindezi our best wishes. We strongly believe that all children deserve an excellent education and welcome the Kindezi model to the area. As Education Committee Chair, I would like to express our commitment to assist Kindezi School in its efforts to establish a school for the communities of Southwest Atlanta. We face many challenges and we believe that a solid education is one piece of the puzzle that would help build up and strengthen our community.

C. Next Steps/Announcements

a. Next Committee meeting to be held Thursday, April 24, 2008 @6:00 p.m. West End Community Learning Center – Tentative Location

b. SAT Prep day- Saturday, April 26, 2008 9-12p.m. Benjamin E. Mays High School (Sponsored by Caesar Mitchell) & College Fair Express – Saturday, April 26, 2008 9 -12 p.m. Atlanta City Hall South Atrium

End of report