

NPU-T Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, May 14, 2008

The General meeting was called to order at 7:34 pm EST by Chairman Kwabena Nkromo

**1) Invocation**

The invocation was presented by Cardinal Brown from the Shrine of the Black Madonna.

**2) Approval of Agenda –**

A motion was made by Jerry ‘Tacuma’ Brown to accept the agenda as modified with this seconded by Jasper Boykin. The modification was to remove item #13 which has been withdrawn from consideration.

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

**3) Approval of Minutes – April**

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

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

Vote: Yes- 10; No-0; Abstain- 1 → Motion Carries

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

**a) Police**

(1) Major Dallas (Zone 1) spoke.

- (a) Major Dallas highlighted the activities of beat 103. He indicated that of the 24 recent graduates from the Police Academy, 12 were added to Zone 1 and 12 to Zone 4.
- (b) Major Dallas further described recent crime reduction activities within Zone 1.
- (c) Copies of the crime stats were left with the NPU-T chair.

(2) Lt. Chris Leighty (Zone 4) spoke.

- (a) Lt. Leighty spoke about the new foot patrols that were added to Zone 4.
- (b) He indicated that crime overall is down 9% year-to-year.
- (c) Jerry ‘Tacuma’ Brown asked that at a subsequent meeting, the Quality of Life Officer be invited to the NPU-T meetings to discuss the roles that he plays within the Zone.
- (d) Lt. Leighty spoke about a recent attempted burglary that took place. The suspect was a City of Atlanta employee. After an agreed-upon search, there was over a kilogram of Cocaine, \$50,000 in cash and various weapons confiscated.

**b) Fire –**

(1) Captain Perdue of Station #17 spoke.

- (a) He highlighted that there have been no layoffs in NPU-T fire stations.
- (b) He also highlighted the increase of fires in vacant or abandoned houses and asked that if anyone is seen occupying a vacant residence, they contact both the police and housing code enforcement.

**c) Community Prosecutor – Ms. Blackett-Jones (Zone 4) spoke. 404.699.5294**

- (1) Ms. Blackett-Jones highlighted several recent court cases.
- (2) She highlighted the recent attempted burglary on West Ontario.
- (3) Ms. Blackett-Jones has asked for help with addressing issues of 40 men that have been identified as candidates for a pilot diversion program. The District Attorney’s office is creating a “Citizen’s Council” to support this program. Another facet of this program is to create a mentor program.

**d) Department of Watershed Management - Veltricia McMichael –**

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- i) Ms. McMichael spoke about the public hearing on proposed rate increase the Wed, May 21<sup>st</sup> at 6pm.
- ii) The next City Budget Hearing will be on Thursday, May 15<sup>th</sup> at 6pm in Council Chambers.
- iii) Mc. McMichael also spoke about support for seniors about water rates 404.658.6500.

**5) Presentations**

- a) **Dean Rusk YMCA Head Start Early Learning Academy** – Kara Portnell, Early Learning Property Management
  - i) The applicant spoke about their plans for the subject property.
    - (1) There are 350,000 s.f. available for the Head Start Program which will be targeted towards 350 children.
    - (2) The modifications of the property will be interior only, with the exception of additional windows and the establishment of additional parking spaces.
    - (3) Storm water management, fire sprinkler systems and landscaping will be added to the property as part of the redevelopment actions.

There is no NPU-T vote required for this application

***Deviation #1: First time attendees of the NPU-T meeting were acknowledged.***

**6) Special Events / Outdoor Festivals**

- a) Willie Watkins Memorial Day at Howell Park
  - i) Ms. Sunshine Lewis was present. The applicant has not been in front of the impacted neighborhood.
    - (1) The city has not yet presented the application to the NPU-T.

A motion was made by Jerry 'Tacuma' Brown to allow the NPU-T executive committee to act on the application upon receipt of the application from the City and a recommendation by the impacted neighborhood association (WEND)

Vote: Yes- 20; No-0; Abstain-0 → Motion Carries

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

- a) None

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

- a) **Education** – Bishop Bakeeba Ayinde
  - i) **Mikkal Hart Murunga**, Community Affairs Manager - Atlanta Public Schools
    - (1) Ms. Kathy Augustine spoke about key activities being undertaken by APS in support of their Community Affairs. The principals from Brown Middle School and Washington High Schools were present. Several other members of APS were present, including Khatiim S. El.
      - (a) Ms. Augustine highlighted several key successes within the system. A handout with these highlights was distributed to attendees at the NPU-T meeting.
  - ii) **Charter School Presentations**
    - (1) **The Kindezi School** (West Hunter Baptist Church)
      - (a) Dean Giles highlighted that the charter application was approved on Monday, May 12<sup>th</sup> to open a charter school in the fall of 2009.
      - (b) Kathleen Jones spoke about several of planned program highlights for the program.
        - (i) Key highlights include:
          - 1. 6 students per class
          - 2. While the core curriculum elements will be highlighted, additional foci will be on the arts and leadership.
          - 3. Partnerships with parents.

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- (2) **KIPP Strive Academy** (location TBA)
  - (a) Ed. Chang spoke about the program.
    - (i) He highlighted that the new KIPP Strive Academy has been authorized for the 2009-2010 school year.
    - (ii) KIPP Strive is targeted to serve the Southwest Atlanta Communities, including areas of NPU-T.
- (3) Khaatim S. El spoke about the benefits of the recent improvements in the school system and his vision for the future growth of the Atlanta Public Schools.

***A motion was made by Oni Holley to extend the meeting by 15 minutes. This was seconded by Henry Ingram.***

Vote: Yes- 10; No-0; Abstain-2 → Motion Carries

- b) **Executive** – Kwabena Nkromo
    - i) Chairman Nkromo highlighted the members of the NPU Executive Committee who are participating in the Georgia Stand Up Leadership Program
    - ii) Chairman highlighted changes in the structure of some of the committees
      - (1) The crime task force has been made a subcommittee of the Public Safety
      - (2) Code Enforcement has been made a subcommittee of the Zoning Committee
      - (3) A second Code Enforcement subcommittee has been created under Public Safety
      - (4) A treasurer has been appointed to NPU-T. Ms. Cook has been appointed in this capacity.
  - c) **Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs (PRCA)** – Evelyn Washington
    - i) **Report attached & distributed.**
    - ii) **Malcolm X Week & Festival**– May 17<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup>
  - d) **Public Relations Officer** – Nia Knowles
- 9) **Atlanta Planning Advisory Board Report (APAB representative or NPU-T delegate)**  
a) **Neighborhood Awards Ceremony nominations** – nominees are being sought for this event.
- 10) **Citizens Review Board Report:** LaShawn Hoffman, SW NPU Representative –  
a) Mr. Hoffman was present but had no specific report to present.
- 11) **Planner's Report** –  
a) No report.

## 12) Zoning

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

**V-08-69** **599 Tatnall Street** (*case deferred at the April NPU meeting*)

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 was present. The impacted neighborhood association voted to support the application. A favorable recommendation was also made by the Zoning and Land use committee.

**The Action:** Bill Cannon made a motion to approve the application. This was seconded by Jerry 'Tacuma' Brown.

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

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**Board of Zoning Adjustment** **June 30, 2008** **1:00 P.M.**

**V-08-31 1059 Oak Street aka 505 Culberson Street**

Applicant, Jodi Yocum, seeks a special exception from the zoning regulations to increase a height of a wooden fence from 4' (required) in the half-depth front yard to 6'.

**The Discussion:** The applicant was present. The impacted neighborhood association voted to support the application. The Zoning and Land Use committee presented a favorable recommendation as well.

**The Action:** A motion was made by Jerry 'Tacuma' Brown to approve the application as submitted. This was seconded by Oni Holley.

Vote: Yes- 18 ; No-0; Abstain-1 → Motion

**13. License Review Board**

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 applicant.

**The Action:** No action needed

**14) A community farewell to Chauncer McLaughlin (longtime NPU-T Planner) and Gloria Martin (Planning Department support staff person for NPU's) Presented by NPU-T Community Ambassador, Jerry "Tacuma" Brown**

a) Tokens of appreciation were presented to Ms. Martin and Mr. McLaughlin.

**15) Chairperson's Report – none**

**16) Announcements**

a) none

**17) Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 9:22pm**

**Donations in the amount of \$6.00 were collected.**

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

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## **Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Committee Report**

**Chairperson, Evelyn Washington, [evelyn@nputatlanta.org](mailto:evelyn@nputatlanta.org)**

**Secretary, Leesa Kellam, [leesakellam@aol.com](mailto:leesakellam@aol.com)**

**May 14, 2008**

**Date of Last Meeting:** Wednesday, April 23, 2008; 6:30-7:30pm

**Date of Next Meeting:** Wednesday, May 28, 2008; 6:30-7:30pm

Location: TBA

*Refreshment will be served!*

### **Cultural Affairs Subcommittee – no chair**

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

- NPU-T/MXGM Malcolm X Week 2008 - Saturday, May 17 thru Saturday, May 24. Celebrate the life and legacy of Malcolm X during eight days of lectures, discussions, film screenings, raffles, puppet shows and more! Culminating in the annual Malcolm X Festival in West End Park. See flyer for details.
- Temporary art will be erected in Howell Park this summer.

### **BeltLine Subcommittee – Danielle Carney, [daniellecarney@yahoo.com](mailto:daniellecarney@yahoo.com)**

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

- BeltLine Cram Session – May 19<sup>th</sup>, 6-7pm, The Mall West End Community Room
- At the last Study Group meeting they presented the draft plans for streets, parks, & transit for Subsection 2. It looked pretty good, but there were a few areas of concerns. Mainly connectivity b/t the rail line and the different hubs (ex. murphy crossing). We also discussed the zoning requirements that they are going to put before the NPU land use committees and the CoA.
- Also there will **NOT** be a study group meeting in May. The next one is June 26<sup>th</sup> at Atlanta Metropolitan College, Academic Bldg Room 201 @ 6:30p. PLEASE PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR! It seems that the planning on our section will start somewhere around the end of June - beginning of July.

### **Recreation Subcommittee – Leesa Kellam, [leesakellam@aol.com](mailto: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.*

- The Recreation Subcommittee plans to develop and publicize an on-going, self-guided walking/biking tour and brochure, of the many cultural points of interest within NPU-T. Destinations that help to define the community as a distinct collection of neighborhoods that hold a rich and unique cultural heritage. To launch this initiative, there would be a one-time inaugural guided tour throughout designated points of interest during the end of August through early October.

### **Parks Subcommittee – no chair**

*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.*

- New Park on Lucille Ave
- Final Selection stage for Gateway to Cleopas R Johnson Park

### **Urban Agriculture Subcommittee – Kwabena Nkromo, [kwabena.nkromo@gmail.com](mailto:kwabena.nkromo@gmail.com)**

*The mission of the Urban Agriculture Subcommittee is to promote, support and develop food production activities of all types within NPU-T to further the goals of our Community Food Project.*

- The Urban Agriculture Subcommittee has accomplished the following results related to the two immediate focus areas of the NPU-T Community Food Project (CFP):
  - Supporting our existing urban agriculture activities within NPU-T (particularly community gardens)  
We have continued to organize an event to bring NPU-T community gardeners together, although we have renamed it the "NPU-T Community Gardens Summer Summit" due to the passing of spring. The venue will no longer be at the Atlanta Community Food Bank, but rather a site fully within NPU-T due to the increasing amount of activity now occurring in response to the CFP initiative. Likely candidates for the location of the Summit are the Good Shepherd Community Church in the West End or the CVC Urban Farm in the Beecher-

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Donnelly area. Existing community gardens within NPU-T that will be invited include Ashview Heights, Mother Clyde, and Rose Circle. The date is tentatively July 12th 2008.

- Identifying potential sites for urban farms within NPU-T and recruiting growers to develop them in order to establish "backbone" supply for a farmers market/cooperative

There are three new "farm" sized urban agriculture projects that we are supporting through the CFP. (1) CVC Urban Farms is a collaboration between Creating Vibrant Communities Inc (a local non-profit) and the Pan African Orthodox Christian Church (Shrine of the Black Madonna), with NPU-T providing coordination and other supports. The other key partner is Rashid Nuri with Truly Living Well Natural Urban Farms who is serving as lead consultant on the project. The primary goal of CVC Urban Farms is to demonstrate asset based community development through contributing to the creation of a local food economy in the West End. The non-profit farm will grow fresh vegetables and fruits to sell at below market rates through CSA shares targeted at NPU-T residents and a local farmers market. (2) The Good Shepherd Community Church, under the leadership of Rev. Richard Bright, has a vision of creating a "ministry garden" on land owned by the church at the corner of Lawton and Lucille in the West End. NPU-T has engaged Good Shepherd through the CFP to connect this vision to our goal of a network of various urban agriculture uses in the neighborhoods. We are designing a "mixed use" site plan with the church that includes the developing ministry garden, a membership community garden for neighboring residents, and a second CVC Urban Farms site, and "Plant a Row for Hunger" plot for the Atlanta Community Food Bank. With approximately 3 acres available, this project promises to be an outstanding example of possibilities of the CFP. (3) NPU-T currently has a proposal before the Atlanta Public School to develop a mixed use urban agriculture project on APS owned land adjacent to the campus, which would include (i) an "edible schoolyard" outdoor classroom for the students (ii) a multi-accessible community garden (iii) and a third CVC Urban Farms site. Having gained the support of the school principal (Mr. Underdue), we are awaiting a response from senior APS management.

- Our mid-range goals include:
  - Completing an asset map of all available land within NPU-T that could potentially be used for urban agriculture and grade each site for recommended type of use (i.e. community garden, urban farm, etc). We have engaged Morehouse College regarding partnering with their GIS program to create the asset map described above. It was suggested that funding will be necessary to activate this opportunity, but a final determination has not been made. We are also exploring other GIS resource options.
  - Developing educational and training opportunities for residents interested in learning about urban agriculture or increasing their existing skills. We have engaged Georgia Organics regarding partnering to conduct educational workshops on urban agriculture for residents and stakeholders within NPU-T. This activity will be managed by a newly created urban agriculture subcommittee of the NPU-T Education Committee
  - identifying resources (tools, funding, etc) to assist growers within NPU-T to be productive and successful. We have connected residents and urban agriculture projects within NPU-T to each of the following resources: The Atlanta Community Food Bank Community Gardening Program, Georgia Organics, The Atlanta Community Tool Bank, Khari Diop (site design expert), and Truly Living Well Natural Urban Farm (food production consultant).
- There were no formal meetings during the previous period, but an Urban Agriculture Subcommittee meeting of the PRCA Committee will be scheduled for late May or early June.

-END OF REPORT-