

NPU-T Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 10, 2008

The General meeting was called to order at 7:37 pm EST by Secretary Scott Smith following the verification that a quorum was established by the presence of six (6) members of the executive committee. Following the call to order, Mr. Smith proceeded to select a temporary chair. While seeking an acting chair, Chairman Nkromo showed up and took leadership of this NPU-T meeting.

1) Invocation

The invocation was presented by Sabir Mohommad.

2) Approval of Agenda –

A motion was made by Debbie Zimmerman to accept the agenda as published. This was seconded by Bill Cannon.

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

3) Approval of Minutes – August

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

A motion was made by Bill Cannon to approve the minutes as corrected with the addition of the amount of donations collected. This was seconded by Eric Robinson.

Vote: Yes- 17; No- 1; → Motion Carries

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

a) Police –

i) Sgt. Harrow (Zone 1) was present and inquired of specific issues. He had no copies of the current crime statistics.

(1) Several questions regarding coverage at the AUC, panhandling on the I-20 ramps and copper thefts in the area were raised.

ii) Lt. Leighty (Zone 4) spoke. He highlighted that property crimes are still very high within Zone 4.

(1) He highlighted that beats 404 and 405 are being reassigned to Zone 3 and will take with them two (2) vehicles and 6-10 officers.

(2) They have arrested 123 individuals in NPU-T's area in the last 30 days.

Chairman Nkromo introduced the omissions in the agenda. These were presented as additional presentations and specifications in the committee reports.

A motion was made by Bill Cannon to approve the changes in the agenda. This was seconded by Oni Holley.

Vote: Yes- 18; No- 0; → Motion Carries

b) Fire – Chief Cochran spoke about Station #7 (see presentations).

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

i) Ms. Blackett-Jones provided a court watch update on Robert Lee Lawrence

(1) This Friday at 9am, Jacori Johnson will be at the Fulton County Courthouse in courtroom 8c. This individual has been suspected for crimes in NPU-T.

d) **Housing Code Enforcement –** Debra Conner

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5) Presentations

- a) **Chief Cochran spoke about the budget cuts within the Atlanta Fire Department.**
 - i) The AFD budget has been reduced by \$13.1M.
 - ii) Chief Cochran outlined the extent of the budget cuts on the department.

- b) **Save #7 Coalition – Lev Sterling** spoke about the work being done to reopen Fire Station #7.
 - i) An e-mail and calling post will be used to notify of the next meeting where Chief Cochran will be present to answer questions.

- c) **Georgia Power – Lolita Browning**
 - i) Ms. Browning-Jackson spoke about the upcoming open house scheduled for September 23rd from 5-8pm. The open house will be at the Lofts at Castleberry Hills (170 Northside Drive). The purpose of the open house is to inform the community about the new Substation being built on the corner of Whitehall and Metropolitan boulevards. The primary purpose will be to serve the Atlanta University Center.

- d) **Let's Raise a Million – Jaleesa Carter**
 - i) Ms. Carter spoke about the program which is designed to install Compact Fluorescent light bulbs in the homes of under-served communities. This will provide replacement bulbs at no charge to the residents and will actually perform the replacement for free.
 - ii) The date will be on September 27th.

- e) **Kipp Strive Academy – Kenneth Mason & Michael Powell**
 - i) Kipp Strive is going to be a new charter school opening to serve Southwest Atlanta areas, including NPU-T.
 - ii) This will be a school serving grades 5-8 and will open July 2009 with 85 Fifth graders.
 - iii) The targeted school property is the Arkwright property in the Venetian Hills neighborhood.

- f) **Code Enforcement – Debra Conner**
 - i) Ms. Conner did not attend the NPU-T meeting.

6) Neighborhood Association Reports (3 minutes per report)

- a) **WEND - Vonda Henry**
 - i) West End will be having a community yard sale on September 20 from 8-5 and on September 21 from noon – 5.
 - (1) For more information: vkhenry@bellsouth.net
 - (2) The deadline to sign up is Wednesday, September 17th.

- b) **Westview – John Davis**
 - i) John notified that Westview will be having a community yard sale on Saturday, September 27th from 10 – 5pm.
 - (1) For

- c) **Booker T. Washington**
 - i) BTW will be hosting a neighborhood walk on Thursday September 25th at 7pm.

- d) **Khaatim S. El, Atlanta Public Schools** spoke about teaming with the community to establish a youth-centric urban farm.
 - i) The School Board has voted to support this initiative.
 - ii) The Stanton school in a neighboring NPU has been named a Blue Ribbon school
 - iii) Southside High School has been renamed in honor of Mayor Maynard Jackson
 - iv) The Atlanta Day of Play will be held on September 27th. Additional information will be distributed to the NPU-T chair.

7) Committee Reports

- a) **Nominating Committee** – Chairman Nkromo announced that the Nominating committee is being formed to select the 2009 slate of officers.

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- b) **Parks, Recreation, and Cultural Affairs** – Evelyn Washington
 - i) **Report attached**
 - ii) Danielle Carney announced the Beltline Cram session being held on Tuesday, September 16th at 6pm in the Community Room of the Westview lofts.
 - iii) Robert Thompson spoke about the community celebration for the first section of the Beltline being opened.
 - (1) A meeting will be held on Thursday, September 11th at 7pm at 813 Azalia.
 - iv) Gorgon McGruder from the City Department of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs
 - (1) Mr. McGruder highlighted the 2008 summer activities that were provided to Atlanta's youth.
 - (2) Mr. McGruder also outlined programs for youth for the 2008-09 academic year.
- c) **Public Safety Committee** – Graham Jackson (404.805.9133)
 - i) Graham Jackson spoke about the upcoming block captain training scheduled for October 14th.
 - ii) Acora is sponsoring training for neighborhood watch in September.
 - iii) Bill Cannon asked about the vacant and open houses task force.
 - (1) Mark Malaguerra emphasized his disappointment that Debra Conner, the acting director for Code Enforcement, did not attend the meeting as scheduled.
- d) **Public Relations Officer** – Nia Knowles
 - i) Nia highlighted the NPU-T 2008 Community Summit scheduled for October 25th.
 - ii) Steve Wilson (404.753.1330), the Unit Director of the Boys & Girls Club at 1191 Donnelly spoke about the programs being held at the center.

8) **Atlanta Planning Advisory Board Report**

- a) No report.

9) **Community Planner Report – Edmund McAfee**

- a) no report.

10) **Zoning**

Zoning Review Board September 19, 2008

6:00 P.M.

V-08-178

564 Holderness Street

Westley Moore, seeks a special exception from zoning regulations to allow for a 5 foot fence in the required front and half-depth front yard setbacks, where otherwise only a 4 foot fence is allowed.

The Discussion: The impacted neighborhood (WEND) voted to deny the application. The concerns of the community were that the fence is too tall, he has not appeared in before the impacted neighborhood association and the materials are not consistent with the historic designation of WEND. The Zoning and land use committee has not yet met with the applicant.

The Action: A motion was made by Bill Cannon to deny the application. This was seconded by Ted Warren.

Vote: Yes- 26; No- 0; ➔ Motion Carries

A motion was made Melanie Wofford to extend the meeting by 20 minutes to accommodate the remaining items on the agenda. This was seconded by Bill Cannon.

Vonda Henry raised a question about the advance notice provided to review the bylaws.

Vote: Yes- 22; No- 2; ➔ Motion Carries

11) **License Review Board**

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a) None

12) Adoption of the 2009 Bylaws

The discussion: Scott Smith reviewed the recommendations from the Bylaws through article IV. At that time, the extension to the meeting had elapsed.

Bill Cannon made a motion to add another special bylaws committee review before the next NPU-T general Meeting. This was seconded by Vonda Henry. Jerry 'Tacuma' Brown added a friendly amendment to provide 10 days notice to this review session. This was seconded by Bill Cannon.

The Vote: Yes- 14; No- 6 → Motion carries.

Bill Cannon made a motion to adjourn.

13) Chairperson's Report – none

14) Announcements none

15) Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 9:28. pm.

Donations in the amount of \$ were collected.

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

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Committee Report
Chairperson, Evelyn Washington, evelyn@nputatlanta.org
September 10, 2008

Date of Last Meeting: Wednesday, June 25, 2008; 6:30-8:00pm

Date of Next Meeting: Wednesday, September 24, 2008; 6:30-8:00pm
Location: TBA, *Refreshment will be served!*

BeltLine Subcommittee – Danielle Carney, daniellecarney@yahoo.com

The BeltLine Subcommittee educates residents of NPU-T about the BeltLine and engages them in the planning process.

- Cram Session, September 18th from 6 to 7pm in the Westview Community Center (intersection of Lucile and RDA) 1528 Ralph David Abernathy Blvd Unit A

We really need more support and active members on the committee. In order for NPU-T to benefit from the process, we are going to have to become a part of it.

Parks Subcommittee – Yomara Velez, yomaravelez@yahoo.com

The Parks Subcommittee supports existing ‘Friends’ groups and works with Park Pride and the City of Atlanta to create new groups that will support the Parks within NPU-T.

- Friends of Cleopas Park meeting on Friday, September 12th from 12:00pm-1:00pm. Bring your lunch and prepare to receive important information regarding the park logo, LeFlash project, volunteering opportunities, and community events.
John Hope Community Center Conference Room
- Friends of West End Park application has been submitted to Park Pride. Please contact Yomara if you are interested in supporting and improving West End Park.

Recreation Subcommittee – no chair

The Recreation Subcommittee promotes the existing recreational opportunities and creates new ones, especially those that target the youth and senior populations within NPU-T.

- West End 5K and Community Celebration will be held on Saturday, October 18th to commemorate the opening of the first section of the BeltLine Trail. Volunteers are needed to help organize the event and on race day itself. Please contact Evelyn Washington (evelyn@nputatlanta.org) or Ryan Harry (harry374@hotmail.com) for more information.
- Prayer Walks are being planned by Nia Knowles (niaknowsrealty@yahoo.com). This is a wonderful opportunity to address the spiritual, physical and social needs of our seniors. Please contact Nia for more information.

Cultural Affairs Subcommittee – Evelyn Washington, evelyn@nputatlanta.org

The Cultural Affairs Subcommittee promotes and encourages the existing, vibrant culture within NPU-T.

-END OF REPORT-