

NPU-T Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, March 12, 2008

The General meeting was called to order at 7:31 pm EST by Chairman Kwabena Nkromo

1) Invocation

The invocation was presented by Imam Nadim from the Community Masjid of Atlanta.

A moment of silence was observed in recognition of the passing of the President of WEND, Rick Rivers. Mr. Rivers passed away in the last month.

2) Approval of Agenda –

A motion was made by Jerry ‘Tacuma’ Brown to accept the agenda as modified with this seconded by Mark Malaguerra.

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

3) Approval of Minutes – February

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

A motion was made by Gwen Porter to approve the minutes as published. This was seconded by Mark Malaguerra.

Vote: Yes- 7; No-0; Abstain- 1 → Motion Carries

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

a) Police

- (1) Zone 1. Sgt. Harrell spoke. He left copies of the crime statistics with the NPU-T Chair. He indicated that burglaries are on the rise and also that they are focusing on addressing vehicle break-ins.
- (2) Zone 4 – Lt. White spoke. He left copies of the crime statistics with the NPU-T Chair.
 - (a) Lt. White publicly thanked members of WEND for addressing a specific crime spree within the West End Neighborhood.
 - (b) He indicated that crime in beats 401 & 402 is down 9%. The key crime that is still extant is residential burglaries and that the primary crimes are being committed by juvenile offenders. He highlighted that the community prosecutor was influential in getting bond denied in the case of one repeat offender.

b) Fire – Captain Purdue of Station #17 spoke.

- (1) Captain Purdue highlighted about the Georgia Search & Rescue Team (GSAR). The team was successful in rescuing individuals who were trapped following an accident.
- (2) He indicated that there has been an increase of fires in vacant homes within the community.

(3) EMS – Kevin Sullivan of Grady EMS spoke.

- (a) Captain Sullivan highlighted that Fulton County has eliminated funding for 911 services. He distributed information regarding the funding gap created by this action.

c) Community Prosecutor –

- i) **Ms. Blackett-Jones** spoke.
 - (1) The property at 503 Atwood is currently on the market and they are seeking buyers. The listing price is \$130k.
 - (2) There was a recent burglary on East Ontario. Ms. Blackett-Jones reported that the case was pleaded out. She highlighted the sentences that were issued to the offenders.
 - (3) There is a new Community Prosecutor assigned to Zone 1. Mr. Kimani King (404.787.5907) was present and introduced himself to the attendees at the NPU-T meeting.
 - (a) Mr. King highlighted several recent convictions in the Zone 1 community.

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5) Presentations

- Foster Care/Adoption – Mr. Guy Nugent
 - i) Not present
- West End Community 4-H Club (Sponsored by the NPU-T PRCA Committee)
 - i) Members of the 4-H Club shared their recent projects that were presented at a recent 4-H Competition.
- Letter of Support for the *Atlanta Local Food Initiative*, presented by Steve Cooke
 - i) Mr. Cooke spoke about the initiative and left a copy of the plan with the attendees of the NPU-T meeting.

A motion was made by Evelyn Washington to add NPU-T as a signatory to the ALFI Advocacy Campaign. This was seconded by Aston Thompson.

The vote: Yes 14: No: 0; Abstain: 1

- PATH Foundation
 - i) Not present

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

- a) Carl Ness of WEND spoke.
 - i) He highlighted the Atlanta Home Show participation. He distributed a photo of a WEND display.
 - ii) Carl also outlined the West End Community Patrol
 - iii) On May 2nd, there will be a kick-off of the West End tour of homes. The tour will be May 3-4.
 - iv) March 29th there will be a West End community clean-up. The clean-up will start at 8:45am at the Wren's Nest.
 - v) A written copy of his report was provided to the NPU-T Chair.
- b) Graham Jackson of Booker T. Washington Community Association spoke.
 - i) Graham spoke about the community benefits agreement that was signed with the BP station on the corner of Joseph Lowery. He asked to call 404.805.9133 if anyone sees any decline in the quality of life around this business.
 - ii) Mr. Jackson also highlighted recent actions relating to an under-aged sale of alcohol to a minor. That business was fined and received a 30 day suspension of their license.
 - iii) The next BTW meeting is to be held on March 17th.

Deviation # 1 → Council Member Ceasar Mitchel spoke. He highlighted that the City Council will be going into their semi-annual retreat. Issues regarding budget and public safety will be discussed. He also highlighted the progress on recent legislation that was introduced regarding assigning new police academy graduates to foot patrol for a period of time following their graduation so that foot patrol within the community can be reinstated. Mr. Mitchell emphasized that ***“it is a failure on the part of city government when communities have to hire private police.”***

On March 29th April 12th and April 26th, Council Member Mitchell will be hosting his 5th Annual SAT Prep Days. The March 29th session will be at Grady High, the April 12th will be at Mays and the April 26th will be held at City Hall.

Public Relations Moment:

Nia presented a gift certificate to the BTW Community for the West End print shop.

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

- a) **Community Ambassador** – Jerry “Tacuma” Brown
 - i) Mr. Brown advised that the UCDC meeting was postponed until March 13th. He also announced that the Fulton County Housing Authority will be presenting to elected officials in the US Congress. In 2008, Mr. Brown will be the sole presenter from Atlanta. He asked for any ideas or suggestions that need to be conveyed to the Georgia Congressmen, please contact him at 404.753.4347.

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- b) **Crime Task Force** – Jasper Boykin
 - i) **Report is attached**
 - ii) NPU-T chair Nkromo highlighted the structure and purpose of the CTF. Meetings are held on the last Tuesday of the month.

- c) **Economic Development & Consumer Affairs** – Robert Thompson
 - i) Mr. Thompson spoke and highlighted two key initiatives:
 - (1) Community Food Project – the purpose of this project is to create and increase participation in community gardens.
 - (2) Recent Grant Awards:
 - (a) Feasibility Study grant awarded by the Atlanta Falcons. This will look into the feasibility of creating a community food cooperative.
 - (3) A survey will be distributed in the upcoming weeks to determine the desires of the members of the NPU-T body with respect to Economic Development.
 - (4) Pan African Tourist Initiatives – this will highlight areas of the NPU-T area that are of historical importance or national prominence.

- d) **Education** – Bishop Bakeeba Ayinde Hampton
 - i) Bishop Ayinde discussed a recent grant to perform asset mapping of youth services within the NPU-T community. This grant was made possible through school board member Khaatim El. The output of this grant will be a printed pamphlet that will be distributed through the schools and the members and residents of the NPU-T neighborhoods.
 - ii) The next education committee meeting will be on March 27th from 6-7pm in Founder's Hall.

- e) **Executive** – Kwabena Nkromo
 - i) Chairman Nkromo spoke about the 2008 Policy Agenda.

A motion was made by Jerry 'Tacuma' Brown to support the NPU-T 2008 Policy Agenda. This was seconded by Debbie Zimmerman

The vote: Yes: 15; No: 0; Abstain: 1 → Motion Carries

 - ii) The Bylaws committee will be meeting in the next month to incorporate the recent changes in organization and structure of the planning unit.
 - iii) In April, there will be a special viewing of a documentary that will be presented by Brent Brewer. The documentary will be addressing mortgage fraud in the community.

- f) **Land Use & Zoning** – Aston Thompson
 - i) Mr. Thompson introduced himself to the attendees of the NPU-T body. Mr. Thompson can be reached at 678.791.5517.

- g) **NPU-T Non-Profit Council** – Melanie Wofford – no report

- h) **Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs (PRCA)** – Evelyn Washington
 - i) **Report is attached.** The next meeting of the PRCA will be on March 27th.

- i) **Public Relations Officer** – Nia Knowles
 - i) Nia highlighted the changes in the sign-in process.
 - ii) She also asked that anyone interested in creating or developing a neighborhood association should see her for more details.

- j) **Public Safety** – Graham Jackson
 - i) On March 19th at 7pm there will be a meeting at the Washington Park Natatorium.
 - ii) Report is attached.

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k) **Code Enforcement** – Scott Smith

- i) Mr. Smith highlighted recent code enforcement wins and asked for members to make him aware of the addresses of any known problems that have not been reported to the city.

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

- a) Chairman Nkromo highlighted the 2008 APAB. retreat
 - i) A written record of the APAB activities has been included in the package that was distributed.

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

A motion was made by Jerry 'Tacuma' Brown to extend the meeting by 10 minutes to accommodate outstanding agenda items. This was seconded by Scott Smith

The Vote: Yes: 15; No: 0; Abstain: 0 → Motion Carries

10) **Planner's Report** –

- a) Planner McLaughlin spoke about the ordinance in item #15 (07-O-2602).

11) **Zoning**

Zoning Review Board April 3 or 10, 2008

6:00 P.M.

U-08-4 535 Joseph E. Lowery Blvd. (case deferred at the Feb. NPU meeting)
Applicant, Brenda Gibbons, seeks a special use permit to operate a church.

The Discussion: The applicant presented. Rev. Gibbons spoke about the ministries of the church. The purpose of the church is to be outreach focused. One program offered is called the S.A.T. program. This program is for Study Advisement and Training. It is focused on youth development and relationship strengthening between youth and their parents. The applicant highlighted that she collected over 100 signatures on a petition to support her application.

Vonda Henry indicated that her experience with the applicant was that the proposed plan has changed each time a presentation was made by the applicant.

Taylor Campbell spoke. He highlighted that when the pastor was visiting the neighborhood, not all neighbors on the streets were asked their opinion of the application.

Carl Ness presented the opinion of the impacted neighborhood association WEND. WEND voted to deny the application based on the location of the proposed property. A letter of these results was presented to the NPU-T chair.

Jerry 'Tacuma' Brown made a recommendation to assist the applicant with another location should the members of the community vote to deny

Sylvester Mohammad spoke about the importance of providing youth services.

Additional comments were attempted however discussion was cutoff by Chairman Nkromo due to time constraints. None of the additional comments appeared to be by members of the NPU-T but were by visitors who were present on behalf of Reverend Gibbons.

The applicant responded to the concerns raised by Vonda Henry and others.

The Action: A motion was made by John Pavlin to deny the application. This was seconded by Mark Malaguerra.

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

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Z-08-09/08-O-0201

Text Amendment *(case deferred at the Feb. NPU meeting)*

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.

The Discussion: Planner McLaughlin presented a fact sheet for this ordinance.

A question was asked whether this ordinance also included packaged liquor stores. Planner McLaughlin highlighted that this included packaged liquor stores. Another concern was raised that this would serve to restrict the small business owner and would favor larger business. Another question was asked as to whether Castleberry was in NPU-T boundaries. (Castleberry transects the Northern boundaries of NPU-T). A final concern was raised that the businesses in Castleberry district often coincide with residences.

The Action: A motion was made by Vonda Henry to support the proposed ordinance. This was seconded by Mark Malaguerra.

The Vote: Yes: 11; No: 2; Abstain 1 → Motion Carries

Zoning Review Board April 3 or 10, 2008 6:00 P.M.
Z-08-10 Text Amendment *(case deferred at the Feb. NPU meeting)*

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

The Discussion: Planner McLaughlin presented a fact sheet for this Text Amendment. A comment was made by Evelyn Washington regarding the security impact of having vehicles in parking structures visible from the street. Another question was posed as to whether requirements or recommendations for planters could be made part of the amendment.

The Action: A motion was made by Mark Malaguerra to approve the proposed Text Amendment. This was seconded by Scott Smith

The Vote: Yes: 9 No:0 Abstain: 1 → Motion Carries

12. Chairperson's Report – to be presented via e-mail.

13. Announcements – none.

14. Public Review and Comments:

ORDINANCE 08-O-0426 – Public Hearing will be held Wednesday, March 19, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the Atlanta City Council Chambers to discuss the following caption:

AN ORDINANCE TO CREATE CHAPTER 154, SECTION 121 (DROUGHT SURCHARGE ESTABLISHED) AND CHAPTER 154, SECTION 279 (DROUGHT SURHCHARGE ESTABLISHED) IN THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF ATLANTA, TO ESTABLISH NEW DROUGHT SURCHARGES FOR THE CITY OF ATLANTA'S WATER AND WASTEWATER SYSTEMS; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

15. Adjournment – the meeting adjourned at 9:30pm.

**Donations in the amount of \$16.00 were collected.
81 individuals were recorded on the NPU-T sign-in sheets.**

**NPU-T Crime Task Force – Work Group
Meeting Minutes for Tuesday, February 26, 2008**

FROM: Jasper "Gene" Boykin, NPU-T Crime Task Force (CTF) Coordinator
TO: Kwabena Nkromo, NPU-T Chair
RE: CTF February Report
DATE: 4 March 2008

The following represents activity and discussion for the CTF WG meeting held in February 2008:

A sign in sheet was passed to everyone in attendance at the meeting:

Jasper Boykin	Kwabena Nkromo
Marcell Barnett	Gwen Cain
Ron Sundiata Lane	Melanie Wofford
Nicholas Wilkins	Vernon Worthy
Abeni Bloodworth	Aston Thompson
Daniel Hubbard	Taylor Campbell

Overview – Jasper provided basic information about the agenda and the CTF Work Group. Kwabena Nkromo provided a summary of the history and vision of Crime Task Force.

Safety Features – At each meeting, we will have a product or entity to present their products to improve safety and deter criminal activity in the community. Nicholas Wilkins of Vacant Property Security Inc (see www.vacantpropertysecurity.com) that provides products to secure vacant homes from unauthorized use. He was give 5 minutes to introduce his product.

New Business

A. **First Quarter Forum** - Melanie Wofford provided some insight about the grant received from ACoRA. Jasper will discuss with Kwabena to recommend reallocation for marketing for the First Quarter Forum and recruiting events for safety initiatives. Melanie and Jasper will meet the week of the 3rd to create an outlay for recommended forum topics and planning.

B. **Atlanta Citizens Police Academy** – we are recruiting candidates for the May 2008 class. We have submitted 4 applications and we will submit a few more this month.

C. **A.C.E.R.T.** – recruiting tables will be placed at 3 location in the community Kroger, Publix, and West End Mall. Chf. Coxton of the Atlanta Fire Department indicated he is preparing the marketing materials for recruiting sessions and will back to us within 2 – 3 weeks. The alternative is they have a class at GA Tech March 29, April 12, and April 19, 2008 from 9 AM to 3 PM, he will make this class available to us to get a recruiting class together and trained.

Next Steps

In the interest of creating some immediate activity and truly getting to work, the group, engaged in some brainstorming activities to assist creating a safe community environment.

Education Committee – join with them to work with Communities in Schools organization to build safety initiatives for youth in the community to contribute as well.

Phone Contact List & Calling Tree to provide to neighbors a list of contact numbers of local government contacts and a list of neighbors to provide immediate assistance in the case emergency personnel are not available.

Rapid Response Hotline to report activities and crime in the community to make sure we are getting an accurate account of frequency in the community and if the represent posted crime statistics.

Victim Companion to accompany neighbors while the investigation is conducted or the neighbors awaits emergency authorities. (Need to recruit operators.) Victim follow up to make sure they are okay and recruit to support others.

Chief Vernon Worthy, APD ret. of the Morehouse College Police Dept recommended we find out what initiatives there are in other communities to present these ideas to zone commander for deployment in our community.

Old Business and updates.

We spent several moments talking about recent incidents that occurred in the community, and possible ways to deter criminal activity.

The final portion of the meeting was lead by Kwabena indicating that our future models for meetings will be task and action oriented. We do not intend to become a meeting entity, but action and task driven.

In the spirit of creating and moving forward Jasper, Abeni Bloodworth, Taylor Campbell, Marcell Barnett, Daniel Hubbard we will schedule a date to walk the neighborhood in conjunction with the cultural affairs committee to begin recruiting members for the Citizens Patrol.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 25, 2008 at 7:00 PM at a location TBA.

End of Report

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Parks, Recreation and Cultural Affairs Committee Report

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

Secretary, Leesa Kellam, leesakellam@aol.com

March 12, 2008

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

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday, March 27, 2008; 6:30-7:30pm

John Hope Homes Community Center, 560 Larkin Street

Refreshment will be served!

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.

Since the last meeting there was a quarterly briefing done by Beltline Inc. with an update on the status of all projects and study groups. There they told us that they have decided to postpone starting any new sections until later in the year so that they can address some of the community involvement issues. This is good because it will allow us to be better prepared (without rushing) when they start our section.

Urban Agriculture Subcommittee – Kwabena Nkromo, 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.

- A grant application was submitted by Creating Vibrant Communities, Inc (a non-profit in West End) to develop a 1.5 acre site at 779 Atwood into an urban farm, under the auspices of the NPU-T Community Food Project.
- A proposal was submitted to Atlanta Public Schools board member Khaatim El to secure an agreement for use of a site near Brown Middle School for a mixed use urban agriculture project, which would include (i) an “edible schoolyard” (ii) a multi-accessible community garden (iii) and a cooperative urban farm.
- NPU-T Community Gardens Spring Summit planned for late March or early April

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.

- West End Park was nominated for Project for Public Spaces-Park Pride Placemaking workshop. We hope to gain valuable information about ways to improve the park if it is selected for this expert evaluation.
- Park Pride Conference, Monday March 31, 2008. We look forward to learning how to begin and maintain Friends of the Parks groups as well as how to raise money for 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.

- A Fun Run highlighting the Pan African Trail is being planned.

Cultural Affairs Subcommittee – no chair

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

-END OF REPORT-

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NPU-T Public Safety Committee Report
Graham Jackson Jr., Chairman
March 12, 2008

The first meeting of the NPU-T Public Safety Committee will be held on Wednesday, March 19, 2008, at 7:00 pm, at the Washington Park Natatorium, 102 Ollie St. Future meetings will be on the 3rd Wednesday of each month unless we consolidate meetings with the Crime Task Force. Topics will include crime issues in our neighborhoods, crime prevention, and organizing APD Neighborhood Watch programs that will include crime patrols by the residents. The committee will also gather and analyze data, strategize and work closely with the NPU-T Crime Task Force think tank.

There are very positive outcomes from the community benefits agreements with the alcohol license holder at 3 Joseph E. Lowery, 507 Joseph E. Lowery Blvd., and 535 Lee St. The businesses at these locations are operating with a high quality of life in the community. Mr. Kanwar Tucker has asked me to report any decline of quality of life and to report issues that break our community benefits agreements to him with dates, times, and issues. He will correct the problems at these locations. If you observe problems at these locations, please call or email me at 404-805-9133 and gjack0002@netscape.net.

Here are my activities for the last period:

- Attended the District 3 Town Hall Meeting at Puritan Mill. I had good, positive conversation with Kimani King, the Zone 1 Community Prosecutor of Fulton County.
- Attended the CourtWatch Training Workshop that was presented by The Office of the Fulton County District Attorney, Community Prosecution Division. The workshop included an overview of CourtWatch, Bonds, Sentencing, Courtroom Decorum, The Court Calendar, Access to Records, and Jail Procedures. By mobilizing for CourtWatch, hopefully we can influence the judges and juries for stronger sentences, including banishment from Fulton County for years.
- Attended the APD Zone 4 Citizens Advisory Committee meeting at the Zone 4 precinct. This very informative meeting explained crime issues in Zone 4 from a police perspective. I was able to talk to Major Perdue and his staff.
- Spoke to Lt. Dalton of the APD Zone 1 precinct about the Zone 1 Citizens Advisory Committee.
- Appeared before the License Review Board regarding an underage alcohol sale at 1021 Fair St., across the street from an elementary school. I was joined by Ms. Gracie Hutcherson, Ms. June Moore, Mr. William Reed, Mr. Kwabena Nkromo, Chairman of NPU-T, to express concerns. 1021 Fair St. had citations for an underage sale and failure to supervise. The License Review Board was also very concerned. The LRB fined the license holder \$1000.00 for selling less than 14 oz., \$1000.00 for failure to supervise, and suspended alcohol sales at the location for 30 days for the underage sale.

End of report

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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

Mahatma Ghandi is credited with making the oft-used quote, “We must be the change we wish to see in the world.” This is certainly true in the case with the quality of life in our neighborhoods and the impact we can make with this vehicle called NPU-T. After the persistent inability of the police department to adequately protect us from the crime that plagues our streets and homes. After the waves of mortgage fraud that have ravaged our neighborhoods and left them haunted by empty houses that no one will take responsibility for. We are inevitably left with the conclusion that no one else will save us except ourselves.

My appeal to my community is simple: Join your neighbors who have volunteered to serve as committee chairs and officers to help make these engines of change effective. I reintroduce them to you in sincere hope that all will seriously consider getting involved at this moment. It’s our time.

Appointed Officers:

- Muata Onyemachi – Sergeant-at-arms
- Nia Knowles – Public Relations Officer
- Jerry “Tacuma” Brown – Community Ambassador
- Melanie Wofford – Non-profit Council Coordinator

Appointed Committee Chairs:

- Oni Holley - Bylaws
- Scott Smith - Code Enforcement
- Jasper Boykin - Crime Task Force Coordinator
- Robert Thompson - Economic Development & Consumer Affairs
- Bakeeba Ayinde - Education
- Kwabena Nkromo – Executive
- Aston Thompson – Land Use & Zoning
- Evelyn Washington - Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs
- Public Safety Committee - Graham Jackson

Other Items:

The Executive Committee will meet 7:00PM Thursday April 3rdth and will be hosted by the Just Us Neighbors association (location TBA). This meeting is open to the public, but only committee members may participate.

End of Report