

NPU-V Meeting
January 8th, 2018
Peoplestown
Rick McDevitt Center
1040 Crew St SW
Atlanta, GA 30315

INVOCATION

Ms. Ridley led invocation and Columbus Ward presided over the meeting.

Approval of Minutes

There was a motion and second to approve: o-no, o-abstain

Oath of Office

The oath of office was administered to the new NPU-V board by City Council President Felicia Moore.

Neighborhood Reports

Adair Park - Adair Park Today met last Tuesday and the new chair of the Safety Committee was voted in. NPU-V was asked to help sponsor historical signs - there are 7 left. This year Adair Park will focus on safety issues. There was a mugging in the park just before Christmas.

Mechanicsville - Jane Ridley is president of Mechanicsville Civic Association (MCA). Jason Dozier is now vice president and Doristine Samuel is chaplain. Last Monday, Marvin Arrington's assistant presented a newsletter. Annie E. Casey Foundation presented their new Resident Leadership program. Gloria Gardner also presented and asked for pages. Atlanta Bike Relay is putting in new stations and seeking new sites.

Peoplestown - This Saturday is the Community Meeting 10:00 AM -12:00 PM at the Rick McDevitt Center. The next Peoplestown Neighborhood Association (PNA) meeting will be 7 PM at Barack and Michelle Obama Academy (BAMO). Mural completion for Ridge Ave. will take place 1/11 and 1/13. PNA elections will be 5/12 - submit nominations by 4/28.

Question: What are the criteria to run for office?

Answer: Attendance at 50% of general body meetings - Saturday community meetings, PNA meetings, and/or NPU-V meetings - the previous year or win two-thirds of the current PNA board's vote.

Pittsburgh - The next Pittsburgh neighborhood meeting will be 2/10 at 10:00 AM.

Summerhill - ONS met on 1/4. Illegal filming occurred in the neighborhood on 12/16 at Terry St. and Fulton St. A deputy was present but filming is still illegal without a permit. Summerhill approved both variance requests. Park Pride awarded a \$20,000 grant to expand the playground for Phoenix Park II. The end-of-year cleanup for Phoenix Park III had 15 volunteers. Mulch was spread, branches were picked up, and Moe's catered. Residents are working on a neighborhood profile/snapshot to help with future decisions with Mokia Macias consulting. Door hangers and signs are being used to expand communication reach. The house sign design contest has completed. Geoff Heard congratulated participants of the end-of-year senior events.

Roll Call

Adair Park - 3

Pittsburgh - 7

Mechanicsville - 7

Summerhill - 5

Presentations

Planning - Office of Design - This office combines historic preservation and urban design study programs. Doug Young is the assistant director. Contact him at: dyoung@atlantaga.gov, (404) 330-6702. Atlanta City Studio is a pop-up program with education and social events. Design assistance work includes the Atlanta City Design document. The Historical Preservation Ordinance has protected properties since 1975 and includes 20 districts and 63 buildings. Doug Young reviews and approves projects in the protected areas. The 41st annual Awards of Excellence are in May and projects of any size may be nominated. The 2nd annual Community Design Awards are voted on and submitted by NPU-V. There will be a master planning and strategy update in Spring.

Question: Is there funding to assist in low-income historical areas?

Answer: Not presently. The office is seeking funding and implementation strategies.

Question: Are modular or tiny homes on the horizon?

Answer: Atlanta allows modular homes and a pilot tiny house ordinance has been adopted and will be expanded this Spring.

Question: What is the implementation process of the preservation strategy?

Answer: New tools, regulations, and funding avenues are being sought

Relay Bike Champions - New virtual hubs are being installed but more sites are needed, especially in Peoplestown. Free bike classes for all ages and skill levels are available. There will be an urban confidence ride on 1/13 at the Arts Center Marta station.

Annie E. Casey Foundation - AECF is starting a Resident Leaders for Equity Program with up to 10-15 residents from NPU-V. The program is 9 months with 1 session per month and will teach skills to manage neighborhood change. Applications are due 1/21 and can be submitted in person at Dunbar Center Suite 304 or by email.

Elected Officials

Nan Orrock, GA State Senator - Today concluded the 1st day of the legislative session. The GA Assembly will set a \$25 billion budget. Election year will have a large impact on future sessions. Qualifications are in March and primaries are in May. More women and Democrats are seeking and being elected to office. A meeting was convened to address affordable housing, but currently available stock is in poor shape and there isn't enough. There are significant homelessness and mental health issues.

Question: What are the prospects for HB51 - campus rape bill?

Answer: This is a significant issue. The bill failed last year, but there is a big push from Republicans this year.

Question: Is there a plan for Plant Vogtle accountability?

Answer: Georgia Power has a lot of political power, but there is bipartisan criticism of the current power plan.

Question: What is the senator's stance on blighted properties?

Answer: A powerful state lobby of realtors and apartment owners oppose regulation and tie the hands of counties and cities.

Question: Is there legislation proposed for a Community Benefits Agreement?

Answer: There is no legislation in the works but Nan Orrock wants to be engaged.

Comment: Slumlords are a major issue and there needs to be a comprehensive solution?

Answer: Housing Justice League will plug in to help craft legislation.

Felicia Moore, City Council President - She is now an ex-officio committees member and will help with navigating legislation and strategies for City Hall. Tanya Williams is her assistant. Contact Felicia Moore at (404) 330-6052. She will focus on preserving current affordable housing and clean, safe neighborhoods.

Question: Keisha Bottoms will put billions of dollars in affordable housing. How can CDCs get involved?

Answer: It is too early in the process for specifics

Question: How can Felicia Moore help with the city development plan?

Answer: If the plan has any legislative authority, she will make sure committee chairs are engaged.

Comment: Invest Atlanta's rehab program will use Council Districts to allocate funds, but some districts need more funds than others. The Council should help shape funding amounts for each district.

Answer: Felicia Moore will encourage more involvement from council members.

Question: Eminent Domain needs to be changed for more clarity and transparency. How can this be revisited?

Answer: Currently the Council must be notified of a structure's occupancy, but there must be more information.

Voting Matters

Carter Coleman - Quick fixes are in the works in february to address zoning issues. Z-17-93 proposes 14 changes of the zoning ordinance. No vote.

V-17-329 - The property owner is seeking a reduction from 51 to 15 parking spaces. Columbus Ward requested the applicant attend the upcoming Peoplestown Community Meeting. There was concern over overflow into street parking spaced. Summerhill unanimously supported the applicant. Tenants will include retail and two restaurants, hopefully with grocery options. There was a motion and second to support the applicant: 16-yes, 1-no, 3-abstain

V-17-343 - Peoplestown approved the applicant at their meeting. There was a motion and second to approve: 16-yes, 0-no, 0-abstain.

V-17-344 - The proposed setback reduction will allow a 19 ft wide house and the dwelling will conform to surrounding homes. ONS supported the applicant. There was a motion and second to approve: 13-yes, 0-no, 4-abstain.

V-17-368 - Applicant was absent. There was a motion and second to defer to the Peoplestown meeting: 17-yes, 0-no, 1-abstain.

Z-17-93 - There was a motion and second to defer: 0-no, 0-abstain.

Announcements

Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers - The lawyers help with slumlord issues and illegal evictions. Call (404-) 859-1164.

American Friends Service Committee - The Committee is recruiting adults for facilitating a listening project. Email fnnun@afsc.org.

John Bascum of Westcare has passed. There will be a memorial this Saturday.

Universoul Circus is returning this year from 2/2 - 3/15 in the Turner Field lots.