



Oakland City Community Organization
General Body Meeting | July 27, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom

MEETING MINUTES

43 people joined

- I. Welcome – Terra Washington, President**
 - a. Terra reminds folks to always email occo

- II. Approve June Minutes – Laura Glass-Hess, Parliamentarian**
 - a. Alex motions to approve.
 - b. Allison seconds.
 - c. No opposition. Motion passes.

- III. Treasurer’s Report – Allison Myrick, Treasurer**
 - a. New revenue: TFA grant finally hit, as did \$350 from CM Winslow for trash cans.
 - b. Total expenses: \$153.47
 - c. Balance: \$13K... (required to spend \$7,500 from the TFA grant by year-end). We will share an update

- IV. Atlanta Police Department Zone 4 Update – Lt. Gruen**
 - a. Auto thefts are up.
 - b. Apartments at Oakland Drive/Campbellton.
 - c. New beat officer assigned -- older fellow who may be able to give us more community policing aspects.
 - d. Asked officers to step up traffic violations. Trying to focus on pedestrian heavy areas -- Beecher and
 - e. Also pushing resources to AutoZone to deal with folks who.
 - f. Mrs. Mills on 1076 Lawton had a shootout in her backyard - people jumped her fence. She called 911 and also went to Zone 4 precinct that evening. Lt. Gruen had not heard a call filed that evening -- he is still doing research on this. Says officers have not found info in their system -- maybe got lost in the new system. Mrs. Mills says the issue is with White Oak/Peeples. Lt. Gruen says if call not associated with specific address, it is hard to track.
 - g. Zone 4 - down 6% since last year, according to Lt. Gruen.
 - h. 28% increase
 - i. 906 Oakland Drive - No record of the distress call.
 - j. Terra reminds folks to come to fourth Thursdays of each month at 7 p.m. for one-on-one with APD. Lt. Gruen was at Finch for the meeting but no one came to the July meeting.
 - k. Need to reconcile discrepancy between what APD and PAD are saying about uses of 311:** Kyle Lamont’s comments: “Yes 311 said that PAD was 24 hours and when I called
 - l.** 911 they wouldn’t even take the call because they said it was best for PAD. So how would the know if it’s arrest-able if the please are responding to mental health.”

- V. Candidates for Elected Office (3 minutes each; 15 minutes total) - Terra Washington, President**
 - a. District 4 City Council Candidate Forum, Moderated by WABE’s Rose Scott - Monday, August 23 at 6:30 p.m.

- i. *Antonio Brown -- Running for Mayor. Current Atlanta City Council for District 3.*
- ii. *Cleta Winslow -- Running for Atlanta City Council District 4 (incumbent)*
- iii. *Andre Dickens -- Running for Mayor. Current Atlanta City Council Post 3 At-Large.*
- iv. *Rogelio Arcila - Running for Atlanta City Council District 4. Current community activist.*

VI. Committee Updates & Community News – Chairs

- a. Public Safety & Roads – Nicole Kimes (Absent)
 - i. Transportation: James Johnson asks: I would like to know how to formally request stop signs be added at Atwood St & Beecher St intersection. Currently, it is the only intersection along Beecher St. between Cascade and Donnelly without a stop sign and daily vehicles are traveling upwards of 80mph with pedestrians including kids are present. Thanks, James. -- Alex offers to offline about this with regards to NPU-S Transportation Committee.
hester4fam@gmail.com
- b. TFA Grant Update - Terra Washington, Alex Dileo
 - i. To recap, we will concentrate the funds from our \$7,500 TFA grant on three areas for Oakland City: 1) public art/placekeeping initiatives to celebrate our Oakland City community identify 2) more trash cans in the neighborhood (leveraged with funding from CM Winslow and NPU-S) and 3) covered bus stops for 1-2 of our popular transit stops in the neighborhood
 - 1. Jason Dozier reminds us: MARTA is also in the early stages of redesigning their entire bus network (service changes expected to into effect next Summer) so bus stop locations may be subject to change.
<https://itsmarta.com/busnetwork.aspx>
 - 2. James asked how we can be sure trash cans will be serviced? Keep Atlanta Beautiful
 - ii. James Johnson asks for future use of clearing greenspace on Westboro from kudzu. Alex invites folks to join community greenspace committee of OCCO.
 - iii. Judy Walker asks about engaging legacy residents who do not have digital access. We need community engagement that is not solely digital.
- c. Zoning – Kyle Lamont
 - i. Murphy Crossing - still in RFP
 - ii. Donnelly/ALT - ALT thinks they can move forward with the site.
 - iii. Tucker Ave/ALT - Just put up a fence to curb dumping. For more info on the Atlanta Land Trust's project on Tucker Avenue, please visit:
<https://avenueatoaklandcity.com/>
 - iv. Peeples/Tucker Ave - Atlanta Land Bank had an interest. It was just sold so we should anticipate a home to be built, and they are aware it is a historic.
 - v. Beecher/Cascade - NPU-S denied rezoning request
 - vi. OAC/WAWA - Restoring Atlanta Black Crackers Field at Bush Mountain. Renderings have been presented. Fairly outdated. So they will be coming before the community for updated input.
 - vii. Fort Mac - Board did not meet this month. Tyler Perry interested in portion, TDJakes interested in another portion. We need to treat as two separate parcels, says Kyle. If you want to get involved, let Kyle know.
 - 1. Judy says she has been talking with Debra Scott at Georgia STAND-UP. She is happy to share more, or Kyle can.
 - viii. Cathedral of Faith -- Terra shares update -- they want to build housing on
 - ix. **Please join us at the monthly Zoning and Land Use committee meeting the second Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. on Zoom for more in-depth conversation and to give input.**
 - x. Cut Rate Box - Eric Kronenberg presents

1. Seeking rezoning. City planners have recommended mixed residential commercial.
 2. We have asked for more affordability and they met us at 30%
 3. Kyle motions to approve rezoning.
 4. Laura seconds.
 5. Yeses, no nos.
 6. Motion passes. Will go to the NPU next.
 7. HaVared Yshra'El abstains because they don't know enough about hte project, Kyle offers to talk after.
 8. Community asks to keep pressure on Joyce Shepherd for traffic study.
 9. Rendering:
https://www.dropbox.com/s/elgtjx99hgk4gw1/2018_09_18%20Murphy%20Final%20Rendering%20-%2076x37%20LOWER%20RES.jpg?dl=0
- d. Historic Preservation – Chika
- i. We now have a dedicated historic district officer: City of Atlanta Historic Preservation Enforcement Officer: Londell Fleming; lofleming@atlantaga.gov; Please note, he is the only specialized enforcement officer for the city (managing over 10+ historic districts.) Please feel reach to reach out first to the neighborhood historic committee with any concerning properties to avoid duplicated reports – historicocco@gmail.com. Thanks!
 - ii. People inquire about new, large house being built on Bridges/Oakland Drive. It is technically in Bush Mountain and not in our historic district, and they have their permits fully updated.
 - iii. Next UDC Historic Meeting is August 11th - reach out to Chika
- e. Beautification – Carissa Zedaker
- i. Clean-up dates on the calendar: for next 3 months, will just to one Sturday month
 1. August 28 9-11 am
 2. September 25 9-11 am
 3. October 23 9-11am
 4. Opened to suggestions on locations in the neighborhood; text Carissa on where to pick-up 770-900-5241
 - a. One idea: Trying to partner with another neighborhood when you cross Campbellton... Judy suggests Sylvan and Avon
- f. Seniors & Youth Engagement – Terra Washington, Laura Glass-Hess
- i. With the help of 15 volunteers, built an outdoor classroom at Finch! Thank you, Laura, Adriana, Winnie, and others for leading this charge. Knocked it out in two days!
 - ii. Little Free Libraries - we did these last year during COVID, and they are finally ready to be installed! Lifecycle will install them this Thursday
- g. Gardens & Trees – Mike McCord (Absent)

VII. Public Officials & Community Partner Updates – Various

- a. Councilwoman Cleta Winslow
- i. See movie night notes below in WAWA
 - ii. Also, MARTA is doing Campbellton Road Light Rail and Bus Rapid Transit survey and in-person meetings. Campbellton is second busiest behind Buford Highway! MARTA wants to hear from you.
 - iii. Introduced legislation to not have any more convenience stores in District 4. CM Winslow says we have too many convenient stores and too close together. Need to change quality of retail. Have crime issues at these. Asks for NPU to support when it comes before us.
 - iv. Clean ups - CM Winslow has been hosting bimonthly and has been taking money out of her budget to handle the issue.
 - v. Councilwoman Cleta Winslow cell: 404-216-1701

- b. Representative Natalie Hall
 - i. Demetrius Myatt shares: property tax assessments have been mailed out. If you need help or want someone from the tax assessors office to come out, let Demetrius know. Deadline to appeal is August 5, but they may extend.
- c. Representative Stacey Evans (absent)
- d. NPU-S -- Nick Hess, Chair
 - i. Nick Hess, NPU-S Chair; (404) 890 0089; chair@npu-s.org
 - ii. Meetings are third Thursday of the month. Register beforehand using:
 - iii. NPU-S meeting every 3rd Thursday of each month, 7pm. Next meeting Aug 19
 - iv. Register @ <http://bit.ly/NPUS-Meeting-Register> or call 770 744 5311 & leave message
 - v. Summary from last meeting: 1) Cut Rate Box rezoning was postponed; 2) CM Winslow's southwest overlay -- will be discussed at next land use meeting on August 4 (Next Land Use meeting Aug 4 <https://zoom.us/j/99268781798>)
 - vi. Nick putting together community convo on homelessness -- on August 2 Community Conversation on Homelessness; <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87529405802>
 - vii. Trying to raise more funds for volunteer senior lawn care program. Have funds to run through August, trying to extend through October. You can donate at <https://www.gofundme.com/manage/nicks-birthday-fundraiser-for-npu-s> or <https://venmo.com/u/hessnick>
 - viii. A donation of \$35 will help cut one senior's grass. Trying to raise \$3,500, but Nick is trying to stretch to \$5,100
- e. West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA) & Outdoor Activity Center
 - i. NaTaki Osborne Jelks, Co-Founder of WAWA, joins. Also current board chair.
 - ii. 100 Black Men of Atlanta ("Emerging 100 Group"), Delta, and MLB people coming to volunteer on the practice lot for Atlanta Black Crackers. Quick project put together -- tomorrow, work day will 1) mulch trail on Bridges Ave. into the field (cars were dumped there) 2) MLB has already helped clear large stands of kudzu on the property... still lots more, but were able to scrape a bunch (Versus do it by hand like they usually do) and it opened up the space a lot more 3) recreate firepit on site 4) will plant a tree that came from old Atlanta Crackers ball field in Ponce City Market area
 - 1. Will the tree planting happen tomorrow? Some, yes, but not all. We can include the community in the future.
 - 2. This event is 9-1 tomorrow
 - iii. Hoping that we can leverage this attention for further funding
 - iv. Comment from Brent Brewer in the chat: NaTaki is a real one. Congrats on the attention to the Black Crackers field. My kids will always remember eating smores around the campfire on July nights there. It would be nice for the area to be landscaped for future Oakland City children to enjoy year-round.
 - v. Hands on Atlanta asked CM Winslow to host movie night -- will happen tomorrow evening in West Oakland Missionary Baptist Church parking lot. Free popcorn and hot dogs. Movie showing: 42. Movie will start at 8:30 tomorrow evening.
- f. Atlanta BeltLine (absent)
- g. Atlanta Land Trust
 - i. Amanda Rhein joined. Kyle provided updates in Zoning meeting. See above link for Tucker Ave project.
 - ii. Trying to submit land disturbance permit to City of Atlanta but need to fix one technical problem.
 - iii. Working to pre-qualify people who want to buy at Tucker Avenue, so please visit site if you are interested.

- iv. Alex asks if there are plans to canvass neighborhood and talk to renters who may want to buy? Amanda suggests we offline to make a plan.

VIII. Questions & Wrap-up – Terra Washington, President

- a. Other comments:
 - i. Allison Myrick: The CDC has released new advisory practices for people that are fully vaccinated. They are recommending that vaccinated people wear face masks covering their mouth and nose in public indoor areas due to the rise of COVID-19 cases due to the more contagious Delta variant. Please check out the CDC webpage for more information.
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated.html>
 - ii. Roy Cogdell: Open Hand Atlanta is still serving over 5000 meals a day Monday-Friday. We recently reopened our meal packing area, and we are asking that anyone who has been vaccinated to come in and lend a hand taht will effect over 80 seniors, sick and shut in clients around Oakland City. See our calendar at openhandatlanta.volunteerhub.com