



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

MEETING MINUTES

**Please keep to 3 minutes each for your updates.*

- I. Welcome – Terra Washington, OCCO President**
 - a. New Neighbor Greetings!
 1. Austin Broussard, whose father pastors the Love Center on Campbellton Road, joins for first time
- II. Approve March Minutes – Laura Glass-Hess, OCCO Parliamentarian**
 - a. Alex motions to approve March minutes.
 - b. Rogelio seconds.
 - c. No opposed -- motion passes.
- III. Quick Highlights on Treasurer’s Report – Terra (Allison Myrick Out of Town)**
 - a. Allison is on vacation.
 - b. \$3,989.66 balance.
 - c. This includes Cathedral of Faith reimbursement for the books we provided for Finch students for Read Across America. We purchased \$1,583 worth of books from Penguin Random House that Cathedral of Faith then reimbursed. For those students still learning virtually, they held a drive-thru pick up, or students received books at the school.
 - d. Next month: we should do a banner push. New neighbors, get yours on occoatl.org
- IV. Atlanta Police Department Zone 4 Update – Capt. Cantin or Lt. Gruen**
 - a. New: Monthly APD/OCCO Meeting: 4th Thursdays at 7 p.m. at Rev. James Orange Park
 - b. Lt. Gruen joins. Over Zone 4 evening watch. Met a few people at the park last week. He had issues joining Zoom.
 - c. His updates: Oakland City is a hotspot. Seeing a lot of activity right now at the park. At the park last week, talked about implementing new safety measures
 - d. Alex asks about the motor bike accident at Lee/Avon on Sunday. There was some discussion on Nextdoor that a young boy on an ATV was killed. Was that true? Gruen says that ATV accelerated and tried to bash the Georgia State Patrol car and ended up rolling the ATV. He was not wearing a helmet and sustained a head injury.
 - e. Alex asks whether APD’s Zero Chase Policy former Chief Shields put in place is still in effect. Lt. Gruen said it is up to the officer and their supervisor who can determine based on the circumstances whether to pursue. APD does not pursue most traffic chases - it is up to the totality of the officer. It would need to be very serious for APD to pursue. Lt. Gruen says GSP has a different policy and he cannot speak to that.
 - f. Carissa asks about a shooting at the park on Sunday. Gruen says there was exchange of gun fire with group of young folks. Juvenile shot in the leg. Was treated by Atlanta Police. Still under investigation so the file is not open for further reading.
- V. Committee Updates – Chairs**
 - a. Public Safety & Roads – Nicole Kimes

- i. Nicole encourages attendance at the NEW monthly meeting with APD for our neighborhood at James Orange Park the fourth Thursday of every month at 4 p.m.
 - ii. This is an important way to be informed.
 - iii. Last week, discussed license plate readers, ATV racing, etc.
 - iv. This is an important time to see a collection of neighbors coming together and for the community to get to know officers who patrol our neighborhood.
 - v. Nicole has also connected with neighborhood watch. We are on the path to establishing a formal group. Having this formally recognized would mean that we would get signs added, which would deter crime. We get formally recognized by having people show up to our
 - vi. Contact Nicole if you would like APD to come out and do a FREE assessment of how secure your home is based on lighting, locks, etc. -- contact Nicole if so.
 - vii. Nicole needs help on her committee! She is a one woman show doing an awesome job, but she could use some support.
 - viii. Coffee with a cop - do we want to host the next one for the entire Zone 4? We need attendance to ensure it is worth everyone's time. This could be on Zoom, in person, etc. Neighbors thumbs up that they would like to host and attend. **May 4th at 5:30 p.m. for Zone 4. Alex/Nicole will send out Zoom info.**
- b. Zoning – Kyle Lamont
- c. Historic Preservation – Chika
- i. 2nd and 4th Wednesdays are the historic meetings -- always open
 - ii. Judy asks if we can send reminder emails. Yes
 - iii. Ms. Brenda Mills asks about what was voted on at the last NPU meeting regarding zoning. She wasn't sure what that was exactly. Nick Hess, NPU-S President, explains that it was the Atlanta BeltLine subarea 2 master plan. We voted in March to defer the vote on the subarea 2 master plan and then voted to approve with OCCO feedback at the April meeting.
 - 1. **Ms. Brenda Mills would like to speak with Kyle Lamont for an update.** She would like to get more involved now that she is vaccinated -- she's back! :)
 - 2. Judy suggests we give out Whitney Fuller's information at the Atlanta BeltLine. She can answer questions about their plans and walk through in detail.
 - a. WFuller@atlbeltline.org is her email
- d. Beautification – Carissa Zedaker
- i. Last two clean ups in April got rained out.
 - ii. Upcoming dates:
 - 1. Thursday May 6th 6-730pm -- will start Oakland Drive and Merrill
 - 2. Saturday 5/22 9-11am
 - 3. Monday 5/31 10-12
- e. Seniors & Youth Engagement – Terra Washington, Laura Glass-Hess
- i. Terra shares “Get to Know Our Seniors” campaign. Started door-knocking in April by knocking on Indale. Terra met several people who want to be more engaged.
 - ii. Judy says many also just want to get involved in activities as well and contribute their talents.
 - iii. Laura shares reading update with Finch Elementary. In May, the last month of the school year, we will start small reading to K-2 on Zoom to get them more excited about reading. Thank you to all of the volunteers -- we have filled the slots! We will extend to more grades starting in the fall.
 - iv. Laura also shares their request for the outdoor classroom. They want to set up a second outdoor space with seating and some plants. This would be for the fall. Contact Laura if you have skills to share.

- f. Gardens & Trees – Mike McCord, Alex Dileo
 - i. Mike shares that we are still hosting volunteers every Saturday at the Campbellton Community Garden from 10-12. There are plots available if you want to join the garden. Also looking for volunteers.
 - ii. Another volunteer opportunity: Dr. Erica Holloman Hill leads volunteer days at the Harknett Community Garden on Thursdays. Mike can help you get plugged in.
 - iii. Ivy project -- hoping to expand to all of NPU-S. Alex will run point and let neighbors know dates/parameters and call for volunteers when we get the next phase launched (hopefully in partnership with WAWA).

VI. Public Officials & Community Partner Updates – Various

- a. Councilwoman Cleta Winslow --
 - i. Demetrius Myatt speaks on both CM Winslow and Commissioner Hall. She is supportive of our “Get to Know Our Seniors” campaign. CM Winslow has things to put in the baskets (masks, Bombas socks, water) Terra will also follow up with BeltLine flyers for Demetrius to print.
 - ii. Any concerns?
 - 1. Terra shared concern from Indale senior who says MARTA buses are very loud and going to fast . Demetrius says to ask them to get the bus number to share with MARTA.
 - 2. Trash/recycling - Ms. Lee wanted Alex to ask when trash and recycling on the same week will resume. Demetrius says will likely be aligned with when City Council returns in person, which may happen next month. **He will confirm with Terra and share.**
 - 3. Judy asks - can we add covers to the sewers in front of the Oakland MARTA station on Oakland Drive (There are two) and two on Avon going down toward Cascade, on the left hand side. **Demetrius will send this to Public Works and Watershed.**
 - 4. Nicole asks about broken street lighting. Several asked about this at the last safety meeting. Residents are not getting responses from ATL311 about adding lights on poles that are dark. **Nicole will send addresses to Demetrius to get them replaced.** Demetrius says it will take longer to add completely new lights.
- b. Representative Natalie Hall --
 - i. Commissioner Hall is also supportive of senior campaign.
- c. Representative Stacey Evans
 - i. Her rep Elijah Carson joined us. Please sign up for monthly newsletter -- linked in the chat.
 - ii. Updates from the legislative session: she will share more at our next monthly meeting.
 - iii. Judy asks if a covert operation has been started to address gambling going on at the game machines at the convenience stores. **Elijah will note and have her follow up.** Not the first time he has heard of this.
 - iv. Judy also suggests that Rep Evans could help with the outdoor classroom construction at Finch.
- d. NPU-S --
 - i. Why NPU? Participate because this is how the City conducts business at the neighborhood level.
 - ii. Every third Thursday of the month at 7 p.m.

Nick Hess, NPU-S Chair
 chair@npu-s.org (404) 890 0089

NPU-S Meeting (Every 3rd Thursday @7pm)

+ Next meeting May 20 7pm

+ Register at <http://bit.ly/NPUS-Meeting-Register> or call (770)744 5311

- iii. Recruiting for committee help! Get involved by contacting Nick. Here are the meetings:

Committee meetings:

Policy Committee - 1st Saturday @ 1pm - policy@npu-s.org

+ Next meeting May 1 1pm

+ Video: <https://zoom.us/j/99641762467> Meeting ID: 996 4176 2467

+ Phone: 1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 996 4176 2467

Land Use Committee - 1st Wednesday @ 6:15pm - land@npu-s.org

+ Next meeting May 5 6:15pm

+ Video: <https://zoom.us/j/99268781798>

+ Phone: 1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 992 6878 1798

Executive Committee - 2d Sunday @ 4:45pm

+ Next meeting May 9 4:45pm

+ Video: <https://zoom.us/j/99531589760>

+ Phone: 1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 995 3158 9760

Quality of Life Committee - 2nd Thursday @ 7pm - quality@npu-s.org

+ Next meeting May 13 7pm

+ Video: <https://zoom.us/j/93211017316>

+ Phone: 1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 932 1101 7316

Assistant Service Committee - 3rd Wed @ 6:30 - assistant@npu-s.org

+ Next meeting May 19 6:30pm

+ Video: <https://zoom.us/j/92130603409>

+ Phone: 1 646 558 8656 Meeting ID: 921 3060 3409

- iv. Switching meetings from Google Meet to Zoom soon.
- v. Starting lawn service in May. We are still waiting for City's check, but Nick will go ahead and pay and be reimbursed by the city.
- vi. Starting hosting Atlanta elected officials candidate forums. Look at NPU website for these dates.
- vii. NPU-S -- We will elect officers for the NPU this November. If you are interested in running for a position, you can contact Karen Babino (Nick can help you contact her).
- e. West Atlanta Watershed Alliance (WAWA) & Outdoor Activity Center
- i. WAWA has been helping coordinate food boxes for neighbors in need. Terra helps deliver. Fresh fruit, veggies, dairy. Email president@occoatl.org if you know of someone in need -- provide their name and address and phone number if you have it.
- f. Atlanta BeltLine --
- i. Murphy Crossing - Judy gives update in lieu of representation. RFP for developer of Murphy Crossing -- 11 acres -- has gone out (last Tuesday). You can see RFP details on the BeltLine's website. Judy shares that she feels very good about their engagement in the community. There has been talk for 15 years. Glad to see progress.
- ii. Avon Avenue - Nick Hess says they also bought property there and are beginning community engagement. Also, City thinking about removing traffic signal at Avon/Westmont/Orlando... fairly consequential intersection. Plans to make it into an all way stop.

- g. Fort Mac -- Judy shares that there are two meetings most months: a board meeting and a community engagement subcommittee. Open to anyone who wants to attend. We are currently in the 45 day due diligence period for TD Jakes who is looking to portion ~ 130 acres at Fort Mac. Once they have determined whether they will move forward, they will begin holding community engagement meetings. You can see info about what community has asked for over the years on the LRA website -- they are administering the process. Judy says that there will NOT be a megachurch if they go forward, but rather a mixed use development.
- h. Atlanta Land Trust -- Amanda Rhein, Executive Director joins
 - i. Hosting information session tomorrow evening 6-7 p.m. on Zoom -- **Alex will send info out.** Will be presenting info on Tucker Avenue project. You can register on Eventbrite. A few slots left. To register: Register here for the Atlanta Land Trust's information session on 1091 Tucker Avenue tomorrow: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/151502846091>
 - ii. Dumping on Tucker Avenue -- property being held by Metro Atlanta Land Bank. They are responsible for maintaining site. Amanda has contacted them. They plan to put up a fence prior to construction to deter. Unfortunately do not control the Masonic Lodge property nextdoor, where dumping also happens. Land Bank currently getting bids for fencing.
 - iii. Anticipating starting construction later this summer which should help.
 - iv. The fencing will also have info on it for community members who learn more
- i. Councilwoman Joyce Shepherd - Vince Carter shares on Code Enforcement Academy training which starts on May 22. Contact him if you'd like to get signed up: Vince Carter, Constituent Services Specialist, is here for on behalf of Council Member Joyce Sheperd. vicarter@atlantaga.gov 404-546-4968
<https://www.npuatlanta.org/codeenforcementacademy>

VII. Questions & Wrap-up – Terra Washington, OCCO President

- a. Add to contact list: Nisey Woods