

Poncey-Highland Neighborhood Association
Monthly General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 21, 2021

Welcome – Ward Binns, Vice President

APD Zone 6 Update:

- Sergeant Simmons spoke about public safety and the efforts by APD and Zone 6 to combat crime in the city. They continue to promote and encourage the “Clean Car Campaign” in an effort to decrease vehicle theft and larceny. She reported that officers were recently able to make two arrests based upon finger print tests and encouraged residents to support those efforts of using the black powder when necessary because it can be very effective in arresting criminals related to break-ins and theft.
- EL Taylor provided a reminder about the July 28th Town Hall meeting being hosted by APD and Zone 6 officers. This meeting was scheduled to take place a few weeks prior but unfortunately had to be rescheduled due to an officer shooting. Registrations and the original link sent at the time of registration is still valid for this rescheduled date. However, new registrations are not being offered.

Council District 2 Update – Jay Tribby:

- Jay Tribby is Chief of Staff to District 2 Councilmember Amir Farokhi. Jay reminded everyone that City Council is officially on annual recess until August 2nd. Although Jay and Amir will be checking their emails during this recess, keep in mind they might not be able to respond as quickly as normal.
- Atlanta City Hall is scheduled to open to the public Monday, August 9th. Jay suggested that prior to coming down to City Hall to conduct business, everyone should confirm via the City’s website and news channels that the opening date is not delayed.
- For anyone experiencing issues with City solid waste, recycling or yard trimming pickup service, please notify 311 and also send an email to Amir and Jay at ARFarokhi@AtlantaGA.gov and JCTribby@AtlantaGA.gov. Amir and Jay are compiling lists of missed pickups by neighborhood and address and submitting those to a senior staffer in Public Works at the end of each business day.
- With respect to the citywide zoning changes and legislation that Amir has proposed to address affordable housing needs in the city and specifically District 2, Jay recommended that the PHNA Board invite Amir to attend and speak at a monthly meeting to present and explain the legislation to the neighborhood. This legislation does not impact Poncey-Highland due to our Historic District designation, but it would affect surrounding neighborhoods.
- As always, for any concerns within District 2, do not hesitate to email Amir and Jay. Amir’s city mobile number is: 404-290-3347.

Land Use/NPU – Lianne Deren, Land Use Chair:

- Three applications have been filed for Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) that were presented to the UDC in July.
 - 592 Linwood which is a Type III COA <https://www.ponceyhighland.org/land-use/592-linwood-avenue-type-iii-certificate-of-appropriateness> This COA is a renovation and addition to an existing historic residence in subarea 1. The UDC approved the COA with conditions and the variance was approved.
 - 585 Linwood Avenue – Type III COA <https://www.ponceyhighland.org/land-use/585-linwood-avenue-type-iii-certificate-of-appropriateness> This COA was submitted for a variance for a freestanding pavilion/accessory structure in the back yard. The variance is for an accessory structure setback reduction from 7 feet to 4.77 feet so that it can be built on an existing stone patio. The UDC approved the variance with conditions.
 - 791 Ralph McGill (NPU-M for Review & Comment Only) <https://www.ponceyhighland.org/land-use/791-ralph-mcgill-blvd-ne-z-21-042-amp-v-21-110> Applications Z-21-042 and V-21-110 are for rezoning and a variance for the property at 791 Ralph McGill Blvd in Old Fourth Ward. This is a vacant lot next to Block Lofts to be redeveloped as a 24 unit multifamily property. This is outside of Poncey-Highland’s NPU. It is a neighboring NPU/NPU-M and therefore submitted for review and comment only because Poncey-Highland is within 300 feet of the property. The applicant met with the Fourth Ward Alliance, and NPU-M Land Use Committee who have both given recommendations of approval for the rezoning and variance applications. The applicant also met with the adjacent properties, Block Lofts & NuGrape Lofts, and are working with them to address their concerns. The applicant also met with the Poncey-Highland Land Use Committee who also expressed support for this project.
- If anyone has questions for the PHNA Land Use Committee please feel free to email phlanduse@gmail.com. Questions related to renovations or developments within Poncey-Highland’s Historic District should be sent to the PHNA Historic Subcommittee at PHhistoric@gmail.com.
- The CDP (Comprehensive Development Plan) is Atlanta’s guide for growth and development. Per the Georgia Department of Community Affairs and Atlanta Regional Commission, the City of Atlanta is required to adopt and implement a CDP and update it every 5 years. Major updates take place every 5 years while minor updates take place annually and on an as needed basis. The Land Use Committee submitted updates from Poncey-Highland which were included in the final draft for NPU-N’s updates that were reviewed, discussed and voted on with unanimous approval at the June 24th NPU meeting.
- The NPU reported an update from the City’s Code Enforcement Department. This department manages complaints for property maintenance issues such as yards not being mowed or properties being in disrepair. The Code Enforcement Department is just beginning to transition back from working in their home-offices amidst COVID quarantines, and they are apparently very backlogged and still working on 2020 cases. If you have filed a complaint without receiving a response, this is why.

- At the NPU meeting on July 22nd, the Freedom Park Master Plan will be presented by Beth McDonald for review and comment only.

Treasurer Report – Nick Pastore:

- There was not a lot of activity during the month of June. PHNA received a few donations and had zero expenses. However, there will be more activity in August with the current fundraising efforts and Camp Poncey-Hi. The current cash balance is \$4,937.

Fun & Fund-raising Events – Ward Binns, Vice President:

- Ward invited everyone to get involved and attend Camp Poncey-Hi, which is a series of events from July 31st – August 28th. Three corporate sponsors have stepped up to support the event (Carrie Cala of Harry Norman Realtors, New Realm Brewing and The Highland Inn). There are a variety of events available with some free events and some paid ticketed events. Some of the events are adults only and others are family-friendly. With both educational events and “just for fun and fellowship” events, there is something for everyone. Get involved and sign-up for your event tickets today before they sell out!

*Please reach out to Andrea Zern (Secretary) regarding any additions, omissions or corrections.
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