

Poncey-Highland Neighborhood Association
Monthly General Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 16, 2021

Welcome – Erika Heller, President

APD Zone 6 Update:

- Sergeant Murphy reminded everyone to continue following the “Clean Car Campaign.” It is recommended that you always remove all items from your vehicle, including the trunk, to discourage car break-ins. He also suggested keeping dash cameras in vehicles parked on the street to serve as a deterrent for criminal activity. The dash cams can also provide digital evidence for law enforcement to use in the event of a criminal incident.
- Sergeant Murphy was asked about the status of street racing incidents and arrests and whether progress is being made to improve the situation. His response was, no, and he explained that per current policy, APD is not able to make traffic stops and pursue street racing offenders. He further explained that policy at the city level must change and a large-scale operation in conjunction with GA State Parole would be the most effective way to mitigate the street racing. He recommended that residents and communities request policy change and request that the City work with state agencies to pursue the street racers, make arrests and impound vehicles involved in street racing.
- Sergeant Floyd responded to a question about who to call (911 or 311) in the event of incidents with homeless individuals trespassing, public urination or indecency, etc. He explained that any illegal activity requiring an immediate response should be reported to 911. If there is concern for a homeless or other individual who is not committing illegal activity but appears to need help of some kind, you should call 311 to report it to the Policing Alternative Division (PAD). PAD will typically respond within 24-48 hours. For additional information, please visit PAD’s website: <https://www.atlantapad.org>.
- EL Taylor shared information about a town hall meeting with Zone 6 APD representatives including Zone 6 officers and commanders as well as executive staff from APD. The registration link for the town hall is posted on the Poncey-Highland Neighborhood Watch Facebook page. If you are not a member of the Facebook page but would like to be, please request to join and EL will add you to the group. The registration link is here: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScVt8SNKgPiQd4XoITNKJ6xw0kSajGCG_KlXkOi25TOMF9MUw/viewform?fbclid=IwAR1T3Zwo-EzJkIHupsdduAAL3nY0HdulvoR1wmGvDj74K1Sly7CNGt2dqOM

Treasurer Report – Erika Heller:

- The current bank balance is \$4,837. One easy way that we can all raise additional funds for PHNA is through Amazon Smile. Please consider choosing Poncey-Highland Neighborhood Association as your charitable non-profit organization in Amazon Smile.

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

- 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, which is proposed to be redeveloped as a 24 unit multifamily property. This is not Poncey-Highland's NPU but rather is a neighboring NPU/NPU-M. Because Poncey-Highland is within 300 feet of the property, PHNA is allowed to review and provide comments on these applications. The applicant has deferred to July when they will present to their NPU. They will also present to the Poncey-Highland Land Use Committee in July.
- 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 has submitted updates from Poncey-Highland and has also made additional recommendations to the NPU with respect to general policies. These will be reviewed and voted on at the next NPU meeting on June 24th.
- Lisa Malaney, Land Use Historic District Subcommittee Chair, provided an update on the Historic District (HD) and stated the HD is working as intended. The HD rules were defined by the neighborhood and are now being supervised and implemented by the Historic Preservation Studio at the City of Atlanta and the Urban Design Commission. The neighborhood has had several projects come through as Type 2 Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) which are less impactful from a historic standpoint and typically average 2 weeks to get approval of the initial paperwork which is required to apply for the building permit. In June we have had our first Type 3 COA on Linwood Avenue to add height to the home structure while maintaining the historic character of the original home based upon the HD guidelines. Type 3 applications are submitted to the city and go through a full Urban Design Commission hearing, which happen every 2 weeks. Lisa again confirmed that the HD is working as intended. For example, the new owners of The Highland Inn and Highland Row have great plans to update and preserve the Inn while following the HD guidelines. Conversely, Dunkin Donuts submitted an application to add a drive-thru on the Buddy's property and this does not align with the Historic District and therefore will not be approved by the City. If anyone has a project and would like the Historic District Subcommittee to review the plans or answer any questions as they move through the process, please feel free to reach out to the Historic District Subcommittee. If anyone has a project and would like the Historic District Subcommittee to review the plans or answer any questions as they move through the process, please feel free to reach out to the Historic District Subcommittee at PHhistoric@gmail.com.
- Karim Shariff of Pacific Point Realty presented the new construction design and build plans for the Freedom Townhomes at 1099 North Avenue. The entrance for the 15 townhomes will be off of North Avenue. They will all be 4 bed 4.5 bath, and pricing is expected to be in the \$800,000-900,000 range. Build completion and occupancy is expected July through September 2022.
- Beth McDonald, Poncey-Highland Freedom Park Representative, presented and shared the final draft of the Freedom Park Master Plan. It was presented to the Poncey-Highland Land Use Committee and Board of Directors on Wednesday, June 9th. You can review the Freedom

Park Master Plan here: <https://freedompark.org/freedom-park-master-plan/> To complete the survey, please click here.
https://issuu.com/freedomisyourpark/docs/fmp_draft_05232021-section_3/2 Thank you for your participation in this planning process!

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

- Ward shared information about Camp Poncey-Hi, which will be an event series to be held July 30th – August 28th. Three corporate sponsors have stepped up to support the event, including Carrie Cala of Harry Norman Realtors, New Realm Brewing and The Highland Inn. If anyone has any ideas for fun sessions for Camp Poncey-Hi or if you would like to host an event during Camp Poncey-Hi, please reach out to Ward via email at Ward@airtightdesign.com.

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