

Attendance: 34

Voting Members: 15 (who signed in)

Call to Order - 10:10 am

Introductions: Stephanie Flowers & Executive Board

Approval of June Minutes: Verbal Vote

Outcome: Motion Passed

Approval of August Agenda: Verbal Vote

Outcome: Motion Passed

Reports from City Departments:

Atlanta Police Department Public Safety

Lieutenant Wilson - Zone 3

23 incidents in the area from July 1 to July 31, 2024. He emphasized the importance of staying alert and proactive in the community, especially around Airbnb rentals and theft from vehicles.

- **Aggravated Assault:** 4 incidents
- **All Other Larceny (Theft):** 3 incidents
- **Burglary/Breaking & Entering:** 7 incidents
- **Motor Vehicle Theft:** 1 incident
- **Murder & Non-Negligent Manslaughter:** 1 incident
- **Robbery:** 1 incident
- **Theft From Motor Vehicle:** 6 incidents

Incident Details:

- **Murder:** There was a murder at 965 Colman Street. APD homicide detectives have identified the person responsible, and an arrest warrant has been issued. The suspect is expected to be arrested in the coming days.
- **Robbery:** A robbery occurred near the BP gas station on Windsor Street, involving a person who had been at a club the previous night. The individual produced a handgun and stole a vehicle. The same suspect was later arrested for the carjacking.
- **Airbnb-Related Burglaries:** There have been multiple burglaries at Airbnb properties. Common incidents include guests stealing items like televisions after checkout.
- **Notable burglaries took place at:**
 - 283 Fletcher Street
 - 973 Ira Street
 - 44 Rockwell
 - 942 Hubbard Street (also an Airbnb)
- **Theft From Vehicles:** Lieutenant Wilson reiterated the importance of the "Clean Car Campaign," encouraging residents to not leave valuables such as iPads, MacBooks, cash, or credit cards in plain sight. Many thefts are happening when vehicles are left with valuables inside. An incident involving a security guard who left his phone, gun, and vest inside his vehicle, which were stolen.

Recent Arrests:

- Several arrests were made in connection to burglaries.
 - **Terrance Barrell:** Involved in multiple burglaries and larcenies at 942 Hubbard St, 299 Fletcher St, 1094 Sim St, and

484 Rockwell. Arrested two days ago.

- **Gary Baldwin:** Arrested for a burglary at 870 Colman St.
- **Charles Carter:** Arrested in connection with a burglary at 675 University Ave.

Safety Advice from APD:

- Reminder to avoid direct involvement if you witness a crime. Instead, residents should call 911, get a vehicle tag number or description, and stay safe. It's important to let the police handle the situation, as the perpetrators might be armed.

Atlanta 311

Sheena Weever - 311 Ambassador

- **Operating Hours:** 311 is now available from 7 AM to Midnight.
- **New Chat Feature:** Residents can chat live with a 311 agent online, offering real-time assistance for non-emergency city services.
- **Services Provided:** Includes reporting issues like potholes, trash, and water service concerns.
- **Fire Hydrant Issues:** Report via 311; these are handled by the Watershed Department.
- **Road Resurfacing:** Road resurfacing projects, managed by DOT, can take up to 5 years due to budget cycles.
- **Code Enforcement:** 311 can't directly communicate with departments like Code Enforcement. Residents should submit issues via 311 and track them using a Case Service (CS) Number. This number can be escalated if needed.
- **Tracking Requests:** Residents can track cases by creating an account on the 311 website. For more issues pertaining to permitting, utilize the the Accela system.
- **Trespassing Issues:** Trespassing cases are escalated to the PAD Department, which sends police to address the situation.
- **Bulk Trash Removal:** Bulk trash pickup must be scheduled in advance through 311, by calling on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. Currently, there are no public dump sites in Atlanta for immediate trash disposal, contributing to illegal dumping issues in vacant lots.

Elected Officials Report:

Eshay Collins - Board of Education Representative APS

School Year Information: School is back in session, so if you see children out during school hours, report to the nearest school for truancy action.

- APS has sent out the facilities master planning presentation, school calendars, testing schedules, and bell schedules for elementary, middle, and high schools.
- **Bell Schedules:**
 - Elementary: 7:45 AM - 2:15 PM
 - Middle School: 9:15 AM - 4:45 PM
 - High School: 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM
 - The new schedules are part of APS's strategy to address bus shortages.
- **Nicole Godan Hays** is now the Holistic Wellness Teacher (Yoga

Instructor) at Gideons.

- **Grocery Store:** Gideons now has an on-site grocery store, and efforts are being made to share this resource with as many Gideons families as possible.

New Superintendent: Dr. Bryan Johnson, the new APS superintendent, was formerly the superintendent of Hamilton County Schools in Tennessee. He is set to begin engaging with the community at Sylvan Middle School.

- The interim superintendent, Dr. Battle, will stay on until December to assist with the transition.

Address Verification Effort: APS is conducting a major address verification initiative due to overcrowding in some clusters, especially at Jackson High School, which is projected to be 400 students over capacity.

- This process applies to all 9th graders in APS, requiring families to re-register and provide updated documentation.
- If families have questions or issues, they can contact Esha Collins for assistance.

Basketball Court Inquiry: There was a question about whether the basketball court on Roy Street is APS property. Esha will follow up and get confirmation about ownership and maintenance, especially since it might be sponsored by the Atlanta Hawks.

Presentations:

Andrew P. Stewart Center

Ashley Hicks Dobberke - Chief Operating Officer

After-School Program at Gideons Elementary: The Stewart Center has begun its eighth year of offering on-site after-school programming at Gideons Elementary.

- There is space for 125 students, with availability in kindergarten and first grade.
- Families with children attending Gideons are encouraged to contact the Stewart Center for enrollment.

Point University Partnership: The Stewart Center is partnering with Point University to offer 40 spots for individuals interested in earning an online college degree at no cost.

- Interested participants will receive a GAP Scholarship packet to apply.
- The program is fully remote, allowing students to complete their degrees from anywhere.
- More information can be found on the Stewart Center's Neighborhood Portal under "Community Resources."

Neighborhood Portal: Visit <https://stewartcenter.org/neighborhood-portal/> for additional community resources and information about the Point University partnership.

Contact Information:

- Website: [Stewartcenter.org](https://stewartcenter.org)
- Email: info@stewartcenter.org

Friends of Pittman Park - Winfrey Young

Grant Writing Season: Grant letters are due by September 1st for the next project in the park.

- The community is invited to submit suggestions on what they'd like to see in the park, such as:
 - Pool chairs and umbrellas
 - Pickleball courts
 - Adult swim events
- If you have any ideas, email them to friendsofpittmanpark@gmail.com.

Updates on Park Projects:

- A splash pad is already planned, thanks to Councilma Antonio Lewis, so no need to suggest that.
- For other amenities, like tennis courts or pickleball, send estimates and equipment costs to Winfrey, and she'll gather community votes on social media.
- The basketball court at Pittman Park is also used as a tennis court, though no one has officially requested tennis access.

Grill Issues: The new grills in the park are burning food unevenly due to air issues, not the grills themselves. Winfrey will report the problem to the city to see if adjustments can be made.

Pittsburgh Collaborative - Winfrey Young

Kroger Store at Gideons Elementary:

- The free Kroger Store inside Gideons Elementary is now open for parents, students, teachers, and staff to register.
- First store opening: August 13th.
- For registration, scan the QR code on the flyers distributed at the meeting or visit the store.

Sponsorships & Hygiene Products:

- Georgia Natural Gas is sponsoring the Kroger store this year.
- On Our Mothers Shoulders, a Black-owned nonprofit, is providing feminine hygiene products and personal care items (e.g., shaving equipment, hair care products) for free in the store.

Blackberry Arts - Winfrey Young

New Database for Artists:

- The Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA) has created a new Artist Roster for artists, businesses, and organizations to prequalify for public art projects in Atlanta.
- Apply by August 31st at ocaatlanta.com to be considered for upcoming art projects.
- If you're not on the roster, you won't be considered for future projects, so be sure to sign up.

Questions from Attendees:

Humphries Street Art Project: The art project on Humphries Street was a private initiative where the property owners invited artists to paint murals. Artists were allowed to show up with their own supplies and participate in the project.

Welch Street Park Update City of Atlanta Parks & Recreation

Presenters: Rachel Maher, Liza Mueller (Public Space Studio), and Tara Buckner (Urban Planner)

Background: Welch Street Park is a small neighborhood park (0.2 acres) in the Pittsburgh neighborhood. Historically, it has been used as a food-producing garden but is being reconsidered for broader community use. The City of Atlanta Parks & Recreation Department aims to revitalize the park based on community feedback gathered through public engagement and surveys.

Public Engagement Process: The first public meeting was held in February 2024, followed by a community survey that ran through May 2024. 32 survey responses were collected, and the results indicate significant interest in using the park for both active and passive recreation.

Survey Highlights:

- Age range of respondents was highest among those aged 30-34, suggesting the park could serve young adults and families.
- Key amenities the community is interested in:
 - Shade structures
 - Flower pollinator garden
 - Benches
 - Informational signage about plants and park history
 - Arch entry for a welcoming feel
 - Secondary or larger trash cans
 - There is also a desire for a sensory garden with interactive elements like wind chimes or other sound-making features, as well as activities for small children.

Next Steps:

- Concept development will occur in August and September 2024, based on feedback.
- A meeting on October 5 will present two to three design concepts for further input.
- The final design will be shared on November 2, including a conceptual master plan and illustrations.

Park Accessibility & Safety:

- The park should be accessible to older neighbors and individuals with mobility issues (e.g., wheelchair access, trip hazard mitigation).
- Consideration will be given to traffic calming around the park, making it a safe walking space rather than a drive-in area.
- Suggestions were made to improve sidewalk conditions near the park, as they are currently cracked and uneven, posing safety risks for older residents.

Community Amenities:

- **Free Little Library:** The community can establish a Little Free Library within the park. The Parks Department can designate a space, but the community will need to maintain it.
- **Doggie Bags:** There was a request for dog waste stations, though the city raised concerns about signaling that dogs can freely use the park.

Feedback & Surveys:

- Final paper surveys need to be submitted by August 8 to inform the design process.
- Additional feedback is welcome, and the community is encouraged to email ideas to the Parks Department or submit surveys at the meeting.

General Park Maintenance: Residents raised concerns about regular maintenance of parks, citing that Pittman Park often only gets attention when high-profile visitors (e.g., the mayor) are coming. The Parks Department acknowledged the issue and offered to schedule walkthroughs with maintenance crews to address specific concerns.

Citywide Trails Plan: The City of Atlanta is working on a citywide trails plan. Residents are encouraged to visit TrailsATL.com to provide feedback on where they would like to see new trails in the city.

Matters for Voting - Atlanta Fork and Spoon

Summary: The vote on Atlanta Fork and Spoon, owned by Tedrick, was postponed to the September meeting as Tedrick was not present.

Background: Tedrick also owns and operates Tedrick's Seafood and is now looking to open Fork and Spoon, which was formerly Blue Ivory. The community had concerns about past issues at the establishment, such as late-night disturbances and rowdy behavior.

Community Concerns: Neighbors want to ensure that Tedrick's new restaurant, Fork & Spoon, will be managed in a way that supports a safe and positive environment. The Mechanicsville neighborhood will also offer input, though they won't vote.

Next Steps: The community will discuss conditions to ensure the business operates responsibly and positively impacts the neighborhood.

Committee Reports:

Housing & Land Use

- No meeting for July.
- Ongoing discussions around the process to redevelop Beltline land, with stakeholder meetings.
- **Murphy's Crossing:** Moving forward in six phases with many community meetings being held.
- **West End Mall:** Announced for redevelopment, with 30% affordable housing, 20% at 50% AMI. More community meetings to come.

Membership/Engagement

Pittsburgh Reunion

- **Date:** August 24, 11 AM – 8 PM at Pittman Park
- **Permitting:** Mostly approved, awaiting final confirmation
- **Event Details:** A big family-style cookout for the community. Attendees are encouraged to bring tents, grills, and food. A stage, DJ, and showmobile will be provided.

- **Parade Update:** There will not be a parade this year due to challenges in closing streets and securing officers. A shuttle service from Pittsburgh Yards to the park is being considered for parking.
- **PNA Participation:** PNA will have a tent with information, food (hot dogs, hamburgers, ribs), and opportunities to engage with the community.
- **Funding:** PNA received a \$3,000 grant but is seeking more donations to reach a \$10,000 goal.
- **T-shirts:** \$20 for regular sizes, \$25 for XL. Contact 706-979-0852 to order. Limited stock; special sizes must be ordered soon.

Communications

- **Email Updates:** Community members are encouraged to sign up for email updates using the QR code. An email with upcoming events will be sent next week.
- **PNA Logo Update:** Three logo concepts are being finalized, featuring designs based on a train, a family, and the Croghan Building. Once finalized, they will be presented for a community vote. The current logo needs to be replaced as it is similar to another Pittsburgh organization.

Public Safety

- Chaired by Chris Welch, is seeking members. If you've signed up before or want to join, please do so today. Welch will lead efforts to improve community safety. Email PNAorg022@gmail.com if interested

Presidents Report - Stephanie Flowers

Community Cleanup and Code Enforcement Event

- A neighborhood-wide cleanup and code enforcement event is being organized, with Danielle from the Stewart Center leading the effort upon her return. The plan is to divide the area into quadrants to ensure thorough coverage, focusing on specific areas needing attention. The PNA is partnering with Keep Atlanta Beautiful and local organizations for supplies, and code enforcement will be involved to address any compliance issues.

Murphy Crossing Updates

- Murphy Crossing, a key redevelopment project, will be voted on by NPU-S, with input from NPU-V and Adair Park. Pittsburgh residents are encouraged to provide feedback at the upcoming NPU-V meeting to influence the project. The PNA will formalize and present all feedback to ensure the community's voice is heard.

1029 McDaniel Street Zoning

- The zoning application for 1029 McDaniel Street will be submitted in October. The PNA will hold a special meeting to review the project and gather community input before sending recommendations to NPU-V.

Art on Humphries and Ralph David Abernathy (RDA)

- A new mural has been installed on private property near Humphries and RDA. While concerns were raised, the city has no jurisdiction over private property art unless public funds are involved. The PNA reached out to the property owner and artist

for dialogue, but no response has been received.

National Night Out (August 6, 5-8 PM)

- National Night Out will take place at Peoplestown on August 6th from 5-8 PM, featuring bookbag giveaways, food, and entertainment. This year celebrates the 50th anniversary of the NPU system, and one "Shining Star" neighbor from each community will be recognized. Volunteers are needed for the event.

Heritage Station Seniors Situation

- Seniors at Heritage Station are facing housing issues like mold, broken elevators, and lack of air conditioning. A recent meeting with the Atlanta Housing Authority and Councilman Lewis's office addressed these concerns. The PNA is working with advocates to push for immediate improvements, especially as management has denied the formation of a tenant association. Solutions are being prioritized to ensure the seniors' well-being.

Closing Prayer: Paul Sturdivant

Meeting End - 12:15 pm

Action Items from Meeting

Community Cleanup Event:

- Plan with Stewart Center.
- Organize community into quadrants for cleanup.
- Partner with Keep Atlanta Beautiful.

Murphy Crossing Vote:

- Collect and submit community feedback to NPU-V.

1029 McDaniel Street Zoning:

- Prepare for zoning application in October.
- Schedule a community meeting for recommendations.

Public Safety Committee:

- Christopher Welch to chair.
- Encourage sign-ups and participation.

Heritage Station Seniors:

- Advocate for housing improvements (leaks, mold, elevator).
- Engage with property management for better communication.

Pittsburgh Reunion (August 24):

- Finalize event permitting and parking at Pittsburgh Yards.
- Solicit donations to reach \$10,000 goal.
- Promote T-shirt sales and ensure special sizes are ordered.
- Coordinate orders and ensure stock availability for the event.
- Post on Social Media

Welch Street Park Survey:

- Submit paper surveys by August 8.
- Plan next meeting for park concept (October 7).