

Community Meeting Report-Out

Atlanta Track Club Track & Field Center at Cheney

King Middle School · August 12, 2026 · Live audience input

Prepared for Atlanta Track Club by Reggie Hammond, facilitator

Executive Summary

Atlanta Track Club has proposed building an indoor Track & Field Center on the Cheney site, adjacent to the existing outdoor track and Phoenix II Park in Summerhill. The facility would include an indoor track, Atlanta Track Club's headquarters, and community and youth programming space. The concept shown at the July 6 neighborhood meeting was an early rendering to test whether the building could fit on the site — not a final design.

On August 12, roughly 150+ participants engaged live in a Community Meeting in Summerhill through an interactive tool, producing a detailed record of where residents, neighbors and the community stand on the proposed Atlanta Track Club project and why. To make the findings intuitive, this report organizes sentiment through the same concentric-circle framework used to design the engagement — moving outward from the residents adjacent to the site to the broader Atlanta community. High level findings:

- **The room was polarized.** Participating Summerhill residents tended to strongly support or strongly oppose the project, with fewer in the middle.
- **Sentiment tracked proximity.** Opposition in the room was strongest among the participating residents adjacent to the site and softened with distance; the broader Atlanta community was strongly supportive.
- **The two sides emphasized different things.** Those adjacent to the site spoke in concrete, local terms (green space, parking, traffic, flooding); supporters spoke in broader terms (community benefit, youth, the city).
- **Sentiment improved over the evening.** As people engaged with the details, support grew across every resident group between the start and midpoint of the meeting.
- **Neighborhood leaders add important context.** Interviews with SNDC, longtime-resident, and ONS leadership indicate meaningful Summerhill support that was under-represented among meeting attendees.

How it would work with Atlanta Public Schools

The site is Atlanta Public Schools property. The proposal is structured as a long-term ground lease: APS would retain ownership of the land, and Atlanta Track Club would lease and operate the facility. Under APS Board Policy KG, which governs long-term leases, the prospective tenant is required to conduct a community-input process before the matter returns to the APS Board — which is the reason for the August meetings. Any final agreement is subject to a public vote by the Atlanta Board of Education.

What is decided vs. still open

Decided / committed	Still open / to be determined
The site is APS property; APS would retain ownership.	The final building design, size, and site layout.
The project would be privately funded by Atlanta Track Club (no city or TAD funds).	The number of parking spaces and its configuration.
The outdoor Cheney track would remain free and open to the public.	Traffic and street decisions, pending a traffic study.
A community-input process is required before any board vote.	Stormwater, environmental, and design details, pending study.
No board vote is scheduled at this time.	Whether the project ultimately proceeds at this site.

Where things stand now

The project is in an early due-diligence phase. Traffic, geotechnical, and other studies are underway; findings will inform the design. The community input gathered on August 12 — summarized in the pages that follow — is part of this phase and is intended to shape what comes next. This is the beginning of a long process, not the end of one.

A note on how this input will be used. The views captured here are exactly that — input. They are meant to inform the professional design, engineering, and planning work ahead, and to surface the concerns and ideas that work should address. They are not a vote, and no single group's input — including that of the residents closest to the site — determines the outcome on its own. The most-impacted neighbors carry particular weight on the issues that affect them most directly, such as traffic and immediate accommodations; decisions about the project as a whole weigh all stakeholders' input alongside the technical studies still underway.

Headline: Support Concentrated by Proximity

The broad sentiment across participating residents from Summerhill and the surrounding community is sharply divided, and it tracks proximity to the site: participating resident opposition is strongest among residents in directly neighboring homes and softens with distance, while attendees from the broader Atlanta community — including runners, APS student-athletes, and THE TRACK CLUB patrons — were strongly supportive. Many residents also see an Olympic-legacy asset, expanded youth and community access, and investment alongside a track the neighborhood already values.

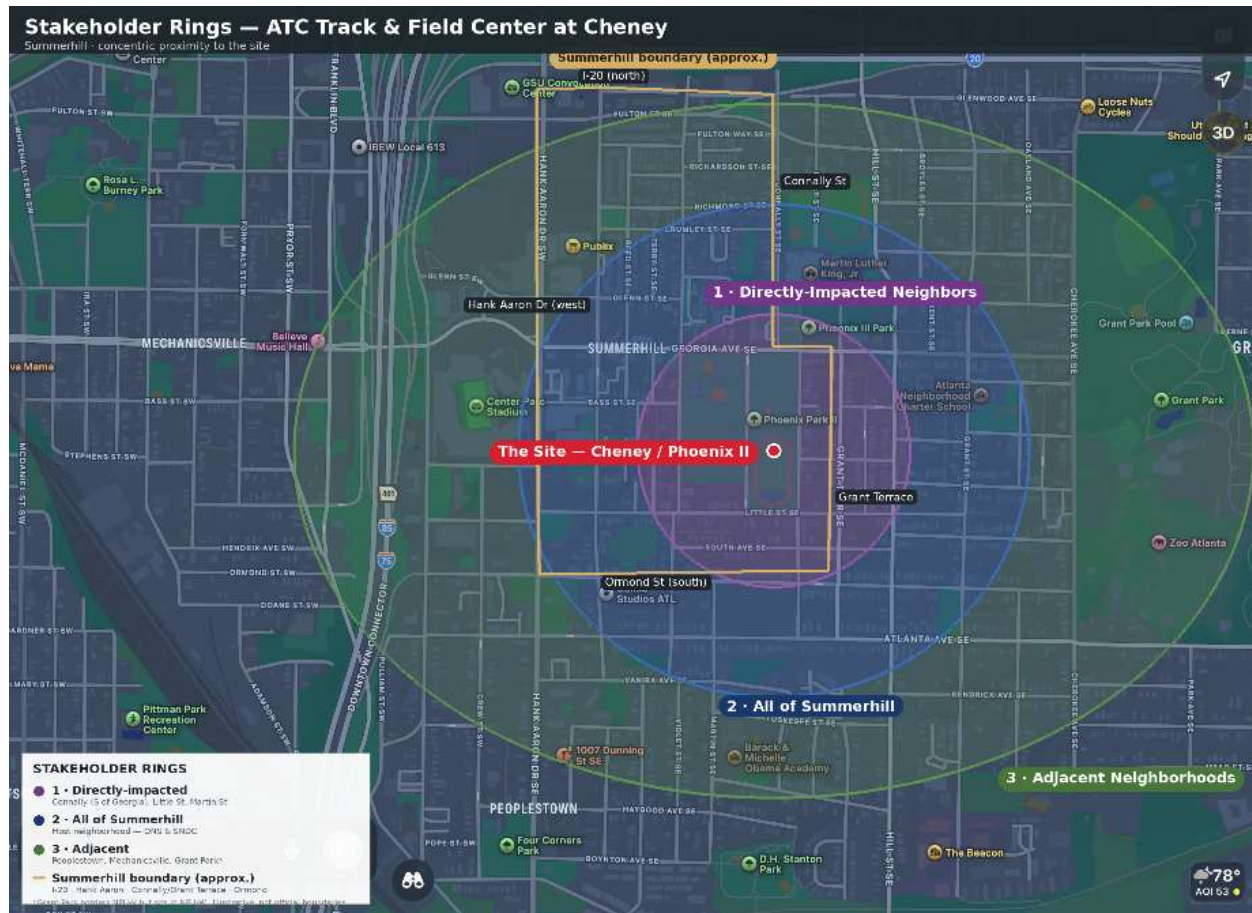
At the same time, there is real, concentrated opposition — smaller in number but high in intensity — centered among the residents most directly adjacent to the site. Their concerns are legitimate and specific, and they are the voices most likely to be present and vocal at every session. A central design goal for the engagement is to ensure the broad, quieter majority is heard alongside the concentrated, louder minority — so the final picture reflects the whole community, not only those most mobilized.

Stakeholder Concentric Rings

Stakeholders relate to this project differently depending on proximity. Reaching each ring intentionally matters:

- **The directly-impacted neighbors** — the tightest ring: Connally Street south of Georgia, Little Street behind the track, and Martin Street along Phoenix II. These households carry the most immediate, personal stakes and are the focus of the August 9 session.
- **Summerhill as a whole** — the host neighborhood, engaged through Organized Neighbors of Summerhill (ONS) and the Summerhill Neighborhood Development Corporation (SNDC).
- **Nearby neighborhoods** — Peoplestown and Mechanicsville, which share the NPU-V planning process (and, in Peoplestown's case, a specific stormwater history), and Grant Park, which sits in NPU-W but borders the site and carries a voice as an adjacent neighborhood.

- **Atlanta Stakeholders** – Runners, APS student athletes and THE TRACK CLUB patrons represent some of the stakeholders represented who enthusiastically support the project.

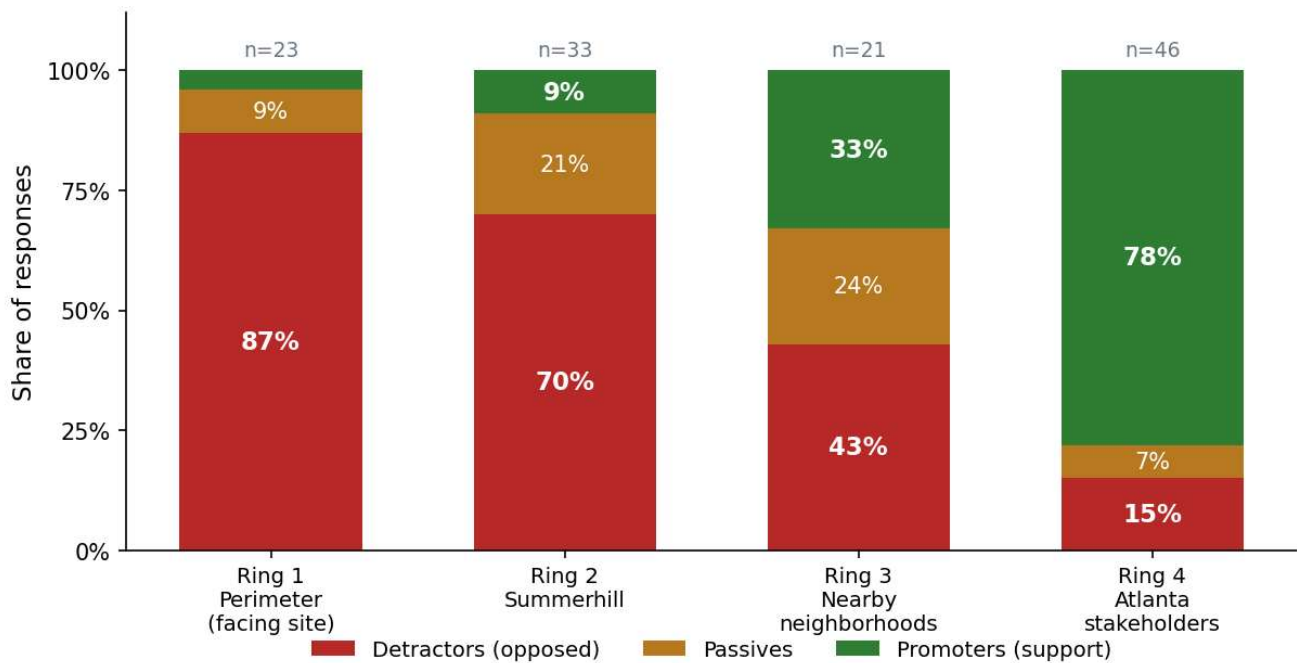


Sentiment Through the Concentric Circles

The clearest way to read the room is by proximity. Opposition concentrates adjacent to the site and eases outward — while the broader Atlanta community is strongly in favor.

A note on what this measures. These findings reflect the views of the people who chose to attend and participate on August 12 — not a scientific or representative survey of Summerhill or the surrounding neighborhoods. Public meetings tend to draw those most motivated to attend, on any side of an issue. The results are a genuine and valuable snapshot of the room, and they should be read that way: as the input of engaged participants, not as a measure of where the entire community stands.

Among those who attended and responded, support grows and opposition softens moving outward from the site.



Support grows and opposition softens moving outward from the site. Every resident ring improved from the start of the evening to the midpoint.

The baseline Among residents of Summerhill and the surrounding neighborhoods, the project drew more opposition than support at this stage. Enthusiasm was strongest among attendees who don't live in the immediate area. Both are real, and both appear in full below — alongside neighborhood-leader interviews that suggest resident support is broader than the meeting attendance alone reflects.

How to read this report Each group below shows participant comments ordered from most supportive (promoter) to most opposed (detractor) on the left, with the recurring themes for that group on the right. We use plain promoter / passive / detractor labels rather than technical scores. “Promoters” rated the project at the top of the scale, “detractors” at the bottom, “passives” in between.

Ring 1 — Perimeter Residents

Resident participants whose homes face the site (Connally, Little, Martin, and the blocks along Phoenix II). The most directly affected, and the most opposed.

Perimeter Residents

Homes directly facing the site · mostly detractors, with a few passives and promoters

Recurring themes

- Green space (7)
- Traffic (6)
- Access & who it serves (4)
- Parking (3)
- Economic/tax (3)
- Process & trust (2)
- Stormwater/flooding (2)
- Scale & fit (1)
- Legacy & history (1)
- General support (1)

PROMOTERS (2)

“Opportunity for wholistic health for the community.”

PASSIVES (6)

“If THE TRACK CLUB follows up with the studies they say they will, then I think this could be great for the local economy.”

“I want to know how much community members would expect to pay, and curious about the flood management”

“Flood management/potential?”

“How much will I be charged to use indoor gym as a summerhill resident”

“APS will eventually do something with these parcels and THE TRACK CLUB has shown good faith with their investment into the neighborhood but I am concerned about traffic.”

“help local economy especially georgia ave businesses”

“I’m happy to know that our voices will be heard and that they are very very early into this process”

DETRACTORS (33)

“Still undecided”

“Loss greenspace Noise Traffic Loss if trees Creating a heat island Impacts on water runoff Massive building that doesnt fit neighborhood”

“Still not clear about traffic congestion in and around the track. Also not clear on who will be held accountable when issues arise on the track.”

“Still haven’t see enough on how traffic will be handled. This is a major concern.”

“I need to know more. I have reservations based on those top 6 answers I want to know more about. Want to hear how this will benefit the community”

“I’m concerned about the traffic and the parking mostly.”

“5I’m not excited about the plans that I have seen so far. I am worried about the building design as I’ve described in my other feedback, but i’m excited for a developer that cares about the community”

“Traffic, taking away community space. The track is already over capacity on a regular weekday.”

“I worry about the environmental impact and the impact on noise, light, traffic pollution water runoff. Heat island impacts. Traffic impact. Loss of community spaces”

“Summerhill has a LONG history of losing green space a neighborhood areas to private interests.”

“I was a lot more open to this before this meeting. The more I hear, the more I feel the track club is consciously NOT listening to the neighborhood.”

“Concerned about traffic, public use, environmental, and economic impacts”

“It’s used as a public park and is popular”

“I’ve yet to see a plan that solves any issues currently faced by the community.”

“This isn’t a project for APS despite it being APS (taxpayer)-owned land. This is the club hoping to dangle a carrot of APS student access to get the land.”

“I live across from Phoenix Park ii , do not want to lose greenspace or have traffic on my street and others.”

“This appears to be a third party hoping to usurp taxpayer-owned land.”

“We were never asked if he wanted it. The greenspace never seemed like it was for sale. We don’t want it in our greenspace”

“This negatively impacts my quality of live.”

“Neighborhood can’t support it the parking, the traffic, the noise, the disrespect from THE TRACK CLUB to the neighborhood”

“You haven’t given any meaningful answers or any real concrete information”

"The Track Club is rushing the public engagement to trick people into thinking that the project is inevitable and the best we can do is mitigate the impacts"
"You clearly don't want to hear from us."
"Move it away from residences without killing our greenspace"
"Removal of green space will not be beneficial to the neighborhood and surrounding communities"
"It's deeply inappropriate that you brought 40 Atlanta Track Club members to tonight's meeting to cheerlead your project"
"I'm fearful that what is an accessible space used by many is becoming an exclusive space used by few."
"While the plan acknowledges an Olympic legacy I still feel that elements of the 1996 history are being erased."
"There are already traffic snafus on my street and my block. The rendering will likely make this worse."

Ring 2 — Summerhill

The host neighborhood. Opposition led among attendees, but concern was more mixed than at the perimeter — and the neighborhood-leader interviews below add crucial context that the meeting sample alone misses.

Summerhill Residents

Host neighborhood attendees · opposition-leaning, but more mixed

Recurring themes

- Green space (16)
- Parking (6)
- Access & who it serves (5)
- Process & trust (3)
- General support (3)
- Scale & fit (2)
- Stormwater/flooding (1)
- Wants more info (1)
- Programming (1)
- Economic/tax (1)

PROMOTERS (7)

"Receptiveness to community feedback. Multiple benefits to the community. Economic growth for the community."
"Good community partner"
"Local neighbors and their parade of horrors are extremists"
"Glad to see parking will be reduced. Flooding and the one-way street closure should be addressed better."
"Community recreation/meeting center, permanent employees, and event attendees to support local businesses"

PASSIVES (12)

"I like the Track Club coming, but the parking lot and building Design could be more civic responsible by incorporating green rooftops for the lot and building"
"Love the programs and access to neighbors for amenities and the track. The parking, congestion, and lack of green space and connectivity to the park are big issues."
"I think it's a good idea and can be good for kids and neighborhood but the layout, parking, flooding concerns need to be addressed."
"Good use of the space"
"More information given about project"
"I think it will improve the neighborhood"
"I want the attention, the visitors, the activity. Do not want the parking lot"
"Love a more active use of the overall space. But we need a more strategic thought process for the overall plan"
"I don't know enough about it yet"
"7 - it seems like a generally good idea but I don't know all of the factors. I'm a track club member and Summerhill resident."

DETRACTORS (37)

"Would be a great amenity for the neighborhood but concerned about access for residents, congestion, and lack of green space"
"Traffic. Parking. Reduction in green space"
"I think it is potentially a good project. My concerns involve parking and rain water runoff"
"Overall, this sounds like a compelling case. However, need a better understanding or dedicated meeting to discuss parking/greenspace once the 90 day window is over with alternative options."
"Not sure if I received enough information to really make a decision on the impact to the neighborhood. Can understand if information isn't available yet, but need that before decisions are made."
"I think it could be beneficial to the community, but Feel that I still need more information to understand the impact on the community and the benefits to the community."
"Still concerned about flooding and want to see the parking markups"

"Don't like the impacts to greenspace, parking, and traffic"
"There are a lot of traffic and green space issues to resolve. The suggestion of moving toward the commercial space and away from the residential space is a good suggestion"
"Still concerned about flood water potential"
"Open to learning about the project, but want to understand the impact to the greenspace, watershed, and parking on the neighborhood. Also how are non car transit options being integrated (bikes, etc)"
"Need more information and community input."
"Still want to make sure you dont turn the soccer field into parking lot"
"Want to see how ami street itself could be better leveraged as both a thoroughfare and parking on the street, no new parking lot needed"
"Keep the greenspace!"
"Unclear flooding plan, parking, community access, creating a new parking."
"Too large for the site and too much concrete"
"So many construction projects in the area"
"Not nearly enough information given, THE TRACK CLUB seems inept"
"We want to know that this is a facility that will be used every day and not an event space that will be used occasionally and then sit empty the rest of the time."
"I think that Summerhill isn't a very large neighborhood. It makes sense why it's wanted here, but it's taking away rare green space."
"Concern about loss of green space, disruption of sidewalks and walking access and additional traffic/danger for pedestrians and dogs"
"Taking away a green space giving Summerhill which changes the community feel. Traffic n parking Do not do this !"
"Another event center!"
"I don't support mowing over green space to make a parking lot when summerhill already has large parking lots along Frasier."
"Do not turn that beautiful soccer field into a parking lot!"
"Another unwanted project dumped on the Summerhill"
"We live here and helps no one that live here but only adds problems"
"It doesnt seem like the main concerns were truly addressed."
"Private club house for THE TRACK CLUB and people who don't even live here. Skeptical it'll actually be accessible outside of events"
"Pushed through for THE TRACK CLUB by THE TRACK CLUB. Subpar community engagement. Community benefits are squishy"
"This is not for the community of summerhill"
"This facility should NOT be located in Summerhill. It will not benefit the community in anyway, and will actually break the heart and energy of Summerhill."
"The facility is not a good fit for the community."

UNSCORED

"This will be a great long term asset to build upon for Summerhill."

Neighborhood Leaders —Insights

Beyond the meeting, conversations with Summerhill's neighborhood leadership surfaced perspectives that the room's self-selected attendance did not fully capture. These are summarized for their on-project substance.

SNDC (Summerhill Neighborhood Development Corporation). Leadership indicated that most of SNDC's residents are supportive of the project, and noted that this constituency was largely not present at the meeting — an important counterweight to attendee sentiment. SNDC has been a constructive channel to the broader legacy-resident community.

Longtime-resident perspective. A respected longtime resident and community figure has engaged constructively throughout — focused on ensuring the process is fair, well-communicated, and genuinely responsive, and on shaping the project to benefit the neighborhood rather than on opposing it outright.

ONS (Organized Neighbors of Summerhill). ONS leadership has been actively engaged and constructive — working to ensure residents are heard through official channels, counter misinformation, and keep the process orderly, while advocating for meaningful accommodations from THE TRACK CLUB. ONS observed that a small, organized opposition is highly motivated to attend every meeting, which can make attendee sentiment appear more uniformly negative than the neighborhood as a whole.

Why this matters Taken together, the leader interviews suggest that Summerhill sentiment is more divided — and more open — than the meeting attendance alone indicates. The most mobilized voices were opposed and present; a quieter base of supportive residents was largely absent. This is the single most important context for reading the numbers fairly.

Ring 3 — Nearby Neighborhoods

Grant Park, Peoplestown, and Mechanicsville — adjacent communities that share the area but not the immediate impact. Sentiment here was genuinely split.

Nearby Neighborhoods

Grant Park · Peoplestown · Mechanicsville · split between support and concern

Recurring themes

- Green space (7)
- General support (5)
- Access & who it serves (5)
- Parking (3)
- Scale & fit (2)
- Process & trust (2)
- Wants more info (2)
- Programming (1)

PROMOTERS (14)

"Positive impact if done well."

"Positive community impact. It seems like these are initial plans to start. Hopefully, the updates address some of the concerns expressed tonight. Very passionate community members were here tonight."

"Tremendous opportunity for the neighborhood"

"Track club working with communities"

"The Track Club working with community"

"Because Senior need place."

"Community and access, bring Atlanta to the front of the running and walking world"

"Adds value to and for the community"

"I appreciate the idea of adding value and quality of life to Atl metro and the impact it will have internationally"

"Bring accessible fitness space to the Atlanta community"

"Excited for more athletic access for Atlanta"

"If the land is going to be developed no matter what, I want it to be a community resource above other options"

"Feel like concerns have been listened to. Facility will be good for community. I want additional green space where possible"

"I think, in general, more resources in the neighborhood are a good thing."

PASSIVES (6)

"Seems like it could be a good addition to the neighborhood"

"Atlanta should have an amazing indoor track."

"Overall could be a great project but worried about scale & impact on community"

"Community concerns"

"Details need more clarity as new studies and developments to the plan happen"

"Improved facility access on currently unused plots. Want replacement green space though"

"I have good experience with the track clubs influence at Cheney field, but am concerned about the green space"

DETRACTORS (15)

"Main concerns are still the parking issues and flooding issues"

"How will it benefit the community as a whole."

"N/A"

"I have not formed an opinion, I am here to listen."

"The conversation was very directed and it did not feel like a discussion. Time needs to be better allocated for public questions/concerns in lieu of only hearing what the club needed the media to hear"

"The current plan adds surface parking to a community that has historically been negatively affected by surface parking."

"I didn't learn anything new about the parking and the environmental impact"

"Want to hear more about green space preservation, traffic concerns, and how exactly programming would work at the indoor track."

"Flooding issues persist in these areas - especially south of the track. This also reduces open use greenspace. The last thing we need is a parking lot"

"There is little green space in the neighborhood. Parking, traffic and water concerns."

"We have enough stadiums in the area already"

"This is a RUSHED public engagement process. Demolishing rare green space."

"Loss of greenspace, loss of stormwater absorption, loss of trees, secretive process."

Ring 4 — Atlanta Stakeholders

Attendees who don't live in the neighborhoods — here to learn about the project. The most supportive group by a wide margin.

Atlanta Stakeholders

Non-resident attendees · strongly supportive, with some concerns

Recurring themes

- Scale & fit (12)
- Access & who it serves (11)
- Youth, health & athletics (11)
- Programming (7)
- General support (5)
- Economic/tax (3)
- Stormwater/flooding (3)
- Parking (3)
- Alternative site (2)
- Green space (1)
- Traffic (1)
- Legacy & history (1)

PROMOTERS (62)

"Continue the history and Legacy of summerhill To give access and opportunity"
"I think it would offer good opportunities for racing, training, and bringing more community to cheney."
"Give kids an opportunity to thrive and develop confidence and pride in themselves"
"Good place for it."
"It brings more active opportunities to the summerhill community"
"Athletic spaces increase shared community engagement and youth opportunities."
"Community benefits and the connections that sports bring to a community (financial, health, mental, etc.)"
"I think it is a good location because it is in the heart of the city, near an outdoor facility, and it allows for the community to come together for a joint fitness location"
"Preserves the fitness environment"
"I believe that it will be a great add in this location, right by the Chenney track."
"This will be great for the community and for Atlanta."
"This project seems like it will be great for youth in the area."
"An indoor track facility would be great for the Summerhill community"
"It's a move towards the future and solidifying Atlanta being the #RunningCityUSA"
"It's a good idea that I believe will help the community because it has helped me personally 🏃"
"Health and Fitness"
"It's a great resource for the community"
"It's more clear some of the advantages and opportunities."
"Great opportunity for city, attraction for development"
"The potential for scholastic investment opens up massive possibilities for local families."
"THE TRACK CLUB has better interests than another party that may use the space in a less meaningful way"
"It will give great opportunities for Georgia athletes."
"Opportunity for GA athletes - some good opportunities for residents with healthcare and employment;"
"I think addressing more on parking and congestion will be very important as well as environment."
"I think it will help give Summerhill a world class Facility. Bring weekday traffic to Summerhill. Help bolster the small business district that is struggling"
"Great for the community and the sport"
"The local businesses, Summerhill residents, and particularly youth athletes will benefit greatly."
"To have a world class track and field facility for Atlanta and preserve the history of the 1996 olympics"
"As a great asset to both the neighbor hood and the track and field community. Hopefully in the healthiest sustainable manner"
"The long term advantage of this space will be used by generation to come."
"This is a great project for the community and drive economic growth and growth of the sport"
"It will be the only indoor facility in the state, will have a positive impact on the sport. Maybe not the right neighborhood?"
"This is a great opportunity for the community to have an beneficial facility for economic growth."
"The Atlanta Metro area needs an indoor facility to rival Birmingham Crossplex."
"Atlanta, and Georgia, will benefit from a facility such as this."
"Promoting a growth for the neighborhood and the city as a whole"
"This is going to be great for the whole Atlanta community. Excited to see this plan come to fruition."
"Elite level programming that would change the course of track and field in Georgia"
"It's a no brainer"

"This facility is historically a stadium."
"Proximity to marta, in the city, school area available."
"Helps neighborhood businesses"
"Tho k it would be good for the student athletes"
"Because of what this type of facility has done for me, I know it will help the community"
"I believe it would offer multiple opportunities to drive economic growth and growth of track and field."
"I believe that this project will allow for a more inclusive space for all of Atlanta including Summerhill."
"This will be great for Atlanta running community."
"Promote year round track activities and drive local economic growth in the Summerhill area."

PASSIVES (9)

"Accessible to different neighborhoods."
"Parking concerns"
"I like the idea and find it appropriate in the space next to the outdoor track, but not fully confident infrastructure can handle it"
"I think it would be good for the community to keep summer hill prosperous economically. SH has had financial ups and downs - I think this could help sustain it"
"Plan needs significant development"
"What are the plans to gather further input from community members"
"The ideal behind the track is sound and appreciated but the execution especially regarding parking requires some fundamental rethinking."

DETRACTORS (12)

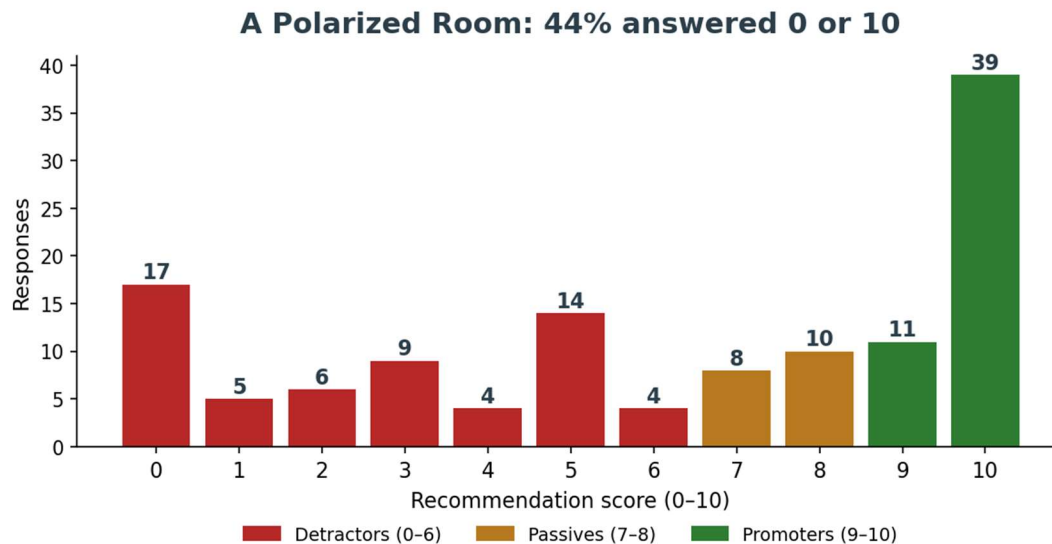
"I believe in infrastructure that supports active lifestyles as a broad public good. I do have concerns surrounding green space and parking"
"Plan needs work, but would rather visit this facility here versus grieving out to the 'burbs"
"I am here to learn."
"I'm not convinced of the need to have the facility directly adjacent to the existing track. Hank Aaron does feel like it may have more appropriate space"
"Not sure the programming will fit for this site. Seems disruptive for the neighborhood..."
"The designs I have seen published so far are extremely underwhelming. If you're going to do this in Summerhill at least do it in a way that makes the neighborhood proud."
"I have concerns about the scale of this project and trying to shoehorn the program into a neighborhood site. This isn't right for the neighborhood but also not right for THE TRACK CLUB"
"The stated program is too large for the building and the building is too large for the site, and is the wrong scale for this residential neighborhood."
"I believe that the scale of this project will ruin the current feel and vision of the residential use of Summerhill."
"This seems like the type of project that should not be in a residential area. It is more suited to commercial areas."
"This project should not be in a residential neighborhood."

UNSCORED

"Access for athletes and the community."
"Agreed that flooding and stormwater are very important."
"This project is good for the city and the people of Atlanta - especially kids."

Supporting View — A Polarized Room

Across all groups, responses clustered at the extremes: many at the very top of the scale, many at the very bottom, with a thin middle. This is why plain promoter/passive/detractor labels tell the story better than an average.



How Much of the Opposition Can Design Address?

A natural question follows from the findings: is this opposition the kind a better plan can resolve, or is it fundamental? Sorting the concerns by what kind of concern each one is gives an honest — and, for the most part, encouraging — answer. The concerns fall into three groups.

1 • Design-addressable — the majority. Roughly half of all concern comments (about 53%) are about things a different plan can directly change or materially improve: green space, parking, traffic and circulation, building scale and massing, and stormwater. These are the concerns a design and engineering process is built to work on.

2 • Process- and trust-based — addressable, but not by design. A smaller share (roughly 9%, alongside much of the general commentary) is about how the project has been rolled out — feeling rushed, unheard, or predetermined. No rendering resolves this; only how THE TRACK CLUB engages over time does — through visible responsiveness, follow-up sessions, and closing the loop on what was heard.

3 • Values- and site-level — less likely to be resolved by design. A real but relatively small core (roughly 9%) reflects a values-based position: that the project should not be on this site at all, that the green space was “never for sale,” that it belongs on a different parcel, or objections to the public-land and tax structure. A better building is less likely to move these. A portion of this opposition is principled, and some residents may remain opposed on these grounds — a normal and respectable part of any such process.

The honest read Most of the expressed opposition — by volume, a clear majority — concerns things design, engineering, and continued engagement can address. That is genuinely encouraging. But a smaller, sincere core is fundamental and will not be designed away, and saying so plainly is what makes the rest credible. The practical implication: the highest-leverage work is resolving the design-addressable concerns (green space, parking, traffic, stormwater) visibly and well, while engaging the process concerns through follow-through — and accepting that a portion of principled opposition will persist regardless.

Where this goes. The design-addressable concerns are a good start for the agenda for the charrettes — where the Track Club's design and engineering team and residents can explore the real range of options together, concern by concern. The specific inputs to solutions are for that collaborative work to determine; what the data establishes here is that the room to move is real.

(Proportions are directional, drawn from categorizing the open-text concern comments; they indicate the shape of the opposition, not a precise measurement.)

Bringing It Together

Read through the rings, the story is coherent. Opposition is real and concentrated adjacent to the site; support grows with distance and is strong across Atlanta. The groups emphasize different concerns — local and concrete near the site, broad and civic further out. Sentiment improved across every resident group as the evening went on. And neighborhood-leader interviews indicate a base of Summerhill support that the meeting's self-selected attendance under-represented.

This was a hard room adjacent to the site, but not a closed one. The opposition is specific and solvable rather than diffuse, the meeting moved residents measurably, and there is more resident support than the room alone showed. The path forward runs through the concerns the community named — green space, parking, traffic, and stormwater.

Summerhill Businesses — A Stakeholder Group to Explore

One group was largely absent from the meeting but has a distinct and direct stake in the project: Summerhill's local businesses. Their relationship to the project's central variables is different from residents' — the foot traffic, parking demand, and activity that residents weigh as burdens are, for a business, the conditions it depends on to survive. An early and illustrative signal: a Summerhill restaurant owner shared that the neighborhood has not yet delivered the customer traffic its redevelopment promised, to the point of weighing a shift from fine dining to casual — and the area has seen several recent business closings. This suggests the commercial base may be fragile and demand-starved, which could give some businesses a materially different view of a facility designed to draw thousands of visitors to events and daily programming.

This is offered as a stakeholder group worth engaging, not as a claim about where its members stand. The business perspective may well be mixed — the same activity that promises customers also raises real concerns about construction-period disruption, parking during build-out, and event-day access. What is clear is that Summerhill businesses were under-represented in the input gathered so far, and their interests intersect the project differently enough that they warrant direct conversation. Understanding where the neighborhood's business community actually stands would meaningfully complete the picture.

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