

Blandtown Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes

August 19th, 2025 7:00 PM

President	Yasmeen Hyder
Vice President	Joshua Jarmin (Not present)
Secretary / Treasurer	Jarrett Blankenship
Residential Member at Large	David Ameijeiras (Not present)

Summary of BNA Meeting August 2025

- Date/Time: 7:00 PM
- Location: Remediation Group Inc, CE Classroom, 1320 Ellsworth Industrial Blvd NW #2200 Building B (<https://remgroupinc.com/>)
- Attendance: ~21 (13 on Zoom, ~8 in person)

Agenda:

- District 9 Updates (Councilmember Dustin Hillis)
- Beltline Progress
- Upper Westside CID projects
- Goat Farm "SITE" event
- Remarks from District 9 candidate Charles Bourgeois

Meeting Minutes:

Updates from Councilmember Dustin Hillis

- BeltLine timing
 - Segment 5 (English St → Marietta St): aiming for October ribbon cutting; railings/lighting/landscaping in progress.
 - Potential joint event: Segment 5 ribbon cutting with Segment 4 groundbreaking (Boyd → Howell Mill).
- District communications
 - Annual mailed newsletter sent to District 9; USPS delivery has been inconsistent. Residents who didn't receive it can contact his office.
- Election logistics (informational)
 - Candidate qualifying period runs through Friday 4:30 PM of this week.
 - Municipal elections scheduled for November 4. Ballot to include City Council races, some APS at-large seats, and a statewide Public Service Commission

special election.

Agenda item: Goat Farm “SITE” festival (community announcement)

- One-night contemporary art festival across the 12-acre campus.
- Date/time: Saturday, September 27, 5–11 PM; all-ages; 12 and under free.
- Tickets: early options around \$10 up to a ~\$200 VIP tier.
- Transportation: limited parking; neighborhood residents encouraged to walk; expect traffic impacts on/near Huff Road.
- Neighborhood interest: informal show of hands indicated interest in organizing a group outing; link to be posted in BNA Facebook group.
- Link for more information: <https://www.viewcy.com/event/site2025>

Agenda item: Upper Westside CID updates (shared from Adeline Collet; presented by board)

- Collier Road corridor
 - Online survey live with two design concepts; community feedback requested (multi-use path placement, crossings, etc.).
- Ellsworth Ave sidewalk infill
 - Croix Engineering selected to design a sidewalk on the Bone Garden side from the BeltLine to Huff; survey work done; concepts expected later this year.
 - Plan includes extending prior lane narrowing (from Woodall Rail Trail/BeltLine) up to Huff to improve flow/safety.
- Chattahoochee corridor
 - Multi-use path project and repurposing of one westbound lane to a northbound turn lane onto Howell Mill; in design now; construction targeted for 2026.
 - Over the next 2–3 years, the area should become materially more walkable/connected.

Agenda item: BeltLine construction details (board)

- Segment 5 status
 - Concrete poured from Fairmont to Elaine; finishing railings, landscaping, lighting by October.
 - Culpeper Pocket Park (at Victory Church side): activity lawn, bench swings, terraced seating; targeted for October alongside trail completion; renderings to be shared in the BNA channel.
- Segment 4 (English/Culpeper → north toward Monday Night)
 - Split into Section A/B; steel released for bridge fabrication; construction expected to start within 30–60 days.
- Safety PSA

- Reminder to avoid construction areas after a Cybertruck became stuck in a ditch at Elaine; APD/tow responded.

Agenda item: Community events & social programming

- With major rezonings and large construction tapering, BNA aims to focus more on community-building, social events, and shaping neighborhood identity (e.g., following models like Virginia-Highland).
- Recent pilots w/ morning coffee at Flower and Time; evening meetup at The Whelan; decent turnout; more experiments planned.
- New ideas:
 - BeltLine/Trail group walk from Fairmont, connect to Woodall Trail, end at The Works for a meal (weekend).
 - Walking group: resident Katie Schanck volunteered to help lead; coordination to occur via WhatsApp/GroupMe; board to connect interested leaders.

Open forum: infrastructure, parking, mobility

- Huff Road & sidewalks
 - Ongoing concerns about sidewalk accessibility and surface quality near Howell Mill; Huff improvements remain in design; Upper Westside CID involvement expected to expedite. Priority sequence noted: Huff, then Chattahoochee (2026 construction), then Collier (early feedback stage).
- Parking management
 - Previously approved “No Parking” signs on Fairmont installed; additional signs around the Fairmont/English hydrant in progress to address sightline safety; residents can flag narrow segments for evaluation against city standards.
- Sidewalk obstruction by parked vehicles (including across driveway sidewalks) is not permitted under City of Atlanta rules.
- 311 process
 - Residents encouraged to use Atlanta 311 app/website/phone for issues (potholes, trimming, signage, etc.); multiple submissions and follow-ups help.
 - APD enforcement increase noted; towing in no-parking areas has occurred due to safety concerns.
- Bike/ped projects
 - Bike lanes are components within the Howell Mill Complete Streets project and planned scopes for Huff, Chattahoochee, and Collier; exact treatments vary by corridor/width.
 - Howell Mill schedule is delayed by discovery of unmarked utilities; multiple utilities coordinating relocations. Board will update when timelines resume.
- “Fowling” building question

- No update on the future of the closed Fowling building; across the street, a pickleball facility is slated to open later this year.
- Retail openings trend
 - Noted acceleration in new restaurants/retail (examples: Ghee replacing Wagamama, “Eden” at Star Metals, a new rooftop bar, Ladybird second location). BNA will continue posting updates in the Facebook group.

Guest remarks: Charles Bourgeois (candidate, District 9 City Council)

- 20-year Atlanta resident; Morehouse graduate; hospitality/consumer brand entrepreneur; community organizing (voter registration, cleanups); provided personal contact for accessibility (shared during meeting).
- Focus on Westside infrastructure, neighborhood stability in 30318, and improving the transparency/trackability of 311.
- Expressed opposition to proposed approaches that would redistrict or close schools as a response to uneven tax base; argued for solutions that build tax base, infrastructure, and amenities across the district to prevent inequities.
- Discussed lived examples (wayfinding/signage leading to delayed EMS response) that motivated public service focus on basic infrastructure and responsiveness.
- For more information: <https://www.charlesforatlanta.com/>