

Blandtown Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes

February 18th, 2025 7:00 PM

President	Yasmeen Hyder
Vice President	Joshua Jarmin
Secretary / Treasurer	Jarrett Blankenship
Residential Member at Large	David Ameijeiras

Agenda Highlights:

- Q&A with Davis Burnett and Victory Church Midtown – Learn about their involvement in the neighborhood and get your questions answered.
- Davidoff Imports is requesting a liquor license at NPU-D on 2/25.
- Beltline Updates: Get the latest construction updates on Northwest Segments 4 & 5.
- Upper Westside CID Updates: Hear about ongoing infrastructure improvements and initiatives shaping our neighborhood.
- Commercial Property Outreach: With a wave of restaurant closures affecting our area, let's discuss strategies to engage property owners and keep our commercial spaces thriving.
- Goethe Fruhlingsfest – A German Arts Festival. Happening at Westside Provisions on 5/18/2025, this event is applying for a permit.

Simon Davidoff, Davidoff Imports

- Simon works full time at home as a digital lead for transportation
- The wine import business is a personal passion
- He has a relationship with a winery in the south of Italy looking for a distribution partner
- You can be an importer, distributor, or retail - you have to be one of these
- Simon's role is communications and brokering deals
- Imports are sent to a warehouse in New Jersey
- Jarrett moved to approve this license, David Amerijes seconded the motion. Motion was approved unanimously

Davis Burnett and Victory Church

- Contact information: <mailto:dburnett@victoryatl.com>

- Connections pastor at Victory Midtown, been on staff for the past 2.5 years
- Church has been growing, now working to make the growth sustainable for the neighborhood and better serve the parishioners
- Questions
 - Regarding traffic control officers, sometimes it's really smooth, sometimes it's not
 - These are actually APD Officers
 - Try to make sure it's the same officers week after week
 - Victory has added a new service at 5pm, are there additional expansion plans we should be aware of?
 - Not planning to add a 5th Sunday services
 - They are pointing some members to attend 1pm or 5pm services to relieve pressure on 9am and 11am services
 - There will be additional services at key holidays like Easter and Christmas
 - There used to be a sign in front of the Fairmont townhomes asking for church attendees to not park in front of homes. Can that sign come back?
 - They should still be there, Davis will check on it
 - Has the church considered the influx of people coming in when the Beltline opens and how that will impact the situation?
 - They are aware, thinking about. Also concerns with the new Pickleball facility which will take some parking from the church
 - Can we enforce no church parking on new Empire Longreen townhomes on Boyd?
 - If it becomes an issue, signs can be prepared and will get volunteers to informally police the area

Adeline Collot, Upper Westside CID

- Woodall Rail Trail is in final punch list
 - One handrail being relocated
 - Scheduling w/ Office of the Mayor for an official opening
 - It can be used now
- A date is scheduled for "The Spur" official opening
 - March 13th, 11am
- In March, will do a workshop for Collier Rd Multimodal Study
 - Will kick off with Councilmember Hillis on March 27th from 8:30 - 9:30 am
 - Extends from Northside to Chattahoochee
- Huff Rd Multimodal Study
 - Just received 30% concept, will be shared soon
 - Will still have to find funding to advance to 100%
 - Window for funding requests opens every year
- Chattahoochee Ave
 - In one week should get survey back and can advance toward 60% design
- Questions
 - How does the Woodall Rail Trail connect to the Works & future Westside Market
 - Next phase will go through the woods, running on back side of properties

- Selig is letting UWCID take some property to convert to the trail
 - Behind Sync, over to View
 - Up Marietta Blvd and cuts between the Agape Center, Macarther
 - Eventually connects to the Silver Comet
- Will there be a better way to cross Brady at Northside Tavern?
 - There will be a full traffic light there as part of the Howell Mill Complete St project
 - Also will trial new cycling protection on Brady Ave
- Howell Mill Complete St updates?
 - Still dealing with utility conflicts
 - Unfortunately, found a new issue in that the planned drainage is intersecting with underground utilities
 - This will likely continue through the end of the year because it's very complex underground
- Can we reconnect Huber St?
 - Only if the city decides to exercise eminent domain or if the private property owner decides to sell

Beltline Updates

- Segment 4
 - Drawings are 90% complete and being submitted for permitting
 - Section A runs from English St to Howell Mill, construction manager already selected
- Segment 5
 - Runs from Marietta to English St
 - Construction has already begun
 - Duct bank installation is near completion
 - Haul out of soil will begin mid February
 - Construction over the creek will begin soon
 - Elaine is milled, but a utility needs to be moved by Watershed

Commercial Property Outreach Regarding Restaurant Closures

- There has been a wave of restaurant closures, how might we better engage commercial owners
- Resident spoke to the owner of West Egg who said that things haven't bounced back since Covid
- Residents raised a petition to lower parking prices
- Residents asked if we could get leaders of WSP to attend the meeting, or have a focus group with the neighborhood
- Could we hear from owners of properties built for office spaces Westside Motor Lounge, Westside Paper, Interlock
- Upper Westside CID board are commercial property owners with lots of information they can share

- It can take years to design the office spaces

Alan Holmes, Office of Atlanta City Councilmember Dustin Hillis. 470.602.8399

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- Office of Inspector General vote
 - It was found that OIG had violated state law
- Legislation regarding homelessness
 - To expand housing
 - Explore additional funding for low income housing
 - Legislation calls on the Mayor's office to conduct a study within 90 days and report back to the public
- We requested Dustin Hillis' office to look into reconnection of Huber St
- Can we do anything about lighting on Booth Ave? Near Culpepper
 - be out in the District tonight doing a street light audit. I can add that street to the list and swing by. I will be sure to add it to the list. We are hoping to get ATLDOT to fund more lighting in the district
 -

Next Meeting

March in person, with activities

Will have it from 6 - 9pm

Working with vendors at the Works for food and beverages