

Blandtown Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes, March 2024

President	Katie Schanck (not present)
Vice President	Joshua Jarmin
Secretary	Jarrett Blankenship
Member at Large - Residential	David Ameijeiras

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 p.m. by Vice President, Joshua Jarmin.

The meeting was conducted remotely.

Councilmember Dustin Hillis District 9 Update (provided ahead of the meeting and read by Joshua)

- Emails have been received concerning SAP 24-030 at 875 Ernest/864 Huff. Discussions are planned with the Director of Zoning, Keyetta Holmes, and Commissioner of DCP, Jahnee Prince, regarding the SAP/proposed development and related concerns.
 - It's noted that the City Council has no authority over Special Administrative Permits as these are decided by DCP.
 - Participation in the hearing or sending emails to sapcomments@atlantaga.gov is encouraged for voicing concerns.
 - You may want to copy Director Holmes and Commissioner Prince on those communications as well - kmholmes@atlantaga.gov and jrprince@atlantaga.gov
 - Updates will be shared post-discussions with DCP staff.
- Also, an update is awaited from ATLDOT on the study requirement waiver for speed tables on Fairmont Ave and/or English St.
 - The study fell just 1mph short of the 10 mph over the posted speed limit requirement.
 - The study for Elaine Ave is still pending.
- Residents can reach out anytime with questions/issues at drhillis@atlantaga.gov

CID Updates

- **Huff Rd Multimodal Study**
 - Got survey information back
 - Ready to consider what can fit in the road
 - Will attend the Food festival for hands on input on what we want for Huff Rd
- **Woodall Rail Trail:**
 - Construction began in January and is on track to complete by next January.
 - The trail will extend from Ellsworth/Elaine up to the Works.
- **Beltline RFP:**
 - A request for proposal is out, with projects expected to start by summer 2024.

- **The Spur:**
 - Groundbreaking has occurred for the connector from westside Paper to westside beltline, enhancing bike access to the Stadium with an 18-month timeline.
- **Huff Rd Multimodal Study:**
 - Survey results have been received and are under review to determine feasible road improvements.
 - Engagement planned at the Food Festival for community input on Huff Rd enhancements.

April Food Festival

- Location: Steady Hand.
- Participation: 10 restaurants have verbally committed, along with Coffee man for coffee and beer from Steady Hand.
- Date: April 27th.
- Objective: Fundraiser for neighborhood benefit, seeking assistance in connecting with additional restaurants.

Presentation by Owners of Garage on Huff

- Presenter: Devonte Johnson discussed the journey and learning since the Garage on Huff's inception last year, expressing a desire to integrate with the community.
- Parking Solutions: In progress with neighboring lots, with plans for clear signage and enforcement.
- Event Management: Commitment to ending events by 11 pm in adherence to noise ordinances, with APD involvement and dedicated event managers for oversight.
- Business Vision: Focus on health initiatives and providing a platform for local business showcases, aiming for events primarily in the 75-100 people range.
- Trying to handle parking with agreements with neighbors
 - Haven't been allotted a certain amount, but have agreement to use the lots
 - Plan to have signage to not allow parking at Walton garage
- Enforce end time?
 - Goal is to have all events end at 11pm, noise ordinance time
 - Work with onsite security to enforce that
 - Will now enforce parking attendants
- How will there be accountability for that?
 - All events will be facilitated by APD
 - All events will have an event manager responsible for noise levels, ending on time, etc.
- What's the vision for the business now?
 - Committed to enriching the community
 - Lead with more health initiatives, allow their space to be a neighborhood resource
 - Platform to allow business owners to showcase their products for lower barrier of entry
 - Most events are 75 - 100 people

- Some the events that caused issues drew larger crowds
- What's the goal of the liquor license?
 - Special events permit only allows 6 events, or else you need a liquor license
 - Bar/club designation requires 21 and up to enter
 - Restaurant is the other option, will now have to install a kitchen, comply with the health department, etc.

Q&A

- Any update on 1075 Huff?
 - Not redeveloping at this time
- Is it possible to convert a sidewalk / alley next to Walton?
 - It is in the process of becoming a road as part of the Braden Felman development and won't include on street parking
 - *Note: This development was discussed in our February meeting, and details are in the minutes.*
- Ellsworth Sinkhole
 - Watershed and ATL DOT looked at it, and did five borings into the road. Watershed thinks it's a DOT issue, Adeline is pushing for a follow up.
- Plans for the public space at intersection of Huff and Howell Mill where the fence has been pushed back
 - Next step - Request for input from the neighborhood for ideas on how to use the space.
 - The main priority will be to fill in the sidewalk gap that exists there
- Davis from Victory
 - Saturday there will be a neighborhood cleanup starting at 9:30am and will go for an hour. Members of the church will be walking around with trash bags, cleaning up grounds up to Huff road, and will head toward the railroad tracks.
 - Easter services will be one of the biggest weekends, they are expecting large crowds
 - Hoping to see some improvements in traffic flow based on changes
 - Additional Saturday services for Easter at 4pm and 6pm
- Has the BNA been contacted by developers of 1283 Marietta?
 - Not yet, but UWCID connected with them previously and will follow up with them to be sure they connect with the neighborhood, understand the zoning requirements, and the community benefit agreements

Liliana Fiddler to Everyone 7:39 PM

LF

We noticed improvement. Thank you. Particularly at the 11 am service when volunteers walk alongside the traffic and direct folks to parking vs. them parking in front of fire hydrants and in the wrong direction on Fairmont.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 pm

Parking permit system - you only get 10 guest parking vouchers and your own visitors will get ticketed past that