

Blandtown Neighborhood Association

Meeting Minutes — January 21, 2026

Date: Tuesday, January 21, 2026, 7:00 PM

Location: Remote (Zoom)

Meeting Led By: Yasmeen Hyder, President

Minutes Prepared By: Jarrett Blankenship, Secretary & Treasurer

Board Members Present: Yasmeen Hyder (President), Jarrett Blankenship (Secretary & Treasurer), Chintan Patel (Residential Member at Large) **Board Members Absent:** Joshua Jarmin (Vice President)

Guest Speaker: Elizabeth Hollister, Executive Director, Upper West Side CID

1. Call to Order

Yasmeen Hyder called the meeting to order and welcomed attendees to the first BNA meeting of the 2026 calendar year.

2. Upper West Side CID Updates — Elizabeth Hollister

Elizabeth Hollister, Executive Director of the Upper West Side CID, joined by phone and provided the following project updates. She noted that Adeline Collot, the CID's other full-time staff member, is currently on maternity leave and expected to return in March.

17th Street Sidewalk Project (Northside Drive to Howell Mill) The project is fully designed, has received all necessary city department approvals, and is about to begin construction. The CID is aiming to complete it before the City of Atlanta imposes a construction moratorium ahead of the FIFA World Cup.

Ellsworth Sidewalk Project The city has approved the 60% design, and the CID is now preparing the 90% design submission, expected next month. Approval is needed from the Department of Transportation and Watershed Management. If approvals proceed smoothly, construction could begin before summer 2026.

Marietta Boulevard Bridge Deck Repair The city has a funded project to repair the hole in the bridge deck near the Marietta Boulevard and West Marietta Street intersection. The critical path item is coordination with the railroad on scheduling, as the work requires railroad traffic control. A contractor has been hired and is awaiting railroad schedule approval.

Huff Road Study The Huff Road study has been officially adopted by the city, meaning it will be referenced when funding is programmed for the area. A 30% design is on the shelf awaiting funding. The CID is actively pursuing grant funding, with a major grant deadline next month. The study's full implementation is estimated at \$17 million; the CID plans to take a phased approach, targeting quick wins such as improvements at the Huff Road and Marietta Boulevard intersection while pursuing larger-scale projects like a parallel bridge across the railroad. A federal grant application for the bridge was previously submitted but not awarded; the project is now on Congresswoman McBath's radar and the CID intends to reapply.

Huff Linear Green / Bocce Court The CID installed a bocce court at the Huff Linear Green (corner of Huff Road and Howell Mill). Additional improvements are in permitting, funded by a Park Pride grant.

Discussion — Data Center on Ellsworth Industrial Jarrett Blankenship asked about the status of a proposed data center development on Ellsworth Industrial near Huber Street. Elizabeth reported that the developer submitted an application to the city but must first complete a regional review due to the project's scale. Under the Upper West Side overlay, a data center can only constitute 50% of site use and must be concurrent with other development. The city is in a holding pattern pending the regional review. Elizabeth committed to reaching out to her city contacts for a fresh update and reporting back to the board.

Discussion — Novel Blandtown CBA Funds Yasmeen asked about the status of community benefits agreement (CBA) funds from the Novel Blandtown development. Elizabeth confirmed that the first payment milestone (tied to the land disturbance permit) has been met, and those funds were directed into the Huff Road study, which enabled the study to move forward. A second payment is tied to the certificate of occupancy, which is still at least a year or more out. The CID expressed interest in serving as the implementation arm for those funds and plans to present project proposals to the BNA once the funding picture is clearer.

3. Introduction of Chintan Patel — Residential Member at Large

Yasmeen introduced Chintan Patel as the BNA's newest board member, appointed to the Residential Member at Large position. Per the bylaws, the existing board members voted to appoint Chintan to fill the vacant seat.

Chintan introduced himself to attendees. He and his wife recently purchased a home in Westtown and have been in the broader West Midtown area for several years, having previously lived in West Highlands and in apartments on Huff Road. He is a Georgia Tech graduate with a

background in consulting and real estate analysis, and expressed a passion for local infrastructure and the built environment.

4. Quarterly Community Activations & 2026 Meeting Format

Yasmeen shared the board's plans for the year. In 2025, the BNA held six in-person activations across meetings and social gatherings, with notably better attendance at food-and-beverage venues compared to conference room settings. Based on that experience, the board is formalizing the following approach for 2026:

- **Quarterly in-person meetings** held at food and beverage establishments to encourage attendance and create a social atmosphere alongside meeting business.
- **Quarterly community activations** (walks, meetups, or other gatherings) for a total target of approximately eight in-person touchpoints throughout the year.

Specific dates and venues will be coordinated across the board and communicated to members.

5. Blandtown Discount Card

Jarrett Blankenship presented the new Blandtown Card, a discount card initiative designed to support local businesses while raising funds for the BNA. The card costs \$25 and provides holders with discounts at participating businesses. All proceeds go to the Blandtown Neighborhood Association to fund operations (email, Zoom, website, events) — no board member receives compensation.

Current participating businesses:

- **Flour & Time** — 10% off all services (up to \$10 per purchase)
- **The Whelan** — 10% off food for dine-in
- **Paya Thai** — 15% off food for dine-in
- **Le' Muse Pilates** — Discount details being finalized

Cards are available for purchase immediately via Zelle. The board is continuing outreach to additional businesses and asked attendees with local business connections to help expand participation. Chintan Patel and Katie Schanck both expressed interest in helping with outreach. Josh Jarmin will share the full outreach list upon his return from travel.

6. Open Floor / Q&A

Jarrett opened the floor for feedback on community priorities for 2026. Chintan expressed interest in more community gatherings and meetups as the weather warms, and noted a personal interest in the long-term Fairmont-to-Huber Street connection to Chattahoochee. Yasmeen noted that this connection was proposed by the Beltline planning team but is not expected to advance in the near term due to cost and pending area redevelopment.

7. Adjournment

With no further questions, Yasmeen adjourned the meeting. The next BNA meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 18, 2026, at 7:00 PM.**

Minutes submitted by Jarrett Blankenship, Secretary & Treasurer