

Blandtown Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes

October 21st, 2025 7:00 PM

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

Location: Monday Night Brewing - The Grove, 670 Trabert Ave NW, Atlanta GA 30318

Zoom: Virtual access provided for remote attendees

Agenda:

- Council member Dustin Hillis, Upcoming elections for District 9
- Mike Shamus, Pickleball Club of Georgia
- Updates on the Upper West Market
- Elizabeth Hollister, Upper Westside CID
- Atlanta Beltline Updates
- Review of NPU-D vote on Liquor license for Circle K
- BNA Discount Card
- BNA Walking Club
- BNA Elections

Meeting Minutes

Upcoming District 9 Election

Guests: Councilmember Dustin Hillis and challenger Charles Bourgeois

Dustin Hillis:

- Noted ribbon-cutting for BeltLine Segment 5 and groundbreaking for Segment 4 on Oct 30 at 1:15pm.
- Encouraged early voting (Oct 14–31), with voting times and locations shared.
- Council President and APS Board Seat 8 are also on the ballot.

Charles Bourgeois:

- Introduced himself as a resident of West Highlands, hospitality executive, and candidate.
- Spoke of addressing inequality and reinvesting in underserved parts of the district.

- Discussed tax base issues and their ripple effect on schools, public safety, and gentrification.
- Emphasized opposition to school redistricting and commitment to community service.

Pickleball Club of Georgia Update

Speaker: Mike Shamus, General Manager

- Facility under construction on English Street; will include 33 courts, golf simulators, bar/cafe, event space, and Pilates studio.
- Issues with city permits have delayed opening; aiming for February/March 2026.
- Parking discussed at length; facility includes 130+ spaces and is exploring off-site options for possibility of tournament overflow.
- Promised sidewalk installation despite surrounding properties lacking them, due to city requirements.
- Facility open to the public; membership not required but encouraged for cost savings.
- No plans for outdoor courts currently due to space and parking trade-offs.

Upper Westside CID Update

Speaker: Elizabeth Hollister

- Thanked neighborhood for participation in Westside Stride.
- Huff Road Multimodal Study passed City Council, awaiting mayoral signature; plan includes pedestrian, bike, delivery, and traffic flow improvements.
- Woodall Rail Trail connector progress shared; groundbreaking occurred.
- Ellsworth sidewalk project at 30% design; plan includes 10-foot sidewalks.
- Chattahoochee Avenue updates: multi-use path, signal improvements, turning lane redesign near Howell Mill.
- West Marietta resurfacing and Marietta/West Marietta intersection delays due to CSX coordination.
- Subarea 8 master plan update open house scheduled for Oct 30 at former West Egg location.

Discussion:

- Safety concerns raised about Culpepper intersection and Tesla-related bioswale crashes.
- Questions around unknown park at Coldbecker & Lloyd; research underway on ownership and restrictions (Georgia Power overlay mentioned).

Upper West Market (UWM) Update

- Construction was delayed due to city stop-work order
- The project is now expected to deliver in Q1 2026.

Atlanta BeltLine Update

- Ribbon cutting for Segment 5 and groundbreaking for Segment 4A on October 30.
- Segment 4A (to Howell Mill) expected to complete by Fall 2026; Segment 4B (to Monday Night) starts in 2026.
- Questions raised about BeltLine traffic impact, parking restrictions, and signage.
- Concerns about cars driving into bioswale; discussed need for boulders and traffic calming.

Circle K Liquor License

Update: Jarrett Blankenship

- NPU-D to review change of ownership liquor license for Circle K on Chattahoochee.
- No changes in operations expected. If no community concerns, BNA will vote in support.

BNA Discount Card

Update: Josh Jarmin

- Initiative launching in January 2026. Local businesses offering discounts for BNA members.
- Model borrowed from Howell Station.
- Volunteers and business contacts welcomed.

BNA Walking Club

- Weekly walks now live, led by Katie Schanck.
- Route: Woodall Rail Trail arch to The Works and back.
- Will extend route as BeltLine trail opens.
- WhatsApp group available for participants.

Midtown Collective Concerns

- Ongoing community concern over illegal operation of photo studio that is hosting disruptive parties.
- Does not have a proper business license; was issued a citation, missed court date.
- Residents were encouraged to continue calling 911.
- Dustin Hillis to advise on further action.

BNA Board Elections

Update: Jarrett Blankenship

- Nominations are now open for 2026 board elections.
- Elections held in December. Nominations announced at November meeting.
- Positions include: President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer, Residential & Commercial Members at Large.
- Anyone interested in running for a position needs to submit their name by the November meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

Minutes submitted by Jarrett Blankenship, BNA Secretary & Treasurer.