

Blandtown Neighborhood Association Meeting Minutes

July 18th, 2023 7:00 PM

President	Katie Schanck
Vice President	Joshua Jarmin
Secretary / Treasurer	Jarrett Blankenship
Residential Member at Large	David Ameijeiras
Commercial Member at Large	Hadi Irvani

The meeting was brought to order at 7:00 by Katie Schanck.

Opening Remarks

The new board members introduced themselves.

Upper Westside CID Updates

- Adeline Collot provided updates
- Soon will begin pedestrian and safety improvements to Huff Road
- Waiting for flashing pedestrian lights to start building in August @ Fairmont, Ellsworth Industrial, and others
- We won a grant from the Atlanta Regional Commission for \$200k to study Huff Rd.
- Will put out the request for proposals in late August
- The process will take about a year. Purpose is to create a concept study and develop “30%” design plans.
- This is the first step you must take for a major project
- Will put on their first event on Sunday, October 29th, “Westside Stride” from 12 - 6PM
- Will close down Howell Mill for pedestrians only from Trabert to Marietta Street
- Live music, food trucks, booths, and more
- www.upperwestsideatl.org

Council Member Dustin Hillis Updates

- Updates provided by Council Member Dustin Hillis, Atlanta City Council Member for District 9 which includes Blandtown
 - drhillis@atlantaga.gov
 - (404) 330-6044
- Passed the city’s fiscal year ‘24 budget (July 1st - June 30th)
- Largest reserve the city has ever had
- Highlights:
 - Legislation to up the parks improvement fund. Hadn’t been reviewed since the 1970’s. The fund will double from \$16M to \$32M / year

- Importantly, more of that fund will go toward parks improvement and maintenance, not just capital spending. From 10% to 40%, ~\$12M increase
- Began a Parks Ranger program that will also be funded from this
- Parks Dept will audit all parks, trails, and centers to allocate funds
- Resurfacing:
 - Will go from spending \$6M to \$18M this year to identify streets in most need of resurfacing
- TSPLOST
 - Each district gets \$1.5M for horizontal infrastructure (trails, etc.) and \$1.5M for vertical infrastructure (park facilities, etc)
 - \$1M will go toward ATL DOT funding for sidewalks and resurfacing
 - \$500k will go to PATH for Beltline, Silver Comet, and Proctor Creek Trail developments
 - \$500k to establish safety and security cameras throughout the district. Blandtown will get 6 - 8 new cameras and license plate readers.
- Beltline
 - NW corridor section going from Marietta to English is planning to break ground in Fall of this year and is planned to take about a year for construction

NPU-D Updates

- Updates provided by David A., Member at Large
- NPU-D is our neighborhood planning unit
- Hosting their next meeting on July 25th
- Look up City of Atlanta NPU-D for more information
- Happenings:
 - July 30th - 12th annual "Attack of the Killer Tomatoes" festival
 - Your Third Spot are expanding their outdoor space at the Works
 - Upper Westside CID has established a Zoning Overlay that implements urban planning standards and controls what can and can't be built in the neighborhood. More information is available on their website.
- Final designs for the Blandtown segment of the Beltline are complete. [Click here for the plans](#)

August Upcoming Meeting Update

- We will meet in person at Fowling
 - <https://fowlingwarehouse.com/atlanta/>
- Please invite your neighbors!

Meeting adjourned at 7:40PM by Katie Schanck

Meeting minutes submitted by Jarrett Blankenship, BNA Secretary

Please email any questions, comments, and concerns to blandtownneighborhoodorg@gmail.com

