

Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)
Meeting Notes
Saturday, May 11, 2014



GNC Co-Chairperson Susan Taaffe convened the **May 2014** GNC meeting at the Central Public Library beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants followed by presentations by guest speakers.

Guest speaker: Mayor Nancy Vaughn answered questions from the audience regarding increased transparency of City Council decision-making, responsiveness to citizen concerns, police department reviews, neighborhood projects including the Renaissance Plaza on Phillips Avenue, Greensboro's taxation, Minority & Women's Business Enterprise (MWBE) contractor compliance, street-side panhandling/solicitations, the NC General Assembly's effect on local city ordinances, transportation including sidewalks for walking and biking, Capital Improvement Projects, regional landfill opportunities, communications/Internet service providers, City services for aging populations, Greensboro's tree ordinance, and the City's focus on retaining existing business for economic development. Communicate with Mayor Vaughn at <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=106> or 336-373-2396.

Elections:

Elected by the GNC membership were **Joel Landau for City Council District 4 Liaison** and **Sadie Blue for GNC Membership Chairperson**. Rules for GNC voting were reviewed.

Committee Reports:

Membership – The **Willow Oaks Neighborhood**, a planned community of 327 residences in east Greensboro, was voted to become a GNC member organization. Membership Chairperson Sadie Blue reminded members she welcomes requests to visit any neighborhood Board meeting and asks us all to reach out to GNC members not currently attending and encourage their re-engagement.

Issues and Bylaws – Marsh Prause indicated this committee is monitoring post-RUCO directions, wireless telecommunications issues, and always welcomes your neighborhood issues at committee meetings the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at College Park Baptist Church.

Announcements:

- GNC members are encouraged to sign up for this year's **City Academy** by July 15. <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=3477>
- **Textile Park Neighborhood** is planning a city-wide neighborhood festival in August at Festival Park in downtown Greensboro. Every GNC neighborhood will be invited to set up a table from which to promote, inform, and celebrate their neighborhood.
- Preservation Greensboro Inc's **home tour of the Westerwood Neighborhood** is May 17-18.
- **Don't Rec Glenwood** invites discussion about UNCG's proposed recreation center in the Glenwood Neighborhood. www.dontrecglenwood.org.
- Sunday, May 11, 2014, 2:00 p.m. is a tour of Green Hill Cemetery. www.FriendsOfGreenHillCemetery.org
- Guilford County now enforces a new ordinance prohibiting unattended tethering of dogs out-of-doors.
- Greensboro residents with low incomes may apply for **\$15/25 vouchers for spaying/neutering pet dogs and cats** and may qualify to receive free pet food after having their dogs and cats spayed/neutered. <http://projectbark.wordpress.com/spayneuter/>
- GNC members are encouraged to join the Renaissance Co-Op which meets the 3rd Monday of each month. <http://renaissancecoop.com/>
- Join a public forum on **fair and affordable housing** at the Central Library, Tuesday May 20, 10:00-11:30 a.m.
- Next GNC meeting is **Thursday, June 12, 7-9 p.m.** at the Central Public Library with speakers about City Neighborhood Small Projects grants and Building Stronger Neighborhoods grants.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Stringfield of the Fisher Park Neighborhood, May 11, 2014.