

**Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)  
Meeting Notes  
Saturday, January 9, 2016**

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GNC Co-Chairperson **Susan Taaffe** convened the **January 2016** GNC meeting at the Central Public Library, beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants followed by presentations by guest speakers.

**Guest speakers:**

**Dr. Love Crossling**, Director of the City of Greensboro Human Relations Commission, described processes by which the [Greensboro Police Department Professional Standards Division \(PSD\)](#) and the all-volunteer [Police Community Review Board \(PCRB\)](#) deal with complaints of unfair treatment by a Greensboro Police Department employee. There are four (4) ways to file a complaint: 1) online at <https://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?recordid=151&page=31>, 2) in person at 300 W. Washington Street, 3) by mail to either the Greensboro Police Department Professional Standards Division (PSD) or the Police Community Review Board (PCRB) at 300 W. Washington Street, Greensboro, NC 27401, or 4) by phone to the Professional Standards Division 336-373-2468 or the Police Community Review Board 336-373-2038. Complaints should include the Police Department officer's name, badge number if known, and names and phone numbers of witnesses. [Love.crossling@greensboro-nc.gov](mailto:Love.crossling@greensboro-nc.gov) or 336-373-2038

Initial complaints are investigated by our Police Department's **Professional Standards Division (PSD)** to determine if statutes or professional police standards were violated. Findings next go to the **Police Community Review Board (PCRB)** which reviews (PSD) findings. If the PCRB disagrees with the PSD findings, the issue is elevated to the City of Greensboro **Chief of Police** and if necessary to the **City Manager**, all within 90 days.

Upcoming improvements include changing from a 7 to a 9-member PCRB, increased public outreach, changing board meeting times to evening hours, and alternating meeting locations in various locations around our city.

**Dr. James Mays**, a member of the [Police Community Review Board \(PCRB\)](#), reiterated the importance of the PCRB to ensure a complaint about any Greensboro Police Department employee's behavior is managed with accountability and transparency. Citizens are encouraged to volunteer on the PCRB, participate in and educate others about the process, and continue to demand transparency and accountability in City Police efforts.

**Committee Reports:**

**GNC Elections** -- Nominations are open and elections will be held at the February 2016 GNC meeting to fill the following GNC positions: Western Co-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, Issues & Bylaws Committee Chairperson, Membership Chairperson, and City Council District Liaisons for Districts 1,3, and 5. These positions are included in the GNC Executive Board which meets the last Thursday/month, 5:30-7:00 p.m. to determine programs, represent the GNC to the larger community, and review committee work. For questions about GNC Executive Board positions and duties contact GNC Co-Chairpersons [Linda Bennett](#) or [Susan Taaffe](#).

**Issues & Bylaws – Marsh Prause and Susan Taaffe** reviewed and expanded upon last month's GNC discussion about a City land development ordinance text amendment proposed by City Planning that would allow **vacant, underutilized, commercial zoned properties to be converted to multi-family residential uses**. An intent is to increase residential infill development and reduce urban sprawl. One example would be to convert an empty shopping center's land into multi-family residential units. This Committee and today's GNC participants continue to support the City Planning staff's recommendation for a City of Greensboro Zoning text amendment (as recommended by the City Planning Board at its October 21st meeting) provided that multifamily development in commercial zoning is directly accessible from a major thoroughfare and that this text amendment is publicly reviewed in two years.

City Council also is considering modifications to the **city-wide front yard parking** ordinance.

**Susan Taaffe** attended a Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro (CFGG) discussion about low income housing and the opportunity for public-private partnerships to meet low income housing needs. *Many ideas were shared including* integrating low income housing into all neighborhoods.

**Participatory Budgeting (PB) Greensboro** -- **Art Davis** and **Ann Stringfield** reviewed Greensboro's new PB process through which hundreds of people throughout Greensboro have submitted over 600 ideas for how to spend \$100K in each City Council District on capital improvement projects on city/public property in 2016. Now PB delegate volunteers throughout Greensboro are working with City staff to determine viability of ideas, after which feasible ideas will be presented in public "expos", followed by public voting in spring 2016. Details will be publicized as the process continues. Learn about the history of PB elsewhere and its new implementation in Greensboro at <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=4796>. For details contact Ranata Reeder at [ranata@participatorybudgeting.org](mailto:ranata@participatorybudgeting.org) or phone at 336-373-7750.

#### **Announcements/News:**

- The City Police Department determined that off-duty police officers should not work at entrances to neighborhoods on Halloween.
- The **NC League of Woman Voters** and **Time Warner Cable** will sponsor two 2016 state-wide debates. Please send questions for consideration for a **February 29 NC Senator's debate** and a **March 1 NC Governors debate** to [Willy Taylor](mailto:Willy Taylor) at 336-804-0004.
- **Sunset Hills** neighborhood's lighted holiday balls and food bank donations were highlighted on the national Today Show.
- A future GNC listserv e-mail will request that GNC neighborhoods consider an annual donation to the GNC.
- GNC members are encouraged to call an A&T State University radio talk show at 90.1 FM, hosted by **Art Davis**, to discuss any Greensboro-related issue.
- GNC 2016 meeting dates were shared and are posted at [www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org](http://www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org)

The next regular GNC meeting is **Thursday, February 11, 2016, 7-9 p.m.** at the Greensboro Central Public Library. Elections will be held for the GNC Executive Board.

Visit the GNC website at [www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org](http://www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org) for information about the GNC and notes of previous GNC meetings.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Stringfield of the Fisher Park Neighborhood, January 12, 2016