

Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC) Meeting Notes Saturday, March 12, 2016



GNC Co-Chairperson **Susan Taaffe** convened the **March 2016** GNC meeting at the College Park Baptist Church, beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants.

GNC Program Brainstorming Session

In lieu of guest speakers, GNC participants engaged in a “brainstorming session” to generate ideas for future GNC monthly programs.

GNC Ideas for Meeting and Program Topics:

(*indicates more than one group listed a topic)

- Mayor or At-Large City Council Persons*
- Participatory Budgeting, Summary and Status*
- What does the GNC Offer to Neighborhoods?
- Police Presentations*
- Code Enforcement*
- Housing Code Enforcement
- Barbara Harris on Factors of Neighborhood Success and Quality of Life*
- GDOT—How Decisions are Made, Pedestrians and Bikes
- Say Yes to Education
- Education and Schools*
- How to Support Neighborhood Schools
- How Neighbors Successfully Engage Neighborhoods*
- Establish Neighborhood Leadership Development*
- How to Increase Voter Registration at Neighborhood Meetings
- Tutorial of City Website
- LWVPT: Board of Elections Issues
- Other Issues Identified by NCAE (newsletter)
- Access to Health Care and Cost of Lack of Health Care to the Whole Community
- How General Assembly Decisions Affect City Ordinances
- Tree Issues/ City Arborist, Fish and Wildlife
- Better Buddies Program
- Human Relations Committee
- Developers of Commercial Properties—How they do it
- Impact of Churches on Neighborhoods (land use, traffic, special events)
- Poverty and Race Relations
- Special Events Permits
- Improve Awareness of Free Community Events

Committee Reports:

Treasurer – Absent, so no report.

Membership – Chairperson **Jerry Alfano** is tidying and consolidating the membership check-in list and reminds us to sign-in at all GNC monthly meetings. She will reach out to engage formerly active GNC participants and welcomes all suggestions to increase monthly GNC meeting attendance.

The **Cottage Grove Neighborhood Association** applied for GNC membership. Their membership application is supported by the GNC Executive Board. By unanimous vote today their neighborhood of ~650 residences joins the GNC. Their representatives today -- **Verna Torain** and **Tonya Moore** -- shared Cottage Grove’s recent accomplishments such as a daily public health clinic, free GED and ESL classes at a local church, health fairs, and summer National Night Out Against Crime gatherings.

Issues & Bylaws – [Mike Pendergraft](#) and [Marsh Prause](#) reviewed this committee's ongoing work toward proposed GNC Bylaws changes. Examples of concepts under review include: clarifying a neighborhood membership vs. a neighborhood coalition's membership, geographic overlap of neighborhoods, improved wording to ensure the GNC doesn't vote on individual neighborhood issues (such as a rezoning) yet still focuses on issues that effect neighborhoods, clarifies that the GNC remains independent by not accepting significant funding from other organizations, clarifies duties of GNC officers and member's voting privileges, and establishes voting procedures in case voting conflict situations arise. The proposed GNC Bylaws changes will be available for review via GNC e-mail and for voting upon at our April 2016 meeting.

This committee also continues discussions with City staff and local developers regarding how multi-family infill development effects existing neighborhoods. [Mike Pendergraft](#) and [Marsh Prause](#) always invite questions from GNC members regarding GNC Bylaws and neighborhood issues.

Announcements/News:

- [Participatory Budgeting \(PB\) Greensboro](#) -- **Ann Stringfield** provided **dates and locations** for people in each of Greensboro's five (5) City Council Districts to **view** dozens of PB ideas collected from dozens of PB meetings across Greensboro in 2015, plus provided **dates and locations** for **public voting** to choose which PB projects our City should implement. This [Participatory Budgeting \(PB\)](#) process is your opportunity to vote on how \$100K of City money is spent in your City Council District from the 2016-2017 City budget. Dates and locations for viewing and for voting on projects, or for further details about Participatory Budgeting in Greensboro, visit <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=4796> or phone at 336-373-7750.
- The [Shepherd's Center of Greensboro](#) asks you to help **locate older adults** in our community who need help obtaining a **photo ID** required for voting in the November 2016 general election, and to inform older adults that this help is available via the Shepherd's Center. To volunteer help contact 336-378-0766 or info@shepctrq.org.
- City of Greensboro Mayor **Nancy Vaughan** and others meet regularly to discuss improving race relations in Greensboro.
- The [Renaissance Community Co-op](#) has finalized their building lease contract and construction contract to revitalize a former shopping center on Philips Avenue.
- The **NC League of Women Voters** offers a 30-minute online video which explains voter registration in NC. Visit www.LWVNC.org to view.
- **Wednesday, March 16th**, at noon, [New Garden Friends Meeting House](#) volunteers offer a cemetery tour highlighting persons who significantly influenced our community and are buried in their old cemetery.
- Pastries shared during today's GNC meeting were provided at cost by the [Spring Garden Bakery](#) in the Lindley Park Neighborhood.

The next GNC meeting is **Thursday, April 14, 2016, 7-9 p. m.** at the **Central Public Library**.

Visit the GNC website at www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org for information about the GNC and notes from previous monthly GNC meetings.

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