

Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)

Meeting Notes

Thursday, June 9, 2016



GNC Co-Chairpersons **Susan Taaffe** and **Linda Bennett** convened the **June 2016** GNC meeting at the Central Public Library, beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants.

In lieu of guest speakers and committee reports this month, GNC members learned from City Community Relation's staff **Donna Gray** and **Kathy Justice**, and from City Communications Manager **Jake Keys**, to become familiar with our City Council's meeting space, facilities and procedures. All attendees casually experienced the valuable opportunity to speak before a mock City Council -- actually our fellow GNC members. Tips we learned include:

- Prepare and practice a **2.5-minute** presentation beginning with your name and address of residence.
- Dress appropriately and arrive early for 5:30 p.m. City Council meetings, especially if you plan to speak publicly. Visit <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=84> for extensive City Council information.
- Anticipate physical security checks and bag checks. **No** firearms or weapons are allowed in this building.
- Fire regulations limit to 170 persons in City Council chambers. Overflow seating is in the lobby.
- Handicap access includes wide isles for wheelchairs, seating for a companion, and an adjustable podium.
- Upon entry into City Council chambers turn off cell phones and pick up the meeting's agenda,
- If you plan to give a presentation to City Council, dispose of your chewing gum, give to the Council Courier your handouts (~15) for city staff and for City Council, then personally give extra handouts to media persons seated mid-center before you sit. If you want any documents to be included in the meeting's minutes, a copy of your documents must be given to the Clerk, who sits adjacent to the speaker's podium.
- If you have any questions while at the meeting, ask the security guards or city staff; they are happy to help.
- If you signed up to speak at a Council meeting, sit at the left front of the public seating. The Mayor will call 3 speakers names at a time. Speakers called should stand along the left-hand wall in the order called. Up to 10 "Speakers from the floor" are allowed a strict maximum of **3 minutes each** for a total of 30 minutes prior to Council's scheduled agenda items.
- At the podium, adjust the podium and microphone, state your name, address of residence, and provide a maximum 3-minute presentation which is recorded live and is [available for replay](#) on the City website.
- You may employ a flash drive or handout to visually display graphic information from the podium.
- **Scheduled** City Council **agenda items** allow 15 minutes of speakers **for** and 15 minutes of speakers **against** each agenda item, followed by 5 minutes' **rebuttal** time for each side. Multiple presenters are allowed, but Council may limit each speaker's time to 2-minutes/person if necessary. If Council members ask questions, you're allotted more time to answer.
- The most effective presentations are **well planned, practiced** for limited time and content, **strategized** among speakers of each perspective, **eliminate repetition**, and project a **sincere and respectful** tone.

Announcements/News:

The **Randleman Road Business Association**, a business community organization, plans to apply for GNC membership.

Applications are accepted until July 1 for city residents to participate in the annual **Greensboro City Academy**. Accepted applicants will enjoy weekly meetings with City staff and will learn about many departments and their operations within our City of Greensboro. Learn more at <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=2332>

The **July GNC meeting is cancelled**. Mid-summer meetings experience poor attendance.

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, June 9, 2016.