

**Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)**  
**Meeting Notes**  
**Thursday, August 11, 2016**

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

**Guest Speaker – Larry Davis, Director of the City of Greensboro Budget & Evaluation Department**, presented details of a four-part City of Greensboro bond referenda on which all Greensboro residents have the opportunity to vote during the November 8<sup>th</sup> election. You may vote “yes” or “no” on each of four referenda parts. If passed, these new bonds help pay for funding new projects. City bonds allow greater flexibility of use than do federal funds. Bond categories are **Housing - \$25M, Community Development – 38.5M, Parks & Recreation - \$34.5, and Transportation - \$28M** for a total of \$126M possible bond funding. If all four bonds pass, property in the City of Greensboro would experience either of the property tax scenarios presented below [provided 9/16/2016 by **Jon Decker**, Strategic Issues Analyst, City of Greensboro Budget and Evaluation Department. 336-373-4181 [jon.decker@greensboro-nc.gov](mailto:jon.decker@greensboro-nc.gov)]

a) The one-time increase would be a total of 3.35 cents per \$100 of property value, or approximately an annual increase of \$50.25 for a property valued at \$150,000. This increase, however, includes the existing \$165 million bond authorization: 1.25 cents per \$100 of property value, or approximately \$18.75 annually for a \$150,000 property. The new bonds would require approximately 2.1 cents per \$100 of property value, or \$31.50 annually for a \$150,000 property. **Or**

b) Under the scenario that spreads the tax increase over 3 years, the amount of the increase attributed to new and existing debt has not been identified, but the total increase over the 3-year period would be approximately 3.9 cents per \$100 in property value, or \$58.50 for a \$150,000 property.

Davis’s detailed PowerPoint presentation about our city’s November 8<sup>th</sup> bond referenda and examples of major projects that would be funded if passed, soon will be available on the City website. GNC members will receive an updated link to the referenda PowerPoint when that document is available.

**Announcements/News:**

The **Westerwood Neighborhood** shared copies of their printed newsletter -- which also is on their website -- and which includes reviews of monthly GNC meetings. Westerwood enjoys and invites you to a new Wednesday evening farmer’s market, 5:30-8:00 p.m. in the parking lot of 1<sup>st</sup> Baptist Church on Market Street.

The **League of Women Voters of the Piedmont Triad** offers a printed non-partisan voter guide for you to distribute in your own neighborhood before November elections. Call 336-274-0202 to request the number of copies needed for your neighborhood’s delivery.

**Nealtown Neighborhood** leaders keep their neighbors informed of environmental issues, hold Saturday yard sales, organize school supply giveaways, and voter registration events.

**Eastside Park Community Center** has updated computers for neighborhood student use.

**Old L. Richardson Neighborhood** held a successful National Night Out against Crime (NNO) event, attended by about 200 neighbors.

**Cottage Grove Neighborhood** enjoyed good attendance at their National Night Out (NNO) celebration including inside entertainment, food, a book give-away, and voter registration.

**Joel Landau** [JandBLandau@bellsouth.net](mailto:JandBLandau@bellsouth.net) solicits your ideas for his column in the local “Yes Weekly” publication. Also of interest, a local **classroom food growing project** allows students to learn about the biology, ecology, and financial benefits of growing foods locally, then those foods can be donated to a local food pantry.

The new [Renaissance Co-Op](#) grocery received additional donations from local churches and Kiwanis clubs.

[LeBauer Park](#), offering children's and family outdoor activities, has opened in downtown Greensboro.

The [Greensboro Performing Arts Center](#) is anticipated for completion in 2018.

The next GNC meeting is **Saturday, September 17, 9-11 a.m. at the Central Public Library.** (That is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month because Greensboro hosts the [National Folk Festival](#) downtown on the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend of September.)

Visit the GNC website at [www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org](http://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, August 16, 2016.