

**Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)
Meeting Notes
Saturday, February 9, 2019**



GNC Co-Chairperson **Susan Taaffe** convened the **February 2019** GNC meeting at the Greensboro Public Library, beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants.

Guest Speakers:

Brian Hart, Deputy Director of the **Greensboro Public Library** introduced us to dozens of free, public library programs and resources. Learn about them all at www.GreensboroLibrary.org. Public libraries support lifelong learning (online classes, educational programs, access to digital resources, children's story times), free and equal access to information (free access to online databases of books, magazines, government resources, genealogy resources, North Carolina materials, educational tutorials, computer classes, career-related resources, business resources) -- all at no cost to individuals. To access all of these, simply visit the [central library or any of seven \(7\) branch libraries](#) and provide a photo id to obtain a library card. Learn to use a 3-D Printer at the Central, Glenwood, Hemphill, or Glen-McNairy branch library. The McGirt-Horton branch offers a small recording studio. All branches offer free or fee-based meeting spaces. Vote to select this year's city-wide [One City One Book to read](#).

Liz Grimes, 2019 Participatory Budgeting (PB) Commission Vice Chairperson <mailto:pbgso@greensboro-nc.gov> and **Jason Martin**, City Budget manager 336-373-4516, introduced us to this year's City of Greensboro [Participatory Budgeting \(PB\)](#) idea collection and voting process. Participatory Budgeting is a democratic process which ensures Greensboro citizens can submit ideas and then vote on up to \$100K of capital improvement projects or programs to implement in each of five (5) City Council districts in the coming year. (5 districts x \$100K per City Council district totals \$500K to spend city-wide.) All projects/programs must be: 1) implemented **by** the City **on** city property, 2) a **benefit the public**, 3) accomplished in **one** year, and 4) neutral with respect to religion or politics. **Capital project** examples are city bus shelters, public art, sun shades at swimming pools, park benches, solar charging stations, etc. **Program** examples are city bus GPS locators, fire safety workshops, public gardening classes, etc. Submit ideas at public PB meetings or online February through March 2019. Vote among chosen projects at public PB meetings or online October through November 2019. Learn more about PB, volunteer to help educate others about PB, submit PB ideas, and later vote for PB projects/programs online at <https://www.greensboro-nc.gov/departments/budget-evaluation/participatory-budgeting>.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Betty Watson reports that GNC funds include \$594.29 in checking, \$262.16 in savings, for a total of \$856.45 as of January 31, 2019.

Membership: Gerry Alfano reminded participants to sign-in at monthly meetings.

Susan Taaffe announced the GNC Executive Board's decision that GNC meetings will no longer be monthly and instead will be [April 13, June 15, August 10, and October 12 in 2019](#). Taaffe also reviewed GNC positions open for election and invited nominations. You're encouraged to volunteer for any unfilled position. Voting gave unanimous support for:

East Co-Chair – unfilled
Secretary – unfilled
Communications Committee Chair – unfilled
Finance Committee Chair -- Mike Pendergraft
Membership Committee Chair -- Gerry Alfano

City Council District 2 Liaison – Laura Blackstock
Council District 3 Liaison -- unfilled
City Council District 4 Liaison – Joel Landau
City Council District 5 Liaison -- unfilled

Announcements:

- GCN participants thanked Linda Bennet for her six years of service as Co-Chairperson.
- GNC participants congratulated Bennett College's recent successful fundraising, allowing them to retain accreditation.
- GNC participants are encouraged to educate their neighborhoods to [2019 Participatory Budgeting](#) idea submission and voting. Please invite PB volunteers to explain PB at your neighborhood meetings.

Our next GNC meeting is **Saturday, April 13, 9-11 a.m.** at the Greensboro Central Public Library, Nussbaum Room.

Additional 2019 GNC meetings will be:

- June 15, Saturday, 9-11 a.m.
- August 10, 2019, Saturday, 9-11 a.m.
- October 12, Saturday, 9-11 a.m.

Visit www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org for information about the GNC, where you can always read notes from previous GNC monthly meetings.

GNC notes are respectfully submitted by Ann Stringfield of the Fisher Park Neighborhood, February 14, 2019.