

Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)
Meeting Notes
Thursday, August 8, 2013



GNC Co-Chairperson Linda Bennett convened the **August 2013** GNC meeting at the Central Public Library beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants and presentations by guest speakers.

Guest speakers:

Deanna Taylor, City Police Department Eastern Division Officer, presented information about several internet tools to aid local crime awareness.

[CrimeMapping.com](http://www.crime-mapping.com) allows anyone to search for crimes reported to the Greensboro Police Department. Search any address, choose a radius around that address, and you'll see a map with icons. Each icon represents one specific crime. Click an icon to read public information about that specific crime. You may choose a range of dates or any combination of 15 crime categories. Plus you may sign up to receive "crime alerts" via e-mail. Contact Officer D.E. Campbell at 336-373-4570 for details.

<http://p2c.greensboro-nc.gov> (a.k.a. **P2C**) allows anyone to search Greensboro Police Department public police reports including arrests and accident reports, with more details than crime mapping. P2C also allows anyone to report to the police any non-violent and non-emergency incidents (stolen property, vandalism, lost property, etc.) In the future P2C will provide additional police report details which you may use for your purposes such as for insurance company reports. During **immediate emergency** situations (burglary, robbery, accidents, etc.) please call the police directly at **911 or 373-2222!** P2C is useful in non-emergency situations.

Linda Bennett overviewed several neighborhood grant opportunities such as the **Greensboro Beautiful Neighborhood Initiative grants** of up to \$1,000 which can be used to improve neighborhood entrances, create low maintenance landscapes, eradicate invasive plants, etc. Applications are due October 31st each year and are available at http://www.greensborobeautiful.org/treeplantings/neighborhood_grants.php or 336-373-2199.

The **City of Greensboro's Neighborhood Small Projects grant** annually offers up to \$20,000 of neighborhood projects on public property in each of five City Council Districts. Bennett's Textile Park Neighborhood received grants for toddler play equipment in their park plus tree planting. Successful grant applications provide strong evidence of neighborhood support, vendor price quotes for desired materials, and request improvements only on **public** property. Neighborhoods should anticipate several months for grant decision-making and implementation. Nasha McCray and Darryl Holsey of the City of Greensboro Parks & Recreation Department both encourage neighborhoods to take advantage of City grants to improve **public** property in or near neighborhoods. Grant applications are due November 30th with awards granted the following spring. Full details and applications are available at <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=3920> and by calling Russ Clegg at 336-373-2211.

Committee Reports:

Issues & Bylaws – Mike Pendergraft reported that after years of diligent work the proposed rental housing ordinance was adopted by City Council in July. The City is writing a manual to help apply the ordinance. Send new issues and bylaws ideas for consideration to Mike for future GNC consideration. mrp_mlp@bellsouth.net

Membership – Peter Kauber continues to encourage monthly meeting sign-in and updated membership information. GNC membership includes about 48 organizations in about 90 neighborhoods. Peter Kauber and Sadie Blue will call many formerly active GNC members to engage their participation. pkauber@triad.rr.com

Treasurer – Jack Zimmerman reported a total of \$958.82 within GNC checking and savings as of July 31.

Neighborhood Accomplishments/Concerns – Linda Bennett's neighborhood had new trees planted and await installation of toddler play equipment. Laura Blackstock praised the Police Department for recent assistance. James Griffin announced an upcoming Heritage event celebrating their 148-year-old Warnersville neighborhood. Ann Stringfield expressed pleasure of Fisher Park neighbor's impromptu National Night Out event.

Announcements –

- The **Building Stronger Neighborhoods (BSN) Grant-seeker Workshop is September 4**, 6:30-7:30 p.m. at the Glenwood Branch Public Library. First time BSN grant seekers **must** attend the Grant-seeker Workshop. BSN grant applications are easy to complete and offer between \$300 and \$3,000/grant, up to two awards/year, totaling no more than \$5,000 awarded per neighborhood per year.

- GNC's annual City Council Candidate Forums will be:

October 10 Forum for At Large City Council Candidates – Nussbaum Room of the Central Public Library.

October 14 Forum for Mayoral Candidates – West Market Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, 6:30 p.m.

October 22 Forum for City Council Distirct Candidates – Nussbaum Room of the Central Public Library.

Full details will be provided via e-mail. Sharon Hightower (336-333-2411) of City Council District 1 and Jim Kee of City Council District 2 each announced they seek City Council election this November.

- Ann Stringfield requests each GNC neighborhood **send one or two photos of your neighborhood**, particularly near an identifying neighborhood sign if possible, to her at infocrofters@triad.rr.com for posting on the www.gnc-nc.org website and for viewing during our 10th anniversary celebration September 14.

- Donald Blackstop requests GNC members attend a workshop August 15 at Peeler Center, 7:00 p.m. to support plans for a new non-profit 501c3 organization at the **Renaissance Shopping Center (RSC)**. Sadie Blue, a member of the **Reaissance Co-Op** announced the Co-Op will host a second meeting August 19, 7:00 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church of the Cross.

- **Northeast Greensboro neighborhoods** are encouraged by plans for a Roses store near the intersection of Cone and Yanceyville and a Zaxby's restaurant in City Council District 2.

- Laura Jackson and Peter Kauber request a second presentation of the **Police Department's L.E.A.P. program** due to significant interest. Laura suggests the GNC Issues & Bylaws Committee consider GNC funding a prescription medicine drop box at City Police Departments.

- **Next GNC meeting is Saturday, September 14, 9a.m. – Noon at the Central Greensboro Public Library** which is our GNC 10th anniversary celebration! An invitation with agenda is available at www.gnc-nc.org. Please share the invitation with your neighbors and other neighborhoods.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Stringfield of the Fisher Park Neighborhood, August 8, 2013.