

**Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)  
Meeting Notes  
Saturday, March 14, 2015**

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GNC Co-Chairperson **Susan Taaffe** convened the **March 2015** GNC meeting at the Central Public Library beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants followed by presentations by guest speakers.

**Guest speaker:**

**Jeffrey Sovich**, City of Greensboro Neighborhood Planning Coordinator, introduced the opportunity for neighborhoods to request City planning staff help to develop an official neighborhood plan. Due to current funding constraints, your City Councilperson will need to support and direct funds to be allocated toward such plans. Neighborhood plans involve a 12-15 month process including broad stakeholder involvement, collaboration, shared goals and strategies, and should focus on future land uses. Neighborhood plans are more finely tuned to detail than is the city's General Future Land Use Map (GFLUM). Contact City Planning staff Hannah Cockburn to request creating a neighborhood plan.

Neighborhoods are advised to ***maintain regular communications*** with your City Councilperson(s). The City Planning Department increasingly focuses on reuse of underutilized land/buildings/space and supports increased infill vs urban sprawl.

Before March 20, City Planning staff request direct citizen input toward a [2015-2019 Consolidated Plan](#) after which the City will apply for federal planning grant funds. The City of Greensboro Planning Board will hold a public hearing to receive comments from residents about community needs, **Wednesday, March 18, 4:00 p.m.** in the City Council chamber. Please complete the public survey at [https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Con\\_Plan\\_15](https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Con_Plan_15)

**Elections:**

Nominated and elected to fill available 2-year positions are:

Eastern Greensboro CoChairperson – Linda Bennett  
Secretary – vacant  
Finance Chairperson – Mike Pendergraft  
Membership Chairperson – vacant but several volunteers assist

City Council District 2 Liason – Laura Blackstock  
City Council District 3 Liason– vacant  
City Council District 4 Liason – Joel Landau  
Nominations are **always** open to fill vacancies.

**Committee Reports:**

**Membership** – Please sign in at each meeting and update your neighborhood leadership contact information to Sadie Blue at [spoyldsadie@yahoo.com](mailto:spoyldsadie@yahoo.com) or 336-988-5009. Sadie Blue welcomes invitations to visit GNC members Board meetings. GNC Bylaws require that only neighborhood representatives who have attended 2 of the most recent 3 GNC meetings may vote, and those neighborhood names were announced.

**Issues and Bylaws** – **Marsh Prause** [marsh.prause@smithmoorelaw.com](mailto:marsh.prause@smithmoorelaw.com) indicated this committee continues work reviewing GNC bylaws. GNC participants are welcomed to meetings, usually held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month, 5:30 p.m. at College Park Baptist Church-- but contact Marsh to confirm dates/times. This committee also is evaluating state-wide proposals about 3<sup>rd</sup> party rezoning.

**Treasurer** – **Jack Zimmerman** reported that as of February 28, 2015, GNC bank accounts have a checking balance of \$203.48 and savings balance of \$259.48 for a total balance of \$462.96.

Discussion ensued about NC General Assembly Senate Bill 36 which proposes to alter boundaries for NC House and Senate districts specifically in the City of Greensboro. If passed, proposed changes would transition our City Council from 9 members (6 geographic district councilpersons and 3 "At Large" councilpersons plus one Mayor) to 7 City Council district members, one from each of 7 newly proposed geographic districts, with no "At Large" Councilpersons, and a Mayor who could only vote in case of a Council tie vote.

View the language and progress of this bill entitled "*An Act to clarify the form of government, method of election, and determination of election results in the City of Greensboro*" through the NC General Assembly website at <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2015&BillID=s36&submitButton=Go>

A motion was made and approved by vote that "*The Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC) is an organization dedicated to the empowerment of neighborhoods. As such, we oppose the process by which SB36 has been developed and advanced in the NC General Assembly as being detrimental to the principles of the GNC.*"

All citizens of Greensboro are encouraged **promptly to contact** their NC General Assembly Senators and Representatives to express opinions about this fast-moving pending state legislation.

- Contact information for NC House of Representatives representing Guilford County is available at <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/members/reports/countyRepresentation.pl?Chamber=House>
- Contact information for NC Senators representing Guilford County is available at <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/members/reports/countyRepresentation.pl?Chamber=Senate>

#### **Announcements/News:**

- All neighbors are invited to Community Fellowship Sunday and an after church service luncheon at the True Salvation Christian Fellowship, 1901 Spencer Street Sunday, March 15, 2015.

The next GNC meeting is **Thursday, April 9, 2015, 7:00 p.m.** at the Greensboro Central Public Library. Guest speakers will be Russ Clegg of City Planning and Chris Wilson of City Parks & Recreation.

[www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org](http://www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org)

Respectfully submitted by Ann Stringfield of the Fisher Park Neighborhood, March 14, 2015.