

Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC) Meeting Notes Thursday, June 8, 2017



GNC Co-Chairperson **Susan Taaffe** convened the **June 2017** GNC meeting at the Greensboro Public Library, beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants.

Guest speakers:

Carla Banks, City of Greensboro Community Relations Manager, 336-373-3769, reviewed the many, diverse communication vehicles their department creates to keep city residents well informed including: newsletters, an extensive website, publications, speech writing for city staff presentations, marketing materials, live and recorded presentations on the Greensboro Television Network (GTN TV) and on A&T State University radio programs, posters on city properties, business profiles showcasing local businesses such as the [Renaissance Community Co-Op](#) and [Cone Health](#), and the city call center -- professionally staffed at **336-373-CITY** to direct you to city staff who can answer your questions.

Attendees received the [City of Greensboro 2016 Accomplishments & Highlights](#) document. Neighbors are encouraged to submit your own ideas for new, effective City communications. Call Carla Banks, City of Greensboro Community Relations Manager at 336-373-3769, or Donna Gray, City Community Relations Manager/ADA Coordinator at 336-373-2723, both of whom welcome your ideas to improve City communications.

Also, neighbors are invited to apply now through July 1 to attend Greensboro's 2017 [City Academy](#), a premier educational opportunity in which 25 city residents – 5 from each of 5 City Council districts – meet eleven Thursday evenings through November to interact with dozens of city departments *“to develop future leaders and build a better community through the efforts of well informed and civically engaged residents.”* [City Academy](#) classes include meals prior to presentations and interaction with city staff of police, fire, housing, parks/recreation, water services, human relations, historic preservation, zoning, finance/budget, transportation, economic development, city council, and more.

Juanita Montgomery, a volunteer with [Safer City Greensboro](#), invites everyone to join a collaborative city-wide effort to address the underlying issues that contribute to violent crime, involving community stakeholders to help reduce violent crime by addressing conditions that contribute to crime. The working groups are: Housing, Employment, Youth, Public safety, and Legal. Initial focus is on 3 neighborhood clusters experiencing high crime rates; seeking ideas and evidence for successful crime reduction outcomes. Meet August 31, 2017 at the City Public Safety Training Center, 1510 N. Church Street. For more information contact Ms. Montgomery at 336-378-1256 or Greensboro Police Community Engagement Manager **Jenny Caviness** at 336-373-2733.

Al Lineberry, a volunteer with [Ready for School <> Ready for Life](#), explained this privately funded program aims to help parents ensure that each child in Guilford County enters kindergarten on track and ready for what's ahead. This collaborative effort connects families of infants, toddlers and preschoolers with services and support to help keep more children developmentally on track. Human sensory and language development occurs earlier than most parents realize - prenatal through high school – so all efforts to improve children's early sense of well-being, education, and positive experiences have a tremendous positive family and societal “return on investment”. This group requests invitations to speak to your neighborhood, church, school, or to any organization interested in improving our society by investing in positive experiences for young children. Contact Executive Director [Mary Herbenick](#).

Committee Reports:

Treasurer – Jack Zimmerman reports the GNC has \$430.86 in checking, \$260.99 in savings, for a total of \$691.85 as of May 31, 2017.

Issues & Bylaws – This committee meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month, the next meeting being Wednesday, June 21st, 6:00 p.m. at College Park Baptist Church where they'll discuss measuring quality of life factors for neighborhoods. All GNC members are invited to participate.

Susan Taaffe, GNC western Co-Chair, encourages all GNC members to review the newly drafted **GNC vision, mission, values, goals, and strategies** document and prepare to discuss and vote to adopt these at our August 10 meeting. One additional strategy was added under Goal 3, "To develop a process to engage the City". The draft is available for review on the GNC website's home page <http://greensboroneighborhoodcongress.org/>.

Announcements:

Saturday, June 10, noon-5:00 p.m. all are invited to the Dunleath (formerly Aycock) neighborhood "Porchfest" offering free music presented from over 20 neighborhood front porches.

The **GNC's July meeting is cancelled** due to low summertime attendance.

The next meeting of the GNC is **Thursday, August 10, 2017, 7-9 p.m.** at the Central Public Library.

Visit the GNC website at www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org for information about the GNC, and to read notes from previous GNC monthly meetings.

Respectfully submitted by **Ann Stringfield** of the Fisher Park Neighborhood, June 22, 2017.