

Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)

Meeting Notes

Thursday, August 10, 2017



GNC Co-Chairperson **Linda Bennett** convened the **August 2017** GNC meeting at the Greensboro Public Library, beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants.

Guest speakers:

Charles Jackson, City Parks & Recreation Special Programs Superintendent, expanded our knowledge of programs offered by Greensboro's **Parks & Recreation Division**. His responsibilities include programs offered at our city lakes, gardens, senior center, plus Adaptive and Inclusive programs for persons with physical, visual, and developmental impairments/disabilities.

City Parks & Recreation facilities and programs include major public gardens, community gardens, golf courses, lakes, a traveling environmental education bus, 5 major parks plus 100 neighborhood parks, two "spraygrounds" for water play, two skate parks, and 90+ miles of public trails and greenways. The City also offers a boxing gym at Lindley Recreation Center, participation in league teams for basketball, hockey, kickball, and softball. Youth sports include team tee-ball, basketball, cheerleading, football, hockey, lacrosse, soccer, softball, and volleyball. Five public swimming pools offer swim lessons and pool use, including use of Greensboro's large Aquatic Center. Weekly activities are available and many public tennis courts and soccer fields, offering clinics and camps. Additional culture and community opportunities include free Sunday Evening the Park concerts, dance and drama classes, music lessons, art projects, social and support clubs and classes, and the year-round Greensboro Farmer's Curb Market on Yanceyville Street. By reservation, a City minibus offers transportation to City Parks & Recreation facilities for persons who can't drive. To learn more and participate, visit www.GSOParksAndRec.com and 336-373-2558.

Especially geared for our increasing number of elder adults, the [Smith Senior Center](http://www.smithseniorcenter.com) on Fairview Street offers dozens of fitness and aquatics classes, social clubs and interest groups, wellness programs and helpful support groups and counseling services. www.greensboro-nc.gov/Seniors. www.facebook.com/smithseniorcenter. 336-373-7564.

Matt Phillips, Operations & Logistics Coordinator for [LimeBike](http://www.limebike.com), demonstrated one of over 100 new single-speed, **lime-green color bicycles** available for shared use within City limits. **LimeBikes** are provided by a private venture capital investment firm. Your first ride is free. Share the **LimeBike** application with others and you each are awarded 3 free rides. Thereafter rides are \$1/half hour or 50-cents/half hour for students who use their educational e-mail address ending in .edu.

To use any **LimeBike** you find around town, use your cell phone to enter requested information including your credit card information, scan a code printed on the bike, ride the bike to your destination, then lock the bike to terminate your use. The cell phone application charges your credit card. Geographical Positioning Software (GPS) tracks each bike's location. A solar panel on the basket charges a lithium battery inside the bike. Front and rear lights engage for night-time use. Although you cannot reserve a **LimeBike**, the cell phone application indicates nearby **LimeBike** locations. Minimum user age is 18 with no weight limit. Solid tires do not puncture or deflate. When a **LimeBike** is ridden to a less useful location, **LimeBike** staff know it's GPS location and return it to a more useful location. If someone tries to steal a **LimeBike** without paying for use, loud alarms sound and police and **LimeBike** are called. **LimeBike** anticipates placing 1,000 bikes in Greensboro, many downtown and in busy transit communities such as local college campuses. www.LimeBike.com or 888-546-3345

Susan Taaffe, GNC western Co-Chair, again asked all GNC members to review and ask questions about the proposed **GNC vision, mission, values, goals, and strategies** document, originally drafted in 2016 and reviewed multiple times in 2017. Tonight's participants voted unanimously to adopt this document. It is available at <http://greensboroneighborhoodcongress.org/>.

Committee Reports:

Issues & Bylaws – This committee meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month 6:00 p.m. at College Park Baptist Church. Current discussions involve measuring quality of life factors for neighborhoods and discussions with City staff about how close a front porch can be built to a public street. All GNC members are invited to participate.

Membership – All GNC participants are reminded to sign in at each GNC meeting, indicating your attendance and updating your contact information.

Announcements:

Renaissance Community Co-op (RCC) representative **Leo Stewart** asks all GNC members to grocery shop at the RCC as often as possible, and offer the shopping opportunity to your family members and friends, whether members or not. RCC founders worked diligently for years to open this cooperative grocery and its viability depends on consistent shoppers.

Brandywine [Neighborhood] Homeowners Association representative **Joel Landau** shared that some of their long-standing homeowner's covenants have been found to be not legally binding, based on NC and local laws. They've engaged attorneys to review covenants and remind other homeowner associations to be aware of similar situations.

Several GNC members shared their neighborhood's positive experiences from their annual [National Night Out](#) celebrations, always the first Tuesday of August.

- The next GNC meeting is **Saturday, September 16, 2017, 9-11 a.m.** at the Central Public Library.
- The GNC hosts a **District City Council Candidate Forum Monday, October 16, 6:30 p.m.** at the Central Public Library.
- The GNC hosts an **At Large City Council Candidate Forum Tuesday, October 24, 6:30 p.m.** at the Central Public Library.
- Please submit your City Council Candidate Forum questions ahead of time to gnc.gso.nc@gmail.com with Subject line: Question for candidates

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

Respectfully submitted by **Ann Stringfield** of the Fisher Park Neighborhood, August 14, 2017.