

**Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)
Meeting Notes
Thursday, June 14, 2018**



GNC Co-Chairperson **Susan Taaffe** convened the **June 2018** GNC meeting at the Greensboro Public Library, beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants.

Guest speakers:

Steven Buter of the City of Greensboro Budgets and Evaluations Department presented an overview of our City Capital Improvements Projects (CIP) and our City bonds. We continue to pay debt service (interest) on 2008 City bonds – predominantly on important infrastructure improvements such as our water resources, streets, and sidewalks. Current City Council's intent is to pay down newer 2016 City bond debt faster than in the past, which eventually will necessitate a tax increase. 2016 bond categories support local: Housing, Community & Economic Development, Parks & Recreation, and Transportation. Our current City property tax rate is 63.25 cents per \$100 property valuation. Greensboro's City budget information, and the proposed 2018-2019 budget, is available for review at <https://www.greensboro-nc.gov/departments/budget-evaluation>. Contact Steven Buter at 336-373-2261.

Cynthia Blue, Manager of our City of Greensboro Neighborhood Development Department's Housing Services Division, reviewed how \$25M of 2016 City bond housing funds are being used for: Code Compliance, Finance & Grants, and Housing Services. Examples of use are: increasing availability of affordable home rentals and affordable home purchases, loans for home repairs for low income populations, handicap accessibility and housing for special needs populations (homeless, disabled, and veterans), funds for home repairs after emergencies such as natural disasters, and development of affordable multifamily housing. For [City Housing Services](https://www.greensboro-nc.gov/departments/neighborhood-development/check-on/housing-programs-services) information contact <https://www.greensboro-nc.gov/departments/neighborhood-development/check-on/housing-programs-services>. Contact Cynthia Blue at 336-373-7376.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: Betty Watson reports GNC funds include \$622.07 in checking, \$261.66 in savings, for a total of \$883.73 as of May 31, 2018. The **Dunleath Neighborhood** made a generous \$100 donation to the GNC on 5/18/2018.

Membership: Everyone please sign in at every GNC monthly meeting.

Issues & Bylaws (I&B): Marsh Prause reports that City sign regulations are being reviewed. The GNC I&B committee also is investigating how our City regulates **short-term rentals (STRs)** such as Vacation Rentals By Owner (VRBO) and Air Bed & Breakfast (AirB&B). Newer neighborhoods often address STRs within their neighborhood covenants.

Currently, in the City of Greensboro: to operate a **short-term rental (STR)**, a single-family-zoned residence must apply for and obtain a public hearing to obtain a **Special Use Permit**. Multi-family zoned residences do not require a Special Use Permit to operate a STR. A structure used as a STR must have been built for residential use. STRs can't be closer than 400' to another STR. STRs may have a maximum of 6 guest rooms. The owner/operator of a STR must live on-premises. There can be only one kitchen facility in a STR. No STR patrons may stay more than 15 days during a 60-day period. No signage is required for a STR. Anyone interested in or concerned about short term rentals (STRs) in their neighborhood may contact City [Code Enforcement](#) staff at 336-373-2111.

Announcements:

- An attendee reminded GNC participants of our City Council's intent to reduce annual funding for future [Participatory Budgeting \(PB\)](#) efforts. The 2019 budget for PB may be reduced from \$500,000 to \$250,000. This will be discussed at the next GNC Executive Board meeting. Anyone may proactively contact City Council to support continued \$500,000 funding. Our City Council may be reached at 336-373-2397 or <https://www.greensboro-nc.gov/government/city-council/e-mail-city-council>.
- Three times each year the [Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro \(CFGG\)](#) accepts applications for and funds neighborhood grants for neighborhood events and development through their [Building Stronger Neighborhoods](#) program. The 3rd application date this year is September 14, 2018. Contact Sadie Blue at 336.355.8650 or <mailto:BSNGrants@gmail.com>.
- Remind your neighborhood leaders to plan [National Night Out](#) events for August 7, 2018. To register your neighborhood's NNO events with the City, contact the Office of Community Engagement at 336-373-2636.
- The [Weatherspoon Art Museum](#), 500 Tate Street on the UNCG campus, invites everyone to a Summer Solstice Party, June 22, 6-9 p.m.
- The **GNC July meeting is cancelled** due to summer vacations.
- The **GNC August and September meetings** both will be facilitated by **Sadie Blue**, the [Building Stronger Neighborhoods](#) Neighborhood Consultant. Sadie Blue educates and enthuses participants to become more effective leaderships. Topics will include *effective leading, effective communication, conflict resolution, succession planning, and leaving a legacy for your neighborhood*. GNC members are encouraged to invite their neighborhood Board members to attend this important **free leadership development training**. Please also encourage *leadership-minded neighborhood youth* to attend, as they are your neighborhood's future leaders.

The next two meetings of the GNC continue at the Greensboro Central Public Library, Nussbaum Room:

- **Thursday, August 9, 2018, 7-9 p.m.**
- **Saturday, September 8, 2018, 9-11 a.m.**

Visit 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, June 14, 2018.