

Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)
Meeting Notes
Saturday, May 12, 2012



GNC Co-Chairperson Susan Taaffe convened the May GNC meeting at the Greensboro Central Public Library beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants and presentations by guest speakers.

Guest speakers:

Sheila Carmon of the City Planning & Community Development Department reminded us that a city ordinance requires that every single family house display address numbers 3" in height, every multiple dwelling unit's address numbers must display address numbers 6" in height, address numbers must contrast with their background, and must be placed within 3' of the house entrance or be visible from the street. If your house is not visible from the street, address numbers should be posted at the road and if over 100' from the road, additional address posting is required. Keep bushes, vines, flowers, and weeds trimmed so all address numbers are visible. Fines may be assessed for non-compliance. Posting your address correctly and visibly helps emergency responders (police, fire, and emergency management services) locate you faster. Address numbers painted on curbs do not satisfy this city ordinance. For questions, please contact 336-373-2144 or 336-373-2489.

Jenny Cavines, Division Manager of Youth & Volunteer Services of Greensboro Parks & Recreation Department, discussed Adopt-A-Park as one of many Greensboro Inclusive Volunteer Experiences (GIVE). Adopt-A-Park is a 2-year agreement through which a neighborhood commits to clean-up a city-owned park, trail, or stream twice per year. National Night Out in August and the Great American Clean-Up in April are two such annual events already facilitated by the city in which neighborhoods may conveniently engage to meet Adopt-A-Park requirements. Only 18 of approximately 199 city-owned park settings currently are adopted, so many adoption opportunities are available. If neighborhood Adopt-A-Park participation declines, the city will reengage in those conversations. To learn how to participate visit <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=1537> or call 336-373-2733. Also, be aware that only persons trained and certified in herbicide spraying are allowed to spray herbicides on city property, including in neighborhood parks.

Committee Reports:

Membership - Peter Kauber invited recently joined neighborhood members to describe their neighborhoods.

- **John Barts-Plunge** shared that the **Nealtown Neighborhood Association** organized in July 2011 as a response to potential reopening of the city landfill. Specific concerns often invigorate participation, petitions, press conferences, etc. They now have selected officers, formed a Neighborhood Watch, invite their Police Community Resource Officer to monthly meetings, and have received a \$3K Building Stronger Neighborhoods grant to facilitate communications including a website, a summer Block Party, etc. Donna Newton reflected that most neighborhoods can't meet requirements for and don't actually need 501c3 status. Neighborhoods with non-profit status can not promote any political agenda.
- **Linda Bennett** shared that the **Textile Park Neighborhood Association** formed in the summer of 2011 assisted by student interns from the Beloved Community Center. A Neighborhood Watch was initiated with Police Community Resource Officers to deal with crime concerns. Park equipment and enhancement has been requested and resident's will be engaged via e-mail and flyers. They are considering neighborhood meeting signs and basketball games with Police Department staff to engage neighborhood youth.
- GNC members shared that personal invitations to participate, recognizing individual talents, and delegating responsibilities to neighbors proves most helpful. Always follow up with neighborhood volunteers.
- Currently there are 48 GNC neighborhood associations representing 90 neighborhoods. To update your neighborhood's representatives or to encourage GNC meeting attendance, please contact Peter Kauber at 336-852-8791 or e-mail pkauber@triad.rr.com.

Treasurer – Jack Zimmerman reported a GNC checking account balance of \$91.57, a savings account balance of \$585.55, for a total fund balance of \$677.12. Treasurer’s reports will list the purpose of individual disbursements.

Issues & Bylaws – This committee continues to research options to reinstate aggressive proactive rental housing inspections and continues to discuss how the city could provide incentives for businesses to occupy underutilized or empty commercial property before rezoning residential property for commercial use, potentially reducing commercial infiltration into residential neighborhoods.

Announcements –

- All GNC members are encouraged to volunteer with any GNC committee.
- May 21, 2012, 6:30 p.m. is the next Eastern Division Police Citizen’s Advisory meeting. For information visit <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=1906> or call 336-373-2636.
- May 31, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. is the next Building Stronger Neighborhoods (BSN) grant application deadline. For information visit http://www.cfgg.org/receive/grant_stronger_neighborhoods or call Donna Newton at 336-202-4309.
- The Reedy Fork Neighborhood, experiencing recent property damage by youth wandering at night, initiated discussion about youth curfews.

Next GNC meeting is **Thursday, June 14, 2012, 7:00 p.m.** in the Nussbaum Room of the Central Public Library.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Stringfield of the Fisher Park Neighborhood Association, May 14, 2012.