

Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)
Meeting Notes
Thursday, April 10, 2014



GNC Co-Chairperson Linda Bennett convened the **March 2014 GNC** meeting at the Central Public Library beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants and presentations by guest speakers.

Guest Speakers were **Barbara Harris**, City of Greensboro Director of Neighborhood Development and **Beth Benton**, City Code Compliance Coordinator. The Neighborhood Development department is only eight (8) months old. Discussions included housing rehabilitation, federal housing funding, property upkeep, motor vehicles, zoning and land use, and the city's Code Compliance tracking system. For more information visit www.greensboro-nc.gov/housing. Housing violation complaints may be e-mailed to the City or called in to the Code Compliance office at 336-373-2111 or to the City Contact Center at 336-373-CITY = 336-373-2489 or by letter mailed to the City of Greensboro Code Compliance Office, 300 W. Washington Street, Greensboro, NC 27401.

The City of Greensboro Housing Commission meets monthly and the public is welcome to attend. Last year's changes to the Minimum Housing Code and implementations include:

- Fines issued for housing standard violations are personal to the owner. They do not attach to the property as liens.
- It is too early to report on effectiveness/collection of fines. Collections are managed by a different City department, the Collections department.
- A single complaint can trigger an exterior home inspection but an interior inspection requires a petition signed by five (5) people or the inspector's finding serious or multiple exterior violations.
- Fines are \$200 plus \$75 per day for uncorrected violations if not repaired during a 30-60-90 day time frame
- A 90 day limit is a major improvement over the previous system so extensions now require written evidence of progress.

Asked how citizens can help, Harris and Benton indicated that citizens may add a new **Greensboro Fix It** application to our "smart phones" to request a city service and may attach a photo or video to help city staff better understand the items of concern. Report potholes, graffiti, damaged street signs, abandoned vehicles, overgrown lots, streetlight outages, etc.

Treasurer's report: Jack Zimmerman reported GNC March balances are: checking \$155.21, savings \$508.38, together totaling \$663.59.

Announcements:

The GNC will hold a special election at our May 10th meeting to fill two (2) open positions: District 4 liaison and Membership Committee chair. (Sadie Blue is Acting Membership Chair and works with many neighborhoods on the GNC's behalf.)

City District 1 Councilperson Sharon Hightower and Jamal Fox District 2 Councilperson spoke about the City MPO and Transportation Funding Process. The deadline for public review and comments is Monday, April 21, 2014. Your input is important! Please visit the MPO website at www.quampo.org to view documents and instructions to submit comments.

The next GNC meeting is **Saturday, May 10, 9-11 a.m. at the Central Public Library** with guest speaker Mayor Nancy Vaughn.

Respectfully submitted by GNC Co-Chairs Linda Bennett and Susan Taaffe