

# Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC) Meeting Notes Saturday, March 11, 2017

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GNC Co-Chairperson **Susan Taaffe** convened the **March 2017** GNC meeting at the Renaissance Community Co-Op grocery, beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants.

## Committee Reports:

**Membership** – **Gerry Alfano** reminds everyone to sign in at each GNC meeting. Contact her at [mtisdel@att.net](mailto:mtisdel@att.net) to correct any contact information.

**Issues & Bylaws** – **Howard Taylor** reports the committee is considering issues related to assisted living facilities, zoning discussions, and reviewing the new GNC goals.

**Elections** -- **Julie Crowder** was elected to fill the GNC District 1 City Council Liaison position. We also seek a volunteer as Programming Chairperson. Self-nominations are welcomed.

## Announcements:

- City Councilperson **Sharon Hightower** plans to submit a City proclamation in memory of GNC founding member **Art Davis**.
- **Crime Stoppers** fundraising breakfast is **Saturday, March 25, 8-11 a.m.** at Westminster Presbyterian Church on West Friendly Avenue.
- **George Bailey**, Research Assistant with the Gramercy Research Group in Winston-Salem, invites African American males to participate in a free, 12-month health evaluation program, *“Active and Healthy Brotherhood (AHB): A Program for Chronic Disease Self-Management for Black Men.”* For information contact AHB Project Coordinator Tiffany Williams 336-293-8540 ext. 111, or Principal Investigator Dr. Melicia Whitt-Glover 336-293-8540 ext. 110, or George Bailey 336-293-8450.
- At GNC attendee’s request, the GNC will investigate:
  - what City department maintains neighborhood streams and creeks
  - when the City may begin to offer “robo-calling” to alert neighborhoods to sudden work projects such as an emergency water-turn-off or street repairs
  - when the City can be asked to provide extensive demographic data about GNC neighborhoods. Ann Stringfield recommends the GNC request the City provide demographics for about two GNC neighbors/month. O’Henry Oaks and Sunset Hills neighborhoods request we begin with them.

GNC participants are asked to review a **draft of the new GNC strategic plan** created over recent months including: Vision, Mission, Values, Goals, and Strategies. Please read, question, and comment. There will be a vote to approve the plan in **May 2017**. This strategic planning was funded by a grant of \$3,540 from the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro (CFGG).\* On average, the GNC operates on about \$500/year, all donated. Paper copies of the strategic plan draft were provided to attendees. The draft also is available online at [www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org](http://www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org).

**John Jones**, Renaissance Community Co-Op Board President, explained northeast Greensboro's nearly two decades of community efforts toward development of the **Renaissance Community Co-Op (RCC)** grocery store; evidence of the power of communities working together. First formed were the **Concerned Citizens for NorthEast Greensboro**, followed by the **Citizens for Economic and Environmental Justice** fighting against reopening of Greensboro's landfill. That community activism inspired new representation on Greensboro's City Council. The local **Fund 4 Democratic Communities** encouraged next steps toward development of this grocery co-op. A market study indicated over 37,000 residences were within a two-mile radius of a defunct Winn-Dixie grocery, and that those residents spend ~\$1.3M on groceries each week. Five years of significant community networking meetings and active participation led to the 2016 opening of the **Renaissance Community Co-Op (RCC)** grocery at 2517 Phillips Avenue.

Key points of RCC development include ensuring transparency, encouraging questions and answers, opinion gathering, recurrent meetings, and involvement of the City and the larger community. Motivation and persistence always are needed to continue building upon each step of success along the way. Future plans are for the building to house a pharmacy, medical clinic, and restaurant – coalescing as a “one stop shopping” venue. To join the Co-op visit [www.renaissancecoop.com](http://www.renaissancecoop.com) or walk in to shop and join. **Anyone** may shop here, whether members or not. The RCC motto is **“Healthy – Affordable – Community Owned”**

The next meeting of the GNC is **Thursday, April 13, 2017, 7-9 p.m.** at the Nussbaum Room of the Central Public Library. Guest speaker will be **Dr. Sharon Contreras, Superintendent of Guilford County Schools.**

Visit the GNC website at [www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org](http://www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org) for information about the GNC, and to read notes from previous GNC monthly meetings.

*\* “Building Stronger Neighborhoods has awarded a grant to Greensboro Neighborhood Congress for \$3,540.00. Building Stronger Neighborhoods is a community grantmaking program that connects with neighborhoods through grants and activities that mobilize neighborhood assets to enhance the quality of life. The BSN Coalition includes the Joseph M. Bryan Foundation, Cemala Foundation, the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro, Greensboro Public Library, Cone Health Foundation, and the Weaver Foundation.”*

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