

Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC) Meeting Notes Thursday, April 13, 2017



GNC Co-Chairpersons **Linda Bennett** and **Susan Taaffe** convened the **April 2017** GNC meeting beginning at the Central Public Library with our traditional introduction of all participants.

Guest Speakers:

Michael Borchers, Assistant Director of City Water Resources, presented “**Water, At Your Service**”. Our City water and sewer and watershed services are managed by 355 employees in 7 divisions. We use over 1,500 miles of water lines and over 1,400 miles of sewer lines. These services are funded by city fees, not city taxes. City budgets include ~\$127M for water and sewer and ~\$11M for storm water management per year, needed for maintenance, repair, and replacements. Anticipate increased water/sewer fees in 2017 to pay for a projected \$95M in updates to Greensboro’s water/sewer infrastructure.

As part of the Cape Fear River Basin, Greensboro’s watershed flows to the Cape Fear River and includes 3 reservoirs – lake Higgins, Brant, and Townsend. We also own 53% of the Randleman Lake water treatment plant. For extra water security, we have cooperative water sharing agreements and piping connections with Winston-Salem, High Point, and Burlington. To process clean water, Lake Brant’s pumping station delivers water to the downtown Osborne Wastewater Treatment Plant on Benjamin Parkway. City water is tested daily and complies with the Safe Drinking Water Act and Environmental Protection Agency regulations.

Odd smelling/tasting/looking water should always be reported to the **City Water Resources Dispatcher at 336-373-2033** or the general City number 336-373-CITY. Our City Fire Department performs annual fire hydrant flushing – expected soon – which causes temporary water discoloration yet helps us maintain excellent water delivery systems and lower fire insurance rates.

David Phlegar, City Stormwater Manager, is responsible for water quality, stormwater drainage, and flooding concerns. His department manages routine chemical, biological, and physical monitoring of water, maintains our pipe and pumping infrastructure, and inspects and educates about keeping Fats, Oils, and Grease out of sewers. **Please do not pour fats, oils, or grease down sinks, toilets, or sewers.** They coagulate and cause blockages, expensive to remove. Instead, **always pour fats, oils, and grease into cans** then dispose in your garbage.

- The City Water Resources website is www.greensboro-nc.gov/water
- Today’s PowerPoint presentation is available on the GNC website meetings page.
- Borchers and Phlegar are available at our City Water Resources Department, 336-373-2055.

Committee Reports:

GNC participants are reminded 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 to any GNC Executive Board member. <http://greensboroneighborhoodcongress.org/contact-us/>
At some future date, GNC members will vote on the plan. 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/Contact-Us

Announcements:

- The Historic Charles B. Aycock Neighborhood voted to rename themselves the **Dunleath Neighborhood**.
- **Donna Gray**, City of Greensboro Director of Community Relations, 336-373-2723, is available during business hours to help direct you to appropriate City staff if you don't get to the right person via the general City number, 336-373-CITY.

The next meeting of the GNC is **Saturday, May 13, 2017, 9-11 a.m.** at the Nussbaum Room of the Central Public Library.

Visit the GNC website at 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, April 14, 2017.