

Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC) Meeting Notes Saturday, May 12, 2017



GNC Co-Chairperson **Linda Bennett** convened the **May 2017** GNC meeting at the Greensboro Public Library, beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants.

Guest speakers:

Kevin von der Lippe explained the value of **CrimeStoppers**, a local non-profit which uses donated funds to reward anonymous tips which successfully solve local crimes. Greensboro's **CrimeStoppers** was founded in 1981 by Jack Zimmerman and Walter Burch. Anyone aware of a crime can call 336-373-1000, or text to 274637, or go online at www.ggcrimestop.org to submit information about unsolved crimes or criminal activity. Informants are given a totally confidential code. If the tip leads to an arrest, indictment, or recovery of stolen goods, the submitter receives a reward of between \$50-\$2,000. Most tips create a "domino effect" because one criminal may be involved in multiple crimes. Over 31,000 local tips have led to almost 15,000 arrests and over \$23M in recovered funds. **CrimeStoppers** depends on donations, every dollar funds rewards, and all donations are tax-deductible. **CrimeStoppers** seeks additional funding as traditional funding sources fade. Even small donations help.

Valeri Warren introduced Greensboro's 2nd **Participatory Budgeting (PB)** cycle, reminding us to submit ideas by May 31 for **capital improvement projects on public property**. Then volunteer as a PB Delegate to evaluate and flesh out PB ideas, June through September. Late in 2017 participate in public voting to choose 2017 PB projects, up to \$100,000/City Council District. The 2017 PB project allows idea submission and voting in person or online at pbgs0@greensboro-nc.gov. All projects, whether winning or not, help raise City staff's awareness of projects deemed important by residents, with increased transparency from idea submission to voting to implementation.

Alan Myrick, Supervisor of the **Guilford County Tax Office**, reminds us that NC state law requires property tax appraisals every 5 years. Guilford County has over 210,000 pieces of real estate, divided into ~2,800 appraisal neighborhoods whose reappraisals are based on local real estate sales and market values. Since the recent recession, local real estate markets have risen ~8% overall, with apartment values up ~20%. Upon receiving your Guilford County tax reevaluation letter, if you wish to appeal please:

- 1) check [online](#) to ensure your property tax listing has correct information,
- 2) file a formal tax adjustment appeal in paper or online at <http://www.myguilford.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/2017-BER-Appeal-Form.pdf> by May 31st.
- 3) and if required, attend a public hearing to present your concerns to the Guilford County Board of Equalization and Review.

Under certain situations, disabled persons and senior citizens may be granted tax exemptions of up to 50% of their taxable real estate value. Questions can be addressed to amyrick@myguilford.com

Committee Reports:

Treasurer – Jack Zimmerman reports the GNC has \$406.77 in checking, \$260.93 in savings, for a total of \$667.70.

Membership – Gerry Alfano reminds everyone to sign in at each GNC meeting. Contact her at mtisdel@att.net to correct any contact information.

Issues & Bylaws – Howard Taylor reports this committee is developing metrics and determining criteria to assess quality of life in Greensboro neighborhoods, starting with interviews of neighbors and analysis of results. Taylor seeks several east Greensboro interviewees to ask about their community’s engagement with the City. Also, City Council has approved development of assisted living facilities in locations not originally allowed. Also, the City is considering changes to the local sign ordinance.

Announcements:

- May 13 is the **Safer City Summit** at the Central Public Library.
- May 14, 2:00 p.m. Ann Stringfield offers tours of **Green Hill Cemetery**, Greensboro’s oldest public cemetery.
- May 20-21, Preservation Greensboro Inc. presents a **walking tour of Fisher Park neighborhood homes**. Additional tour docents are needed and all volunteers receive free tour tickets.
- May 22, the **Concerned Citizens of Guilford County** meets at Peeler Recreation Center.
- May 23, 7:00 p.m. is a meeting of the **Greensboro Voters’ Alliance**.
- The **Renaissance Community Co-Operative (RCC)** grocery store continues to encourage membership and grocery shopping at their new store on Phillips Avenue. Anyone can shop at the RCC, with or without membership. Members who join yet live too far away for routine grocery shopping are encouraged to call 336-638-1722 and arrange to share their membership with someone else who can use it. The **RCC** offers delicious dinners 5-7 p.m. every Thursday night for \$3.

The next meeting of the GNC is **Thursday, June 8, 2017, 7-9 p.m.** at 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.

Respectfully submitted by **Ann Stringfield** of the Fisher Park Neighborhood, May 13, 2017.