

Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)

Meeting Notes

Saturday, January 11, 2020



GNC Co-Chairperson **Susan Taaffe** convened the **January 2020** GNC meeting at the Greensboro Public Library, beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants.

Guest Speaker:

Russ Clegg, City Planner, reminded attendees of our city's efforts to manage change using data gathering and public conversations toward a comprehensive plan for our city's future growth. While collecting national and regional data, and listening to local visions and values, consistent themes emerge which recommend:

1- increasing mixed use infill development, 2- creating "great places" with public parks, public art, and mixed uses with greater accessibility, 3- increasing transportation options and "right-sizing" existing roads to become more harmonious with their environs such as neighborhoods, 4- prioritizing sustainability for social and environmental progress, 5- building community connections with amenities that promote inclusion and a sense of belonging, and 6- advancing economic competitiveness, job creation, and employment resilience through better land use planning and uses of technology.

Public conversations such as these help our [City Planning Department](#) define and target local aspirations. They seek to: 1- promote sound growth and development of the City of Greensboro, 2- work with residents, businesses and community partners to create a vision for the future of Greensboro, 3- lead programs that strengthen neighborhoods, and 4- encourage economic development to support our quality of life. City of Greensboro plans and studies, including neighborhood plans, are available at <https://www.greensboro-nc.gov/departments/planning/learn-more-about/plans-studies>

2020 GNC Meetings:

Continuing to meet at Greensboro's Central Public Library, beginning March the GNC transitions to **bi-monthly meetings**, with Saturday morning workshops that focus on topics to increase your neighborhood's engagement. Also, in May, the GNC will partner with multiple organizations for a **city-wide summit -- WE, THE NEIGHBORHOODS: GROW, CONNECT, CELEBRATE!** Please enter these GNC events into your 2020 calendar!

Saturday, February 8, 9-11 a.m. GNC ELECTIONS

- GNC members may self-nominate for annual elections for East and West Greensboro Co-Chairpersons, Treasurer, Issues & Bylaws, and GNC Liaisons to City Council District Representatives for Districts 1, 3, and 5.

Saturday, March 14, 9:30-11 a.m. Workshop >> Managing Conflict in Neighborhoods

- Strategies for managing conflict
- Sneak Peak at a "Neighborhood Toolkit" that will be available at the May 9 Neighborhood Summit!
- 2020 Census – what to emphasize so your neighbors will participate
- A brief GNC business meeting will be held 11-12 a.m. at the end of this workshop

Saturday, May 9 — WE, THE NEIGHBORHOODS: GROW, CONNECT, CELEBRATE!

A Neighborhood Summit for ALL Greensboro neighborhoods!

- Friday, May 1, Time TBD. Neighborhoods socialize at the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro.
- Saturday, May 2, 8:00 a.m. to Noon — presentations at the Greensboro Coliseum Special Events Center.
 - Keynote Speaker followed by breakout Sessions with topics of importance to every neighborhood
 - Distribution of the Neighborhood Toolkit
 - Displays of many City of Greensboro departments featuring city resources and services.
 - Displays of other organizations that offer resources and services to neighborhoods.
 - Please bring your neighbors to this city-wide Summit for Neighborhoods!
 - Free parking! Details, schedule, and registration information will be available soon.

Saturday, July 11, 2020, 9:30-11 a.m. Workshop >> Organizing for Success

- How to guarantee a successful “National Night Out” experience
- Planning for successful events throughout your neighborhood’s year
- Additional topic(s) as they emerge
- A brief GNC business meeting will be held 11-12 a.m. at the end of this workshop

Saturday, September 12, 9:30-11 a.m. Workshop >> “Why Are we Meeting? How to plan and execute a Super Engaging Meeting”

- Purpose and Participation
- Techniques for making your meetings worthwhile
- Planning for topics that emerge during neighborhood meetings
- A brief GNC business meeting will be held 11-12 a.m. at the end of this workshop

Saturday, November 14, 9:30-11 a.m. Workshop >> Planning for the New Year/New Decade

- Reflection
- Simple strategic planning techniques to encourage neighbor’s “buy-In”
- Additional topic(s) as they emerge in this planning workshop.
- A brief GNC business meeting will be held 11-12 a.m. at the end of this workshop

Committee Reports:

Treasurer: **Betty Watson** reports the GNC has \$262.88 in savings, \$545.58 in checking, for a total of \$808.46.

Issues & Bylaws: **Marsh Prause** reports this committee continues discussions with the City about regulations for Short Term Rentals (AirB&B/VRBO/Tourist Homes).

Membership: **Gerrie Alfano** reminds all attendees to sign in at each meeting. Attendance is required for voting.

Announcements:

- **Friday, January 24**, 2 p.m., a local Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee meets in City Hall to discuss street crossing improvements, biking safety improvements, etc. The public is welcome. Ask in City Hall for directions to the meeting room. Local bicycling groups have refurbished and given away hundreds of bicycles to promote safe and enjoyable bicycling.
- **Saturday, January 25**, Lindley Park neighborhood hosts an Oyster Roast. \$20/person. Reservations required. Find details on the Lindley Park Facebook site.
- **Saturday, August 29**, Historic Warnersville neighborhood plans a parade emphasizing the history of “the first black community in the county where people could own their own homes, build their own churches, own land, run their own businesses and educate their own children”. The public is invited.
- **Throughout 2020**, Dunleath neighborhood looks forward to long-anticipated Summit Avenue street, sidewalk, and landscaping enhancements.

The next GNC meeting is Saturday, February 8, 9-11 a.m. which includes GNC annual elections.

Volunteer during GNC elections for East and West Greensboro Co-Chairpersons, Treasurer, Issues & Bylaws, or as a GNC Liaison to City Council District Representatives for Districts 1, 3, and 5.

GNC notes were respectfully submitted by Ann Stringfield of the Fisher Park Neighborhood, Jan. 14, 2020.