

## Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)

### Meeting Notes

Saturday, February 8, 2020



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

#### **Guest Speakers:**

**Elaine and Nelson Stover** of [EmergingEcology.org](https://emergingecology.org) introduced the exciting opportunity for 5 Greensboro neighborhoods to sign up for 5 facilitated learning sessions, aiming to help your neighborhood enhance relationships among neighbors to gradually improve your neighborhood's environment.

Sessions include:

1) Examining what ecological changes would be good for your neighborhood, 2) Defining your neighborhood's greatest environmental concerns, 3) Envisioning necessary actions for a neighborhood's improvement, 4) Engaging local expertise for practical solutions, and 5) Establishing practical, short-term neighborhood projects that can grow into long-term neighborhood improvements. Grassroots environmental improvements in our own neighborhoods gradually improve the environment in our city, county, state, country and in our world. Visit <https://emergingecology.org/neighborhoods/> and contact the Stover's at 336-605-0143 and [NStover@EmergingEcology.org](mailto:NStover@EmergingEcology.org)

#### **Committee Reports:**

**Treasurer: Betty Watson** reports the GNC has \$262.95 in savings, \$600.70 in checking, for a total of \$863.65 as of January 31, 2020.

**Issues & Bylaws: Mike Pendergraft** reports this committee continues discussions with the City about: 1- regulations for Short Term Rentals (AirB&B/VRBO/Tourist Homes), 2- the potential consolidation of City Planning and Zoning Boards, and 3- is beginning to look at on-going City installation of 5G internet routers in neighborhoods. This committee invites your neighborhood's input about neighborhood concerns that might have city-wide concerns.

**Membership: Gerry Alfano** reminds all attendees to sign in at each meeting. Include your e-mail address. GNC meeting attendance is required for GNC voting. Gerry Alfano adds your e-mail address to the GNC listserv which will alert you to upcoming GNC meetings and neighborhood-relevant news.

#### **GNC Leadership Changes in 2020:**

In 2020 the GNC's leadership structure changes slightly. The GNC Executive Committee will lead our meetings, since currently we have no volunteers for East and West Co-Chairperson leadership positions. **Susan Taffee** and **Linda Bennett** were thanked for their years of service as GNC Co-Chairpersons. GNC meetings will be **bi-monthly** again this year. 2020 GNC meetings will be combined with workshops facilitated by **Sadie Blue**, Neighborhood Consultant for the [Building Stronger Neighborhoods \(BSN\)](#) program of the [Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro \(CFGG\)](#).

#### **GNC Annual Elections:**

Attendees nominated and voted to accept GNC volunteers continuing to serve as:

GNC Treasurer **Betty Watson**, GNC Financial Committee Chair **Mike Pendergraft**, GNC District 1 City Council Liaison **Julie Crowder**, GNC District 2 City Council Liaison **Laura Blackstock**, GNC District 3 City Council Liaison (vacant), GNC District 4 City Council Liaison **Joel Landau**, GNC District 5 City Council Liaison (vacant). Actively attending GNC members are encouraged to volunteer for GNC positions, including currently vacant positions.

## 2020 GNC Meetings:

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

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

- Strategies for managing conflict
- Sneak Peek at a "Neighborhood Toolkit" that will be available at the May 2 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 1-2 — WE, THE NEIGHBORHOODS: GROW, CONNECT, CELEBRATE!

#### A Neighborhood Summit celebrating ALL Greensboro neighborhoods!

- **Friday, May 1, Time TBD.** Persons registered for the Saturday, May 2 Summit are invited to socialize at the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro.  
[www.CFGG.org](http://www.CFGG.org)
- **Saturday, May 2, 8:00 a.m. to Noon** — presentations at the Greensboro Coliseum Special Events Center. \$10/person. Free parking! Details, schedule, and registration information will be available soon.
  - 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!
  - The Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC) offers sponsorship of attendance fees for 20 people.



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

- How to guarantee a successful "National Night Out" experience (always the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday in August)
- 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

## GNC Announcements:

- **December 2019** the **Sunset Hills Neighborhood** raised over \$80,000 through their annual “Running for the Balls” event in which hundreds of people walk or run through their neighborhood which is decorated with thousands of illuminated ball decorations hanging in trees. Money and canned food donations were distributed to the Northwest Greensboro Food Bank and Urban Ministries.
- **Saturday, August 29**, 10 a.m. to Noon, **Majik Pinnix** of the **Historic Warnersville Neighborhood** invites everyone to celebrate this neighborhood’s 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary and parade, emphasizing the history of “the first planned 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 GNC is invited to participate in the parade.
- A new **Community Advisory Council of Greensboro (CACG)** <https://www.facebook.com/Community-Advisory-Council-of-Greensboro-106253734176772/> has formed to help neighborhoods solve problems, similar to the **Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)** <https://www.facebook.com/Greensboro-Neighborhood-Congress-105051426192529/>. **CACG** meetings are the first Tuesday each month, 5:30 p.m., New Hope Baptist Church, 306 English Street.
- **Glenwood neighborhood** leaders were successful in closing a rooming house used by consistently disturbing neighbors.

The next GNC meeting is **Saturday, March 14, 9:30-11 a.m.**

Then from **11-noon** GNC participants meet for general neighborhood updates and/or GNC business.

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