

Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)
Meeting Notes
Saturday, September 13, 2014



GNC Co-Chairperson **Linda Bennett** convened the **September 2014** GNC meeting at the Central Public Library beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants followed by presentations by guest speakers.

Guest speakers:

Kevin Lundy, Program Officer for Community Development at the Community Foundation of Greater Greensboro (CFGG), reviewed tri-annual opportunities to apply for **Building Stronger Neighborhoods (BSN)** grants typically of \$300 to \$3K/year up to a maximum of \$5K/year. Eligible projects involve leadership development, community building activities, increasing technical competencies, wellness, health, and “green” projects, walkability projects, or youth, children and family projects within or among neighborhoods. BSN grants have been available since the early 2000’s and typically grant a total of \$30-\$40K/year among Greensboro neighborhoods. For assistance, grant guidelines, and grant applications contact Kevin Lundy, 379-9100, klundy@cfgg.org and visit www.cfgg.org.

Daniel Amstutz, Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinator with the City of Greensboro Department of Transportation (GDOT) reviewed two city programs. 1- Through the city **Sidewalks Construction Program** sidewalks are included into new road construction and new development projects, and residents may petition for residential sidewalks. Sidewalk construction priorities are for high speed streets, commercial properties, connectivity, high density/high use areas, filling walkable gaps between these areas, safety in high crash areas and geographic equity within the city. Over 45 miles of city sidewalks have been paved since 2006 and 54 miles of sidewalks currently are in the GDOT design process. Sidewalks are funded by city bonds along with federal transportation funds. Potential sidewalk areas are surveyed, designed, mapped, right-of-way acquired, and construction bids gained prior to construction. Recent City Councils have committed to increased pedestrian access, mobility, and safety. 2- Through a **Watch For Me NC** statewide campaign, the City, A&T State University, UNCG, and the NC Department of Transportation received a grant to increase awareness of driving, pedestrian and bicycling safety. Drivers must always yield to pedestrians in crosswalks. For more information visit WatchForMeNC.org or contact Daniel Amstutz in GDOT at 336-373-2921.

Russ Clegg, City of Greensboro Planner, provided a post-meeting Q&A session to review the annual City of Greensboro **Neighborhood Small Projects** grant opportunities of up to \$20K/year available in each of Greensboro’s five City Council Districts. Eligible projects must not be in conflict with City policy, must be for a capital (physical) project on City-owned property, and must include an accurate cost estimate from a vendor or a City department. Project examples include benches, signs, trash containers, water fountains, sidewalks, fences, and playground equipment in City parks, median improvements, street sign toppers, etc. Once grants are approved, the funding is designated to the appropriate City department -- not to the neighborhood -- and the City performs the work or when necessary obtains bids and oversees installation. This year’s application deadline is **November 21, 2014, 5:00 p.m.** For grant examples, requirements, and application forms visit <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=3920> visit or contact Russ Clegg at 336-373-2211.

Committee Reports:

Membership –Sadie Blue reminds GNC members to please sign in at each meeting and update your neighborhood leadership contact information to Sadie Blue at spoyldsadie@yahoo.com or 336-988-5009.

Issues and Bylaws – Marsh Prause marsh.prause@smithmoorelaw.com indicated this committee continues work reviewing GNC bylaws. Meetings are the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 5:30 p.m. at College Park Baptist Church. The committee also is tracking proposed charges for City responses to home security system false alarms.

Treasurer – Jack Zimmerman reported that as of August 31, 2014 GNC bank accounts have a checking balance of \$177.21 and savings balance of \$608.97 for a total balance of \$786.18.

Announcements/News:

- **Sunset Hills** neighbors ask GNC members to oppose rezoning a specific single-family residential lot to office zoning for use as a fraternity house.
- GNC members are encouraged to consider a \$100 life-owner membership in the **Renaissance Community Cooperative** grocery facility, anticipated to open mid-2015 providing healthy, affordable foods and jobs in northeast Greensboro. Their next meeting is September 15, 7:00 p.m. at Presbyterian Church of the Cross, 1810 Phillips Avenue. For more information visit <http://renaissancecoop.com/about/>
- All neighborhoods are invited to attend and participate in a BSN-funded **Community Fun Day** sponsored by the Textile Park Community and held in Lindley Park October 11, 2014, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. All participating neighborhoods may set up a table or tent and display pictures of their major activities. The event includes free foods, games, a “bounce house” and face painting for children, giveaways, and helpful information for all neighborhoods. For information and to commit your neighborhood’s display space contact Linda Bennett at 336-707-3619 or Sadie Blue at spoyldsadie@yahoo.com or 336-988-5009.

The next GNC meeting is **Thursday, October 9, 7:00 p.m.** at the Greensboro Central Public Library.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Stringfield of the Fisher Park Neighborhood, September 13, 2014.