

Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)
Meeting Notes
Saturday, September 8, 2012



GNC Co-Chairperson Susan Taaffe convened the September GNC meeting at the Central Public Library beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants and presentations by guest speakers.

Guest speakers:

Khali Gallman, Outreach Specialist for the NC Housing Finance Agency introduced us to the **NC Foreclosure Prevention Fund (NC FPC)**. Established in 2010 with federal funding, this fund helps NC homeowners struggling to pay their mortgage due to **temporary** financial hardships that occurred in or after 2008. Applicants must be legal residents of the U.S., have good payment history on their mortgage prior to a recent financial hardship, and must be experiencing a temporary financial hardship such as a divorce, serious illness, reduced earnings, or the death of a mortgage co-signor. The **Mortgage Payment Program (MPP)** provides 10-year 0% interest deferred payment and forgivable loans. The **Second Mortgage Refinance Program (SMRP)** provides a one-time hold against foreclosure for up to 18 months while the mortgagee is job hunting or retraining. Once approved, funds go directly to the mortgage lender. Guilford County has experienced the highest foreclosure rate in NC. So far, through the NC FPC over 7,800 NC homeowners have received assistance. To apply for mortgage assistance through the NC Foreclosure Prevention Fund, apply online at www.NCForeclosurePrevention.gov and complete the questionnaire or call 1-888-623-8631 or contact a local housing counseling agency: **Greensboro Housing Coalition 336-965-9809** or **Guilford County Homeownership Center 336-553-0956**.

Committee Reports:

Membership - Peter Kauber reminds all participants to **sign in when attending GNC meetings**. That record of attendance determines your GNC voting privileges. To update your neighborhood's representatives or to support GNC membership retention, contact Peter at 336-852-8791 or e-mail pkauber@triad.rr.com. Currently the GNC has ~48 members advocating for ~90 Greensboro neighborhoods.

Treasurer – No report

Issues & Bylaws –Michael Pendergraft reviewed that currently there are three proposals -- one from the GNC, one from the City Attorney, and one from TREBIC -- proposing different options to reinstate aggressive proactive rental housing inspections since Greensboro's Rental Unit Certificate of Occupancy (RUCO) ordinance was overruled at the state level. Mike asks us to create a simple phrase to effectively capture the GNC's support for proactive non-periodic inspections to ensure Greensboro rental housing properties meet basic international housing code. The GNC's proposal will be posted at www.gnc-nc.org. Thursday, September 20 is the city's next public meeting to discuss all three proposals. Mike asks GNC members to offer any new city-wide issues impacting neighborhoods to him at 336-339-2788 or mrp_mlp@bellsouth.net for this GNC committee's future consideration.

Announcements –

- The new **Greensboro Tenant's Association** reaches out to provide rental responsibilities and rights to tenants. Contact Audrey Berlowiz at 336-245-1307.
- The **Glenwood Neighborhood** continues to deal with UNCG encroachment and is participating in two City programs. The **Red Dot** program physically identifies households that may need assistance in an emergency by placing a red dot on their front door. The **House Numbers** program encourages everyone to secure large house numbers on their home, meeting city code and easing emergency crew's recognition of homes requiring emergency assistance.
- **Elwood Neighborhood's** August 8th "YoLo" -- "You Only Live Once" -- neighborhood youth event at Peeler Center, funded by a Building Stronger Neighborhoods (BSN) grant, was a great success with over 400 participants. Sadie Blue offers to share many lessons learned about large neighborhood event coordination.

- **Nealtown Neighborhood** held their first National Night Out Against Crime event, instituting their new Neighborhood Watch campaign and giving back-to-school supplies to neighborhood children, funded by a Building Stronger Neighborhoods (BSN) grant. They've also received an award from the Greensboro Police Department for their Neighborhood Watch efforts.
- **Elon University School of Law National Lawyers' Guild (NLG) student chapter** is co-sponsoring an event about the Supreme Court's *Citizens United* decision and corporate political influences, Thursday, September 20, at 6:30 p.m. in Room 204 of the law school at 201 N. Greene Street.
- **Deep Roots Market Co-Op** plans to open their new grocery store on North Eugene Street in 2013.
- The City of Greensboro annual **Neighborhood Small Projects Grant** applications are due to the City by November 30, 2012. Apply at <http://www.gnc-nc.org/documents/20122013NeighborhoodSmallProjectsProgram.pdf> or contact Russ Clegg at russ.clegg@greensboro-nc.gov or 336-373-CITY.

Our next GNC meeting is Thursday, October 11, 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the Nussbaum Room of the Central Public Library. The anticipated program includes conversations with "At Large" City Council members.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Stringfield of the Fisher Park Neighborhood, September 8, 2012.