

Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)
Meeting Notes
Thursday, June 13, 2013



GNC Co-Chairperson Linda Bennett convened the **June 2013** GNC meeting at the Central Public Library beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants and presentations by guest speakers.

Guest speakers:

Michelle Kennedy was not able to attend with her **Pete Street presentation**.

Gary Silverstein of Silverstein Construction Company shared his experiences with “green” building projects such as weatherizing existing homes and use of solar panels for increased energy efficiency. More efficient uses of power, water, land and air quality all require homeowner education for long-term effectiveness. Typical homes have enough minor cracks and crevices that together equate to having an open window year-round, increasing home heating/cooling costs by 20 to 40%. Federally funded **Better Buildings Greensboro (BBG)** offers citizens access to approved contractors who can perform home energy assessments, apply weatherization techniques, and homeowner education. Silverstein also described the energy effectiveness of photovoltaic solar panels installed on the roof of Temple Emanuel. Outcomes envisioned by their congregation include environmental stewardship, energy independence, tax credits, and a revenue stream. For information about financial incentives to make your home more comfortable while saving energy through BBG, contact Caitlin Warren at 336-373-2749 or visit <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=2940>. BBG is funded by a \$5 million grant from the US Department of Energy’s 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA).

Committee Reports:

Issues & Bylaws – Mike Pendergraft indicated that Greensboro’s Tree Ordinance proposals will include our City requesting large debris removal, an improved local appeals process, a 4-5 year tree trim cycle, and that tree trimming guidelines recommended be applied city-wide. A motion passed for GNC to support the new city Tree Ordinance draft including comments made by the Westerwood Neighborhood Association on June 9, 2013 plus consideration to: 1) define “utility company” as not only energy companies but also telephone, cable, and similar service providers and 2) require that all electric distribution lines of 12kv or less be maintained using Duke Energy’s Old Design Urban Circuits standard and 3) that GNC Co-Chairpersons forward this GNC resolution to City Council. The next Tree Ordinance public hearing is Tuesday, June 18. For information visit <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=3947> or contact Michael Pendergraft at mrp_mlp@bellsouth.net.

Pendergraft also indicated that Greensboro’s **Rental Unit Certificate of Occupancy (RUCO)** ordinance improvements recommend that the City enforce housing code violations, allow continuances giving property owners extended opportunities for repairs, and provide greater public transparency throughout housing code violation processes. For more information visit <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=3982> or contact Michael Pendergraft at mrp_mlp@bellsouth.net.

Marsh Praus, Donna Newton, and Mike Pendergraft all were thanked for their continuing efforts toward improved ordinances in Greensboro.

Treasurer Jack Zimmerman reported year-to-date receipts of \$350.30, disbursements of \$38.30, checking account balance of \$312, savings account balance of \$607.18 giving a total fund balance of \$919.18 as of May 31, 2013.

Announcements –

- Ann Stringfield is creating a new **GNC website** to simplify website management via the Internet. David Wharton was thanked for his initial development of the GNC website 10 years prior. GNC e-mail management will be moved to Google for administration by GNC Co-Chairpersons.

- **SuperJam** music festival will be at the Greensboro Coliseum June 21-22. Ardmore Park neighborhood's Laura Jackson's long-time communications with the Police Department helps event noise reduction and traffic safety along Lee Street / High Point Road for nearby businesses and neighborhoods.

- Future **GNC monthly program suggestions** may be submitted to GNC Co-Chairpersons Linda Bennett lbennet@uncg.edu or Susan Taaffe susantaaffe1@gmail.com or Donna Newton bdnewt@yahoo.com.

Our next GNC meeting is **Saturday, July 13, 2013, 9-11 a.m. at the Central Greensboro Public Library.**

Respectfully submitted by Ann Stringfield of the Fisher Park Neighborhood, June 13, 2013.