

Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)
Meeting Notes
Saturday, January 11, 2014



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

The printed agenda reviewed responsibilities of 5 GNC committees. GNC February 2014 elections for 2-year terms include Western Co-Chair, Treasurer, Issues & Bylaws Chair, Communications Chair, and City Council Liaisons for Districts 1, 3, and 5. Three new City Council At Large Liaison positions are available. Liaisons are responsible for communicating to City Council issues on which the GNC has taken a position or is addressing. Self nominations are invited for GNC elections. Membership, Communications, and Issues & Bylaws committees specifically request additional member participation.

Sadie Blue led attendees in 10-minute brainstorming sessions on two topics from which the below concepts were derived.

1) **Past GNC programs** that have been especially helpful to neighborhoods:

- Barbara Harris – Neighborhood Issues
- Better Buildings Program
- Building Stronger Neighborhood Grants
- Zoning
- Street Sign Toppers
- Neighborhood Discussions
- Master Urban Garden Program
- City Council Liaisons
- Influence of GNC
- Community Resource Officers
- Rental Housing (RUCO)
- Police Dept. (Pill Pusher Program)
- Social Events (Christmas & anniversary)
- Neighborhood Walks

2) **Future GNC program** topics desired:

- Sanitation Department
- Dept. of Transportation
- All City Programs (offer refrigerator magnets)
- Domestic Violence
- Crime/Drugs
- Boarded Properties
- Future Land Use
- Animal Control
- Letters to Landlords
- City Cemeteries
- Neighborhood Archives

Presentations by Cyndy Hayworth and Marsh Prause honored Donna Newton's 10+ years facilitating GNC formation, development, and leadership. Tara Sandercock reviewed initial formation of a Building Stronger Neighborhoods (BSN) funder's coalition, pooling funds to hire Newton as Liaison for neighborhoods while providing long-term support for BSN grants and special GNC projects. Prause observed the 10-year transformation of improved communications, expectations, and respect between City staff and neighborhood leaders. Hayworth read former City Councilor Goldie Wells complimentary letter praising Newton for her work unifying neighborhoods toward a better City of Greensboro. Newton expressed her appreciation for all opportunities and friendships with GNC participants.

Committee Reports:

Membership – The GNC membership application for the Washington Park Neighborhood – located near McConnell Road with meetings at Good News Baptist Church -- was unanimously accepted and their leaders were welcomed to the GNC. Membership Chairperson Sadie Blue reminded us she is willing to attend any neighborhood's meeting to promote GNC participation. May Hawkins will assist Sadie.

Treasurer – Jack Zimmerman reported GNC checking and savings accounts balance of \$683.57 as of 12/31/2013. Cyndy Hayworth and Mike Pendergraft performed an annual audit and found GNC treasurer's records to be exemplary.

Issues & Bylaws – Marsh Prause anticipates cell phone tower/antenna placement in neighborhoods will become a significant future neighborhood issue.

Communications – Future GNC e-mails will be from **TheGreensboroNeighborhoodCongress@outlook.com** via GNC Co-Chairpersons Bennett and Taaffe. Participants were reminded that the GNC may educate about issues yet must remain respectful and non-partisan when publicizing issues.

Announcements –

- District 2 City Councilperson Jamal Fox intends to attend most GNC meetings.
- Please communicate neighborhood concerns to the GNC City Council Liaison representing your City Council District. Liaison contact information is available at www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org.
- Several neighborhoods report seeing increasing wildlife in urban settings. Please don't leave food outside, including pet food.
- Consider contributing your time and talents to the GNC in 2014!

The next **GNC meeting is Thursday, February 13, 7:00 p.m.** at the Central Public Library. Elections will be held.

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