

Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)
Meeting Notes
Thursday, June 12, 2014



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

Guest speaker: Russ Clegg of the City Planning Department encouraged neighborhoods to apply for annual City of Greensboro **Neighborhood Small Projects Grants**. Applications will be available in June at <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=3920>, an application workshop is in September, and applications are due November 21. Applications are judged by city staff plus 2 city resident volunteers. You may apply to be a grant reviewer. Grant winners are awarded the spring of the following year. Grants are equally distributed across 5 City Council Districts allowing \$20K awarded per district totaling \$100K city-wide. Applications must be for **small capital improvement projects – all physical improvements and all on public property**. Examples are grants for playground equipment, trash cans, signs, picnic tables, benches, gazebos, hardscapes, “flash cameras”, bridges, etc, but not for plants or maintenance projects.

Grant judging is based on community benefit, neighborhood support, community needs, partnering and leveraging with other groups, and anticipated long-term maintenance issues. Right-of-way issues on public property require formal encroachment agreements. Once awarded, funds are reserved for those projects and may be implemented quickly or may require years to obtain appropriate bids from licensed contractors. It is imperative for grant applicants and winners to communicate with City staff involved in your project from the initial idea to completion. Questions? Contact Russ Clegg at russ.clegg@greensboro-nc.gov or 336-373-2211

Building Stronger Neighborhoods (BSN) grants will be discussed at another GNC meeting.

Guest speaker: Brooks Mullane of the City Parks & Recreation Environmental Education division briefly described City efforts to apply for a \$25K grant which would later allow City staff to plan how to establish and promote greater availability of fresh foods in stores in and near neighborhoods where fresh foods are not readily available – “fresh food deserts”. GNC members are encouraged to ask their neighborhood leaders to write letters of support for this initial planning grant. Attending GNC members approved a motion requesting that GNC Co-chairs send a letter to Brooks Mullane stating GNC supports our City applying for grants for such healthy foods initiatives. For questions contact Brooks Mullane at Brooks.Mullane@greensboro-nc.gov or 336-382-6662.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer – Jack Zimmerman reported \$235.60 in GNC checking and \$508.59 in GNC savings accounts. Individuals and neighborhoods may contribute to GNC funds at any time.

Membership –Sadie Blue offers to visit with any GNC neighborhood leaders. Next Membership Committee meeting is Wednesday, June 18, 7:15 p.m. Contact Sadie Blue at spovldsadie@yahoo.com or 336-988-5009.

Issues and Bylaws – Mike Pendergraft mrpmlp@bellsouth.net 336-339-2788 indicated this committee continues working on City housing inspection issues, on improved GNC bylaws, and welcomes neighborhood issues at committee meetings the 3rd Wednesday of each month, 5:30 p.m. at College Park Baptist Church.

Announcements:

- City Councilpersons **Sharon Hightower** and **Jamal Fox** briefly discussed potential revenue loss due to changes in State law about City privilege license fees and the potential of tax increases in years to come.
- **Monday, June 16, 6:00 p.m.** at the Maple Street City Police substation is a meeting about improvements in east Greensboro.
- **Thursday, June 19, 7:00 p.m.** at the Central Public Library the Fund 4 Democratic Communities (F4DC) shows a film about environmental effects of coal ash spills.
- **Friday, June 27** the annual “SuperJam” will bring heavy traffic and noise to High Point Road / Lee Street.
- **Saturday, June 28**, downtown is a kickoff party for National Night Out Against Crime (NNO) celebrations. **Tuesday, August 5** are neighborhood NNO celebrations throughout Greensboro. For events contact City Police Department Community Relations at 336-373-2636.
- Next GNC meeting is **Saturday, July 12, 9-11 a.m.** at the Central Public Library.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Stringfield of the Fisher Park Neighborhood, June 12, 2014.