

Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)
Meeting Notes
Saturday, January 10, 2015



GNC Co-Chairperson **Susan Taaffe** convened the **January 2015** GNC meeting at the Central Public Library beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants followed by presentations by guest speakers.

Guest speaker:

Melanie Neal, Acting Director and Operations Manager of **Guilford Metro 911** described professional procedures of over 92 Guilford County staff who yearly answer over 800,000 **911 emergency and non-emergency calls**, make quick professional decisions based on each caller's situation, and immediately pass information to local emergency medical services, our county sheriff's office, city policy department, city fire department, or emergency responders in adjoining communities. There is no charge for **911** calls except after deliberate misuse. Citizens are asked to call **911** promptly, whether experiencing an emergency or to report suspicious behaviors observed.

In each case, the caller is asked **where and what type** of help is needed, the caller's **phone number, and situational specific information** (weapons/drugs/etc.), all of which helps determine the most appropriate and expedient assistance. Cell phones do not automatically supply exact locations so **911** dispatchers must ask the caller. **911** now offers **text input**, especially beneficial to the hearing impaired or in situations where the caller cannot safely speak. But response to text messaging is not as fast as dialing **911**, is limited to 160 characters, can't transmit photos, and provides no location information. If you employ an alarm service, advise your service to call **911 first** because burglaries are often accomplished in 3-4 minutes.

All calls to **911** are recorded but some information later can be redacted. **911** dispatchers can communicate in the 5 most common locally spoken languages. Currently there are 10 Guilford Metro 911 staff vacancies accepting applicants 18+ years of age with no felonies, able to type 35 wpm, and skilled in stress management and multitasking. Salaries begin at \$30K/year plus excellent benefits. For additional information or to request a presentation about **911** at your neighborhood meeting, call Melanie Neal at 336-373-2646 or Melanie.neal@greensboro-nc.gov

Committee Reports:

Membership – 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.

Treasurer – Jack Zimmerman reported that as of December 31, 2014 GNC bank accounts have a checking balance of \$203.40 and savings balance of \$259.37 for a total balance of \$462.77.

Nominations, including self-nominations, are invited for annual **GNC Executive Committee (EC)** positions at the February 12 GNC meeting. The EC meets monthly, usually the last Thursday each month, 5:30-7:00 p.m. to determine programming and review committee work. 2015 GNC EC positions available are:

- **Eastern Co-chairperson.** Linda Bennett is willing to continue
- **Secretary.** Tasks involve creating GNC meeting minutes and correspondence upon EC request
- **Communications Committee Chairperson.** Tasks involve publicizing the GNC and its activities
- **Finance Committee Chairperson.** Mike Pendergraft is willing to continue.
- **Membership Committee Chairperson.** Sadie Blue seeks a replacement yet offers to advise/assist. Tasks involve facilitating membership applications, maintaining master membership contact information, fostering participation and membership through phone, e-mail and onsite visits, and monitoring neighborhood requests for GNC information.

- **City Council District 2 Liaison.** Laura Blackstock offers to continue.
- **City Council District 3 Liaison.** Usually a 2 year appointment but currently need to fill a one year term.
- **City Council District 4 Liaison.** Joel Landau offers to continue.
- **City Council Liaisons** regularly communicate with their assigned City Council member re: GNC issues and relay to the EC any City Council information pertinent to neighborhoods.

Announcements/News:

- **Art Davis** hosts and invites your participation in a weekly radio talk show on Tuesday's, 10-11 a.m. at radio station 90.1 FM.
- **Ray Trapp**, Guilford County Commissioner for District 8, invites communications/conversations with GNC members. (336) 314-3891 and Rtrapp@co.guilford.nc.us
- **Laura Jackson** shared that her Ardmore Park Neighborhood is taking advantage of English as a Second Language (ESL) classes available at their neighborhood church. Approx. 10% of that neighborhood is Spanish speaking.
- **Sadie Blue** was thanked for catering our December 2014 holiday dinner.
- **Marsh Prause** encouraged GNC participants to keep abreast of a major neighborhood rezoning issue near the Holden/Friendly roads intersection.

The next GNC meeting is **Thursday, February 12, 2015, 7:00 p.m.** at the Greensboro Central Public Library when **Jeff Sovich** of the City of Greensboro Planning Department will introduce neighborhood planning concepts.

www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org

Respectfully submitted by Ann Stringfield of the Fisher Park Neighborhood, January 11, 2015.

