

Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC) Meeting Notes Thursday, April 9, 2015



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

Guest speakers:

Chris Wilson, Assistant City Manager, introduced 5 City department representatives to ensure GNC members are aware of the wide array of city services available for neighborhoods.

- **Neighborhood Development Dept. -- Lamont Taylor** and staff manage Housing and Urban Development funding, housing services (residential home and apartment rehabilitation), and code enforcement (nuisance abatement, minimum housing codes, and zoning enforcement.)
Visit <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=4344>
- **Human Relations Dept. – Love Crossing** and staff manage fair housing investigations, the Human Relations Commission, the Commission on the Status of Women, citizen complaint reviews, and Community Relations including the annual City Academy opportunity.
Visit <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=717>
- **Libraries Dept. – Bridgett Blanton** and staff manage the central library, 7 branch libraries, the Greensboro Historical Museum, and the David and Rachel Caldwell Historical Center, which collectively strive to provide free and equal access to information, foster lifelong learning, and inspire the joys of reading by connecting people to resources.
Visit <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=780>
- **NC Works Career Center – Joseph Alston** and staff work to connect employers, the unemployed, and the underemployed through services such as job listings, resume preparation, skills assessments, career planning, occupational skills training, unemployment claims, and resources for special populations such as elderly, veterans, youth, and former offenders.
Visit <http://www.NCWorks.gov>
- **Parks & Recreation Dept. – Phil Fleischmann** and staff manage special events, youth services, volunteer management, planning & project development, 100 neighborhood parks, 11 recreation centers and 3 city lakes.
Visit <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=1042>

Russ Clegg, City Planner, reviewed city efforts to identify local areas which would profit from improved retail access to fresh foods (“food deserts”) and to engage local businesses in increasing fresh food distribution. Much of this project is funded by U.S. Dept. of Agriculture planning and implementation grants.

Visit **pages 8-15** of <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=22857>

Committee Reports:

Membership – Sadie Blue is helping the Guilford Hills neighborhood reengage participation in the GNC. Please sign in at each GNC meeting and update your neighborhood leadership contact information to Sadie Blue at spoyldsadie@yahoo.com or 336-988-5009. Sadie offers to visit any neighborhood’s meeting. The Membership Chairperson volunteer position is available.

Treasurer – Jack Zimmerman reported that as of March 31, 2015, GNC bank accounts have a checking balance of \$278.48 and savings balance of \$259.48 for a total balance of \$537.96.

Issues and Bylaws – Marsh Prause marsh.prause@smithmoorelaw.com reports this committee continues work reviewing GNC bylaws. GNC members are encouraged to contact our state legislators to oppose Senate Bill 36 which proposes to alter boundaries for NC House and Senate districts specifically in the City of Greensboro. <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/BillLookUp/BillLookUp.pl?Session=2015&BillID=s36&submitButton=Go>
If passed, proposed changes would reduce our number of City Council persons to 7 City Council district members, one from each of 7 newly proposed geographic districts, with no “At Large” Councilpersons, and a Mayor who could vote only in case of a City Council tie vote. All citizens of Greensboro are encouraged **promptly to contact** their NC General Assembly Senators and Representatives to express opinions about this fast-moving pending state legislation.

- Contact information for NC House of Representatives representing Guilford County is available at <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/members/reports/countyRepresentation.pl?Chamber=House>
- Contact information for NC Senators representing Guilford County is available at <http://www.ncga.state.nc.us/gascripts/members/reports/countyRepresentation.pl?Chamber=Senate>

The Issues & Bylaws Committee also is exploring concerns about “pocket neighborhoods” that could be “wedged” within any single-family neighborhood without requiring any rezoning notification.

Announcements/News:

- **April 15**, the City Neighborhood Planning Department presents an updated [2015-2019 Consolidated Plan](#) to the City Planning Board, after which the City will apply for federal planning grant funds.
- **April 25**, Deep Roots Market on Eugene Street offers a “Tiny House” display in the parking lot.
- **By May 25**, donations are solicited to support Daisy Albert’s candidacy in the Greensboro NAACP 2015 Mother of the Year contest. Donations are accepted at 1414 Huffine Mill Road, Greensboro, NC 27405.

The next GNC meeting is **Saturday, May 9, 2015, 9-11 a.m.** at the Greensboro Central Public Library. Our guest speaker will be Greensboro’s new Chief of Police Wayne Scott.

www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org

Respectfully submitted by Ann Stringfield of the Fisher Park Neighborhood, April 9, 2015.