

Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC) Meeting Notes Saturday, September 12, 2015



GNC Co-Chairperson **Linda Bennett** convened the **September 2015** GNC meeting at the Windsor Recreation Center, beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants followed by presentations by guest speakers.

Guest speakers:

Greensboro City Manager **Jim Westmoreland** and Guilford County Manager **Marty Lawing** each gave a brief presentation, then answered questions, about their respective organization's current directions, collaboration to improve economic development during reductions in state and federal resources, recent progress and accomplishments, transparency and disclosure, concerns and challenges. Art Davis moderated discussion of a wide range of questions and answers, too many to document here. City handouts included "*By the Numbers: What Government Costs in NC Cities and Counties FYY 20-13*" published by the John Locke Foundation August 2015 and "*FY 2014-2015 Property Tax Rates and Selected user Fees for Major North Carolina Cities*" published by the City of Greensboro. Both documents show that Greensboro City and Guilford County **revenues and user fees** are in the middle (average) compared to other municipalities in NC.

Committee Reports:

Membership –**Matthew Thomas** was elected as GNC Representative to City Council for City Council District 3. In absentia, **Michelle Jenkins** was elected as new GNC Membership Chair. Both fill these positions mid-term until the two position's regularly scheduled election time.

Issues and Bylaws – This Committee continues work toward review of proposed GNC Bylaw changes prior to presentation at a future GNC meeting.

Treasurer – **Jack Zimmerman** reported GNC bank accounts have \$601.08 in checking and \$259.82 in savings for a total of \$860.90 as of August 31, 2015.

Announcements/News:

- The regular **GNC meeting scheduled for October 8, 2015 is CANCELED** due to City Council Forums.
- GNC Treasurer Jack Zimmerman celebrates his 90th birthday in October!
- Significantly reduce City recycling contamination by **keeping plastic bags out** of your recycling bins.
- If your neighborhood has an entrance sign, and you'd like that to show on the GNC website, please take a photo and e-mail the photo to GNC website manager Ann Stringfield at InfoCrofters@triad.rr.com.
- Art Davis and Jerry Anthony encourage us to educate ourselves and our neighbors about candidates prior to November 2015 elections. Information about current voting laws and Greensboro voter guides prepared by the League of Women Voters, Democracy NC, and the Greensboro Voters' Alliance were made available to all attendees who in turn are asked to distribute them within their neighborhoods.
- **Tuesday, September 15, 2015, 11:45 a.m.** the League of Women Voters offers a City Council candidate forum at Holy Trinity Church, 607 North Greene Street.
- **Saturday, September 17, 2015, 10 a.m.** the Concerned Citizens of Northeast Greensboro have a fish fry fundraiser at the Renaissance Co-op on Phillips Avenue.
- **Monday, October 12, 6:30 p.m.** is the GNC Candidate Forum for Mayor and At Large City Council candidates in the Nussbaum Room of the Central Greensboro Public Library.
- **Monday, October 19, 2015, 6:30 p.m.** is the GNC Candidate Forum for City Council District candidates in the Nussbaum Room of the Central Greensboro Public Library.
- **Thursday, October 29, 6:00 p.m.** the UNCG Spartan Legislative Network hosts a City of Greensboro City Council candidate Forum at the UNCG Alumni House, 1000 Spring Garden Street.

The next GNC meeting is **Saturday, November 14, 2015, 9-11 a.m.** at the Greensboro Central Public Library.

Visit the GNC website at www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org for notes of previous GNC meetings.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Stringfield of the Fisher Park Neighborhood, September 12, 2015.