

**Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)
Meeting Notes
Thursday, February 11, 2016**



GNC Co-Chairperson **Linda Bennett** convened the **February 2016** GNC meeting at the Central Public Library, beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants followed by presentations by guest speakers.

Guest speakers:

Holly Bent, Marketing Officer, and **Jerry Wise**, President, both of the **Greensboro Municipal Federal Credit Union (GMFCU)** reminded us that all GNC members and all residents of all GNC neighborhoods are welcome to join this membership-based credit union. Originally established in 1937 to serve the financial needs of City employees, today the GMFCU is an ownership co-operative offering to all members a full range of financial services such as free checking accounts, savings accounts, mortgages, loans, credit and debit cards, gift cards, direct deposit, payroll deduction, mobile banking, ATMs, an online kids club to learn financial responsibility, and two physical locations. A third location is planned in northeast Greensboro near the Renaissance Cooperative in 2017. Visit www.greensboromcu.org or call 336-373-2090.

Earle Bower, a volunteer with **The Shepard's Center**, described their organization's project to help people of Greensboro obtain valid voter ID's prior to November 2016 elections. In partnership with the League of Women Voters of the Piedmont, The Shepard's Center seeks GNC volunteers willing to be trained now through mid-May learning how NC voter ID's can be obtained through the NC Department of Motor Vehicles (NC DMV) and preparing to facilitate that process. Mid-May through October 1, 2016 trained volunteers will assist persons to obtain their NC voter ID's, by educating and/or physically transporting persons to NC DMV offices. Once at the NC DMV, obtaining a NC voter ID is **free** within about 10 minutes. Anyone who can volunteer to help or to promote this opportunity via neighborhood newsletters, e-mail lists, etc., should promptly contact Earle Bower, 335-282-4633 or earleb@mindspring.com.

Barbara Harris, **City of Greensboro Neighborhood Development Division Director**, and **Cynthia Blue**, **City of Greensboro Manager of Housing Services** invite all neighbors to **"Housing Our Community"**, a city-wide housing summit, February 24, 2016, 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at the George K Event Center, 2108 Cedar Ford Drive. This year's summit focuses on how to provide affordable housing throughout Greensboro. Affordable, safe rental housing is in great demand, especially one-bedroom units for individual renters. Over 50% of local renters are cost burdened, paying more than 30% of their income for housing expenses. To attend the **2016 Housing Summit** register now at www.eventbrite.com or call 336-691-9521.

The City **Neighborhood Development Division** also helps locals with our City fair housing ordinance, housing grants and financial assistance, homelessness prevention, lead-based paint issues, housing rehabilitation, emergency home repairs, assistance for the physically disabled, and minimum housing standards. For information on Greensboro housing services and housing code compliance concerns call 336-373-2349 or visit <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=4401>.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer – Jack Zimmerman presented December 31, 2015 finances as Checking \$227.12, Savings, \$260.04, totaling \$487.16. January 31, 2016 finances were Checking \$427.25, Savings \$260.10, totaling \$687.35. The December expense was the GNC holiday dinner. While several GNC neighborhoods have and are welcome to donate to the GNC, a question raised was how the money would be used.

GNC Elections -- By consensus vote GNC attendees elected the following GNC leaders: Western Co-Chairperson Susan Taaffe, Secretary (unfilled), Treasurer Jack Zimmerman, Issues & Bylaws Committee Chairperson Marsh Prause, Membership Chairperson Gerry Alfano, and City Council District Liaisons for District 1 Art Davis, District 3 Matthew Thomas, and District 5 Trudy Atkins. These positions are included in the GNC Executive Board which meets the last Thursday/month, 5:30-7:00 p.m. to determine programs, represent the GNC to the larger community, and review committee work. For questions about the GNC Executive Board contact GNC Co-Chairpersons [Linda Bennett](#) or [Susan Taaffe](#).

Issues & Bylaws – Marsh Prause indicated the GNC's January position on a City land development ordinance text amendment will be presented to City Council on February 16. City Council also is considering modifications to the city-wide front yard parking ordinance.

Participatory Budgeting (PB) Greensboro -- Art Davis and Ann Stringfield reviewed that PB delegate volunteers throughout Greensboro are working with City staff to determine feasibility of over 600 submitted ideas, after which feasible ideas will be presented in public “expos”, followed by public voting in spring 2016. Details will be publicized as the process continues. Learn about the history of PB elsewhere and its new implementation in Greensboro at <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=4796>. For details contact Ranata Reeder at ranata@participatorybudgeting.org or phone at 336-373-7750.

Announcements/News:

- The **Ole' Richardson Neighborhood Association** was pleased to participate in Greensboro's Martin Luther King parade.
- The **Community Theatre of Greensboro** (CTG) presentation of *The Diary of Anne Frank* offers two-for-one ticket sales February 12-24 at the Box Office or by calling 336-333-7469 for those who say “*I'm with the Shepherd's Center*”.
- GNC 2016 meeting dates are posted at www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org

Note: Meeting Location Change! The next regular GNC meeting is **Saturday, March 12, 2016, 9-11 a.m.** at the **College Park Baptist Church, 1601 Walker Avenue** near the intersection of Walker Ave. and Aycocock Street.

Visit the GNC website at www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org for information about the GNC and notes from previous GNC meetings.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Stringfield of the Fisher Park Neighborhood, February 12, 2016