

Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)
Meeting Notes
Saturday, November 12, 2016



GNC Co-Chairperson **Linda Bennett** convened the **November 2016** GNC meeting at the Central Public Library, beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants.

Guest Speakers –

- **Elaine Stover** and other volunteers with **Greensboro Beautiful**, and **Judson Clinton** the **City of Greensboro Urban Arborist**, encourage neighborhoods to apply for an annual [NeighborWoods Community Tree Planting Program](#). **NeighborWoods** trees are funded by private, tax-deductible donations to Greensboro Beautiful's Tree Fund. Annual **NeighborWoods** grants fund tree planting on City-owned property, public areas, streets, and front lawns in areas of a neighborhood where: trees have been damaged or lost to storms or disease, more canopy trees are needed, trees have been removed due to vegetation management work associated with overhead utilities, and neighborhoods are active and organized with a commitment to participate in the planting and long term maintenance of the trees, including neighbors committed to consistent tree watering for the first three years. For **NeighborWood** grant details, contact **Greensboro Beautiful** at 336-373-2199 and visit <http://www.greensborobeautiful.org/treeplantings/neighborwoods.php>.
- **Eleanor Graves** and **Mo Kessler** reviewed progress and opening of the [Renaissance Co-op](#) grocery store at 2517 Phillips Avenue. Through local community efforts, shopping at this new cooperatively-owned grocery store is open to everyone, especially convenient for the 37,000 residents within a 2-mile radius. This co-op currently has over 1,000 member owners who've paid a one-time \$100 membership fee to enjoy a 5% discount on groceries. New investors are encouraged and receive investment earnings of between 2-5%. Grocery prices are price competitive with major groceries. The co-op employs 31 persons at \$10/hour minimum plus benefits. Future healthy foods educational opportunities are planned. Visit <https://renaissancecoop.com/>.

Committee Reports: None available

Announcements:

- The City of Greensboro **Community Partners** grant guidelines and applications are available online at <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=4893>. Grant applications are due to the city by **December 30, 5:00 p.m.** To qualify for funding, an organization must be a federal 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, verified by the Internal Revenue Service, and be on "current-active" status to conduct business for at least one year in North Carolina, as confirmed by the NC Secretary of State, and must also submit audited financial statements. Agencies that meet the minimum requirements will be evaluated based on organization capacity, collaboration, and how well they meet the City's five main goals:
 1. Promoting economic development opportunities and job creation
 2. Maintaining infrastructure and providing sustainable growth opportunities
 3. Promoting public safety and reducing crime
 4. Achieving exceptional customer service and a diverse government workforce
 5. Ensuring fiscal stewardship, transparency, and accountability in City government.
- Neighborhoods should please encourage **City of Greensboro Police** to follow through with neighborhood ["Walk & Talk"](#) events. Residents from neighborhoods throughout the city volunteer to walk alongside Greensboro police to share safety messages, improve quality of life and build rapport. Visit <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=4939>
- Currently, our City plans to facilitate a 2nd year of [Participatory Budgeting \(PB\)](#), a democratic process in which community members from all five City Council districts suggest ideas and then vote on how to spend \$500,000; \$100,000 per City Council district. 2015/2016 was the first year PB was ever offered in any city in the southeastern U.S.! Any city resident can **volunteer now** to be on any 2017/18 PB committee such as the PB Steering Committee or to become a PB delegate. <http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/index.aspx?page=4796>

- [Building Stronger Neighborhoods \(BSN\)](https://cfgg.org/receive/building-stronger-neighborhoods) grants will again be available for application in 2017. BSN grants are available 3 times/year, range up to \$3K-5K/grant, and support Greensboro neighborhoods as they mobilize assets to enhance community quality of life. For neighborhood grant details and applications visit <https://cfgg.org/receive/building-stronger-neighborhoods>.
- **Joel Landau** reminded us of his weekly column in the local [Yes, Weekly](#) publication. His November 23, 2016 column presents answers to “*What about living in Greensboro are you thankful for?*”
- Our **next GNC meeting** is our annual holiday dinner, **Thursday, December 8, 6-8 pm**, at the College Park Baptist Church, 1601 Walker Avenue, Greensboro, NC 27403. The event is free, food has been arranged by the GNC Executive Committee, and your neighborhood leaders are encouraged to attend!
- Visit the GNC website at www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org for information about the GNC and notes from previous monthly GNC meetings.

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