

Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC) Meeting Notes Thursday, April 12, 2018



GNC Co-Chairperson **Susan Taaffe** convened the **April 2018** GNC meeting at the Greensboro Public Library, beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants.

Guest speakers:

GNC Executive Committee member Joel Landau facilitated a panel discussion about two newly proposed downtown Greensboro parking decks. Our downtown currently has 2,814 public parking spaces. Two new parking decks would provide an additional 1050 + 850 = 1,900 parking spaces. Together, the two proposed parking decks are projected to cost \$60M, which over 30 years costs about \$5M/year to build, operate, and maintain using public funds. Panelists were City Councilwoman **Nancy Hoffmann** and local Blogger and Website Developer, **Roch Smith, Jr.**

- **Hoffman** asserts that publicly funded parking decks are needed to support economic development, increase the tax value of downtown property, reduce wasteful single-surface parking, and that current downtown parking decks currently are at 70% capacity.
- **Roch Smith, Jr.** asserts that with changing transportation trends -- the increased use of autonomous cars, car/ride sharing, Uber/Lyft, increased bicycling including LimeBikes, and increased emphasis on walkable downtowns -- there is no justification for public funding of two new downtown parking decks, and that those supporting deck funding have given significant campaign contributions for Councilperson's who support new parking decks.

On a different matter, GNC participants are encouraged to send the GNC's proposed **Neighborhood Quality of Life tool** to your neighborhood leaders prior to our May meeting. Encourage your neighborhood leaders to submit comments and suggestions for the tool's potential use

Committee Reports:

Elections: **Betty Watson** was elected GNC Treasurer. We also seek a GNC District 3 Liaison.

Membership: **Gerry Alfano** reminds everyone to sign in every month.

Announcements:

- April is Volunteer Month. Many GNC members are to be congratulated for their community volunteerism.
- Sunset Hills neighborhood has experienced slight progress thanks to electronic speeding signs at Friendly and Elam streets, and new pedestrian crossings. Neighborhoods must be persistent requesting speed reduction methods.
- May 5-6 are botanical tours of Green Hill Cemetery on the edge of downtown and Fisher Park. Visit <http://www.FriendsOfGreenHillCemetery.org>
- Janet Nagel expressed concerns about products used in processing city tap water, especially use of excessive fluoride and chlorine in our water filtration processes. Visit cleanwatergso.org for information.
- The April issue of 1808 magazine mentions the GNC on p. 38.

The next meeting of the GNC is **Saturday, May 12, 9-11 a.m.** at the Greensboro Central Public Library. Participants will again discuss the GNC's proposed **Neighborhood Quality of Life tool**.

Visit www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org for information about the GNC, where you can always read notes from previous GNC monthly meetings.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Stringfield of the Fisher Park Neighborhood, April 27, 2018.