

**Greensboro Neighborhood Congress (GNC)  
Meeting Notes  
Thursday, January 10, 2019**

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GNC Co-Chairperson **Susan Taaffe** convened the **January 2019** GNC meeting at the Greensboro Public Library, beginning with our traditional introduction of all participants.

**Guest Speaker:**

**Steve Drew, City of Greensboro Water Resources Director and Interim Assistant City Manager**, presented an overview of our city water source -- primarily the Cape Fear River -- and our city water treatment capabilities.

During a 1990 drought, additional city water lines were constructed to Winston-Salem, Reidsville, and Burlington water supplies. Later, the Piedmont Triad Regional Water Authority (PTRWA) formed to create Randleman Lake as an additional water resource, intended to provide a 100-year shared water supply for this region.

The City of Greensboro has >104,000 water/sewer accounts, 29 significant industrial users, >3,000 miles of water and sewer lines, all managed through 2 water purification plants and 1 wastewater processing plant. All water/sewer processes operate within city revenues, set annually to match city water/sewer use expenses. The City proactively lines old cast iron water pipe with PVC pipe, and cleans long-lasting old cast iron pipe by applying an 1/8-inch epoxy film to extend the life of old cast iron and ductile iron pipes.

In recent years the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has detected and identified trace amounts of over 80,000 compounds considered to be "**emerging contaminants of concern**" (ECC) in U.S. water supplies. Many of those compounds are not easily detected and their ultimate health effects remain unknown, so those compounds are not yet nationally regulated.

Two such contaminants -- **perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS)** and **perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA)** -- are man-made chemicals used in microwave food packages, carpets, fabrics, fire-fighting foams, Teflon, etc., and are considered "probable carcinogens". PFOS and PFOA were first detected in Greensboro city water in 2014. Since then, although not required to do so, city water management staff proactively sample, test for, and perform computer modeling/prediction of levels of PFOS and PFOA and 11 similar ECC compounds in city water. Adding Powdered Activated Carbon (PAC) filtration has reduced PFOS and PFOA levels by half. Future improvements will add Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) filtration, which will lower ongoing filtration costs once the necessary construction is completed. Local Fire Department staff are increasingly careful in their use of PFOS and PFOA foams in fire emergency response. Our City water resources staff aims for complete transparency in reporting and makes all routine water testing results available at [www.Greensboro-nc.gov/water](http://www.Greensboro-nc.gov/water).

**Committee Reports:**

**Treasurer: Betty Watson's** reports that GNC funds include \$571.17 in checking, \$262.09 in savings, for a total of \$833.26 as of December 31, 2019.

**Membership: Gerry Alfano** reminded participants to sign-in at monthly meetings.

**Issues & Bylaws: Marsh Prause** reports the City is reconsidering the positive, proactive value of previous "**Rental Unit Certificate of Occupancy**" (**RUCO**) inspections to ensure a rental property meets minimum housing standards. City inspectors are still able to inspect housing in areas of concern, with or without a specific rental complaint. Presently the City needs additional housing inspectors.

City of Greensboro Legal staff and City Planning staff expect to consider adding **Short Term Rental (STR)** regulations in the future for **AirB&B** and **Vacation Rentals By owner (VRBO)** situations, but more urgent items are on their current priority lists. Many cities are creating STR regulations, as are used in Asheville and Raleigh. Locally, hotel managers consider the increasing number of AirB&B and VRBO facilities as untaxed competition.

Currently, if neighbors experience problems from a specific **single-family-zoned residence** being used as an AirB&B or VRBO in a neighborhood -- such as a residence in which lodging with or without meals are provided for a fee for overnight guests -- they may contact the **City Code Enforcement** office (336-373-2111) and ask if the home in question has received a **Special Use Permit**, currently required for rental uses.

#### **Announcements:**

- **Deep Roots Market Cooperative** (grocery) and several other local grocery stores sell purified water at 39-cents/gallon.
- **The Renaissance Community Cooperative** (grocery) on Phillips Avenue announced it must close due to lack of satisfactory sales income.

Our next GNC meeting is **Saturday, February 9, 9-11 a.m.** at the Greensboro Central Public Library, Nussbaum Room. The meeting topic will be **ever-expanding library resources** offered to City residents. This meeting also includes the **2019 election of GNC Executive Board Members** including an East Greensboro Co-Chairperson, Secretary, Social Committee, Financial Committee, and neighborhood Liaisons for City Council Districts 2,3, 4, & 5. Please consider volunteering for one of these positions.

Visit [www.GreensboroNeighborhoodCongress.org](http://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, January 14, 2019.