



CHARLOTTE.

2016 NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD RETREAT



Farmcrest Community Neighborhood Association

Hosted by City of Charlotte Neighborhood & Business Services at Johnson C Smith University

The agenda for the day was as follows:

- Introductions
- Where Have We Been? Where Are We Going?: Arrow Activity
- Where We Want to Be: Vision Statement Exercise
- Seeing the Forest through the Trees: Developing Strategic Priorities
- Working Lunch – The Year Ahead
- Idea Development – Time for participants for develop an action plan for goal achievement.

Where Are We Going, Where Have We Been?

We began our day with paired interviews, using the “Where Are We Going, Where Have We Been?” activity. The activity was intended to help us reflect on:

- What we value
- What are the best things about our community and the people who live here
- What are our past successes
- Where are the potentials and possibilities

After interviewing our partners we shared our discussion with the group, finding commonalities in our conversations.

Where We Were: Reflecting on our past, what were some of the best/worst moments?	Where We Are: Why would or wouldn't a person/business want to move into our community?	Where We Want to Be: If you could make 3 wishes to make our community flourish, what would they be?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good participation • Started strong with neighborhood interaction but faded out • Quiet & safe • 1995 – first neighborhood organization • Lacked diversity • People were friendly • More trees • Was easy to get to know neighbors 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Too much outside foot traffic • Reconstructing, revitalizing, and rebuilding foundation of the neighborhood • Close to new light rail • Need more participation • Very diverse • Vacant properties and poor drainage are problems • Speeding, littering, and poor street lighting are also problems • Close to UNCC and NoDa • Sugar Creek Park and library are amenities • Good housing stock 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Great participation from residents & more activities • More neighborhood activities • Absentee landlords maintain their properties • Increase safety • Beautify area • Work with city for investment around Sugar Creek area • Increase number of families and decrease number of renters • Get an entrance sign • Build rapport with CMPD • Increase knowledge of City programs

Our Vision

Our vision is the unifying statement for our community that will guide our decision making and reminds us of what we are trying to reach. It is based on our shared values and preferences for our community's future. It combines the best of what was, what is, and what could be.

OUR VISION:

Farmcrest will enhance the quality of life and values of our neighborhood by working together to create a beautiful, safe, and healthy environment.

Strategic Priorities

After committing to a shared vision, the board began to brainstorm on strategic priorities. This is where we began to define what is most important to us in order to achieve our vision. Strategic priorities are initiatives that will help us move closer to our vision of our community. The idea is to focus on a few things and do them very well as opposed to many things and missing the mark.

We started out thinking big and then narrowed down our focus using the Affinity Mapping Process, detailed below:

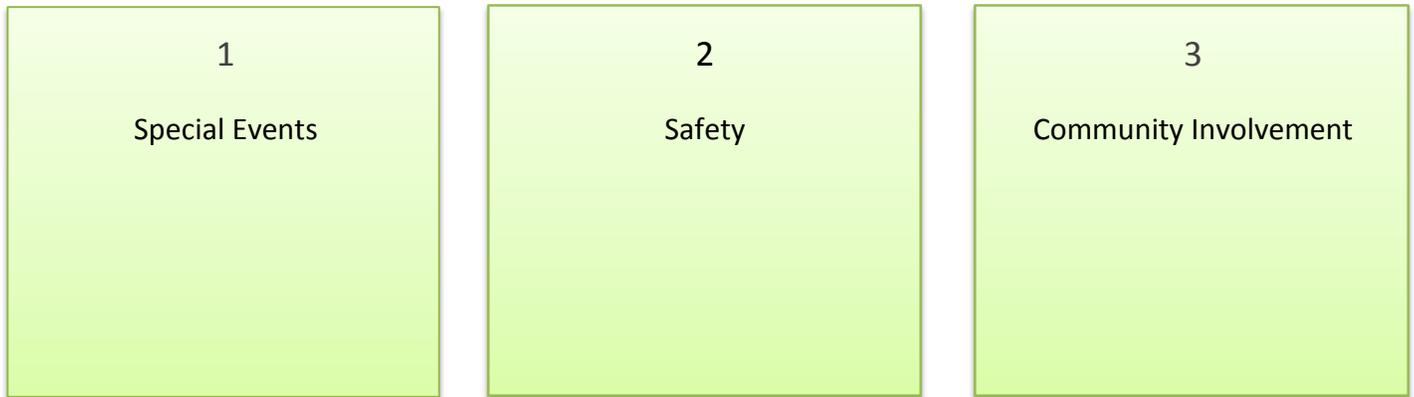
- Grab some sticky notes from the table. Keeping the vision statement in mind, write down as many of the following as you can think of, one per sticky note:
 - Current action items getting you closer to our vision.
 - Possible priorities/actions items to get us closer to our vision.
- Place the sticky notes on the wall.
- Organize the ideas by natural categories, once everyone agrees on the groups, give each one a name.



This activity led us to the following initiatives being identified as important within our community:

- Beautification
- Community Involvement
- Safety
- Special Events

Each participant was provided three (3) stickers to be used for voting. Stickers could be placed all on one or two items or shared amongst all of the ideas identified. The three categories receiving the most votes are the strategic priorities that are most important for us to begin working on to achieve our vision, these are:



Action Items for 2016-2017 The three activities selected as most impactful toward achieving our strategic priorities are activities in 2016-2017 are:



2016 Neighborhood Board Retreat Summary

Farmcrest Community Neighborhood Association

OUR VISION:

Farmcrest will enhance the quality of life and values of our neighborhood by working together to create a beautiful, safe, and healthy environment.

TO HELP US REACH OUR VISION; WE WILL FOCUS ON THREE STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

1

Special Events

2

Safety

3

Community Involvement

IN 2016-2017, WE WILL WORK ON THESE ACTIVITIES GUIDED BY OUR PRIORITIES:

Host a block party

Organize a
neighborhood watch

Implement
newsletter/social media



Resources to Get Started- You've rolled up your sleeves and established your vision, the following resources may assist your organization in achieving your goals. Links and contact information are provided for information only and are subject to change.

Project	Getting Started	Resources
Project #1 Host a block party	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan a great party for residents 	<p>Neighborhood Block Party Planning Toolkit: http://bit.ly/1TSlaZI</p> <p>Temporary Street Closure Procedures and Approval- Charlotte Department of Transportation (CDOT): http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/Transportation/Pages/Home.aspx</p> <p>Noise/Sound Permit Information: CMPD http://bit.ly/1OSUOdQ or call 311</p> <p>National Night Out: Nationwide event held each August, find details and resources at https://natw.org/</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore funding options 	<p>Neighborhood Matching Grants (NMG) Program - Charlotte's NMG Program can provide grants to eligible neighborhood organizations for community events. To determine eligibility or learn program details please visit charlottenc.gov/nmg or call 704-336-3380</p>
Project #2 Organize a neighborhood watch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Canvass for volunteers at community meetings 	<p>Celebrate volunteers and give them a sense of responsibility - Neighborhood Volunteer Appreciation Ideas - visit http://bit.ly/1L6ok8H</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research information on Crime Watch ideas 	<p>CMPD Crime Watchers for more tips on organizing a Neighborhood Watch: http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/CMPD/safety/NeighborhoodWatch/Pages/default.aspx</p> <p>CMPD Block Closing for events: http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/transportation/closingsandevents/pages/block%20closings.aspx</p>
Project #3 Implement newsletter/social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop newsletter content 	<p>Nextdoor: Create a private social network for your neighborhood: https://nextdoor.com/about_us/</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore Free Websites 	<p>Neighborhood Link – provides free, basic website design and hosting services http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/</p>

I media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider free, social media opportunities 	<p>Facebook – Facebook.com provides free pages for individuals and organizations. Information is generally publically accessible, be sure to check your settings to ensure your page meets your intended specifications. Posts can be scheduled in advance using sites like hootsuite.com</p> <p>Nextdoor- Create a private social network for people who live within your neighborhood Nextdoor.com. Also allows event promotion.</p> <p>Twitter- Twitter.com allows your organization to tweet short statements about events and interesting information. Tweets can be scheduled in advance using sites like hootsuite.com</p> <p>Instagram- online photo-sharing, video-sharing, and social networking service, visit Instagram.com</p>
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Your community is located within Charlotte’s Northeast Service Area. Your staff contacts for following up and community assistance are:

Charlenea Duncan, Community Engagement Specialist	John Short, Community Engagement Lead
cduncan@charlottenc.gov or 704-336-2173	jshort@ charlottenc.gov or 704-336-3862