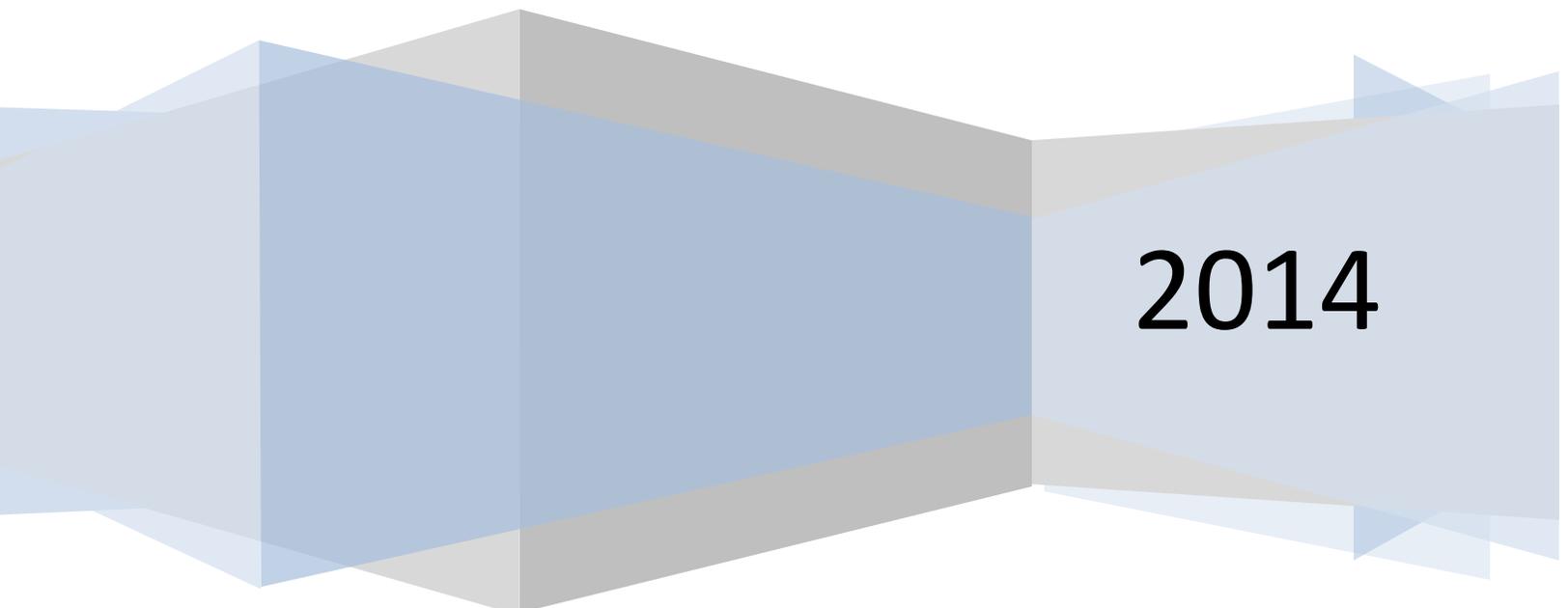


Holiday Hills/Alexander Place

Board Retreat

Hosted by the City of Charlotte at UNC Charlotte Uptown Campus



2014

Holiday Hills/Alexander Place

2014 Board Retreat

Background

On Saturday, July 19th 2014, the board members of the Holiday Hills/Alexander Place participated in a board retreat facilitated by the City of Charlotte, hosted at UNC Charlotte Uptown Campus. The following board members participated in the retreat:

- Jo T. Boyd
- Stephaney Crawford
- Pat Hoffman
- Adam Raskoskie



The City of Charlotte values citizen leadership and its ability to make an impact in the communities, in which we all live, work, play and shop. With this in mind, the board retreat process was initiated to help neighborhood based organizations develop strategic plans to improve quality of life in their communities.

Purpose

The purpose of the board retreat was to

- Generate meaningful conversations around improving quality of life in our community
- Set clear goals and priorities for the upcoming year(s)
- Develop a vision and strategic priorities for our community

By participating in the retreat, our board earned a \$1,500 Neighborhood Matching Grant credit to help execute one of the projects we identified.

Process

Our board retreat was conducted by trained facilitators tasked to keep our conversations on-task, productive, and focused on achievable objectives. The process was designed to help capture the best of the past, the best of the present, and how we can add to our strengths to build a better future. The focus was:

- Developing a vision to guide our decision making and activities
- Developing strategic priorities that aligned with our vision
- Developing project ideas

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/why not would 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?
<p>Best:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Traffic calming actions (speed humps and speed limit reduction) -Back to School event -Neighborhood Organization -Neighborhood Watch <p>Worst:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Slow process to get organized -18 wheeler trucks parking in community 	<p>Why:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Established Neighborhood -Business Opportunities -Location, Location, Location -Organized Neighborhood -Property Taxes <p>Why Not:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Could lose more than gain -Negative Perception -Land Control/Ownership by Methodist -Lack of Development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Neighborhood Entrance Sign -More Streetlights -Flashing Signal Lights along Shamrock -More Crosswalks on Shamrock -Park on one side of street for Dunwoody

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:

To support and assist the association in creating a safe and loving neighborhood by engaging all of our neighbors to participate actively to achieve this goal.

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 categories and action items being identified as important within our community:

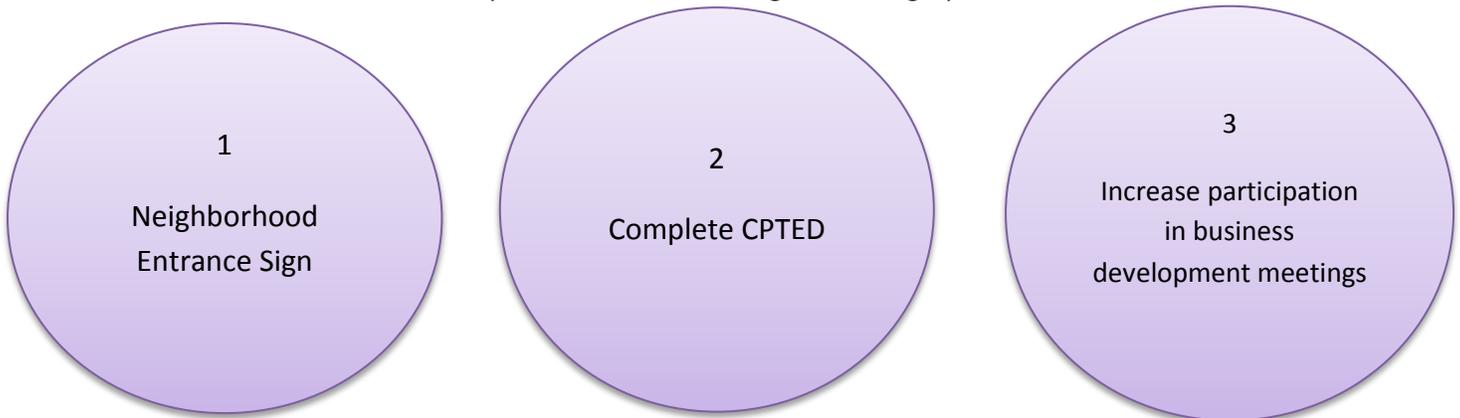
- Community Safety
 - More streetlights
 - Concern, support, safety of neighbors
- Neighborhood Communication
 - Create community social spaces
 - Newsletter
 - Improve communication with residents
- Community Civics
 - Invite city council representative to meet neighbors
 - Partner with City of Charlotte
 - Voter registration
- Business Development
 - Grocery store closer to neighborhood
 - Welcome businesses into area
 - Get involved with Eastland Redevelopment
- Neighborhood Improvement
 - Visible neighborhood watch signs
 - People cleaning up after their pets
 - Recycling
 - Pair kids with senior mentors
 - Community garden
 - Walking trail
 - Beautification
 - Unity
- Transportation
 - Flashing signal for Shamrock

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 2014-2015

The three activities selected as most impactful toward achieving our strategic priorities are activities in 2014-2015 are:



2014 Neighborhood Board Retreat Summary

Holiday Hills / Alexander Place

OUR VISION:

To support and assist the association in creating a safe and loving neighborhood by engaging all of our neighbors to participate actively to achieve this goal.

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

1

Neighborhood
Improvement

2

Community Safety

3

Business Development

IN 2014-2015, WE WILL WORK ON THESE ACTIVITES GUIDED BY OUR PRIORITES:

1

Neighborhood
Entrance Sign

2

Complete CPTED

3

Increase
participation in
business
development
meetings

Resources to Get Started

Project	Getting Started	Resources
<p>Project #1</p> <p>Neighborhood entrance sign</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply for a Neighborhood Matching Grant to purchase signs or make improvements to existing signs 	<p>Neighborhood Matching Grants</p> <p>http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/nbs/communityengagement/nmg/Pages/default.aspx</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact the Charlotte Department of Transportation to ensure sign is placed in proper location 	<p>Charlotte Department of Transportation</p> <p>http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/Transportation/Pages/Home.aspx</p>
<p>Project # 2</p> <p>Complete CPTED</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contact CMPD to request a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design study 	<p>Request a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design study through CMPD to find out where trouble areas may be in your neighborhood</p> <p>crimepreventionunit@cmpd.org</p>
<p>Project #3</p> <p>Increase participation in business development meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Find out what businesses are in your area. 	<p>Charlotte Chamber of Commerce:</p> <p>http://charlottechamber.com/</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Help connect the business owners to resources that can improve their business 	<p>CPCC's Small Business Center:</p> <p>www.cpcc.edu/sbc</p> <p>Charlotte Business Resources Portal:</p> <p>http://charlottebusinessresources.com/befcor-top-10-reasons-to-use-504-loans-to-finance-business-expansions/</p> <p>Business Link North Carolina Entrepreneur Resources:</p> <p>http://www.blnc.gov/start-your-business/entrepreneur-resources</p> <p>Why businesses should partner with surrounding neighborhoods:</p> <p>https://www.portlandoregon.gov/oni/article/174358</p>

