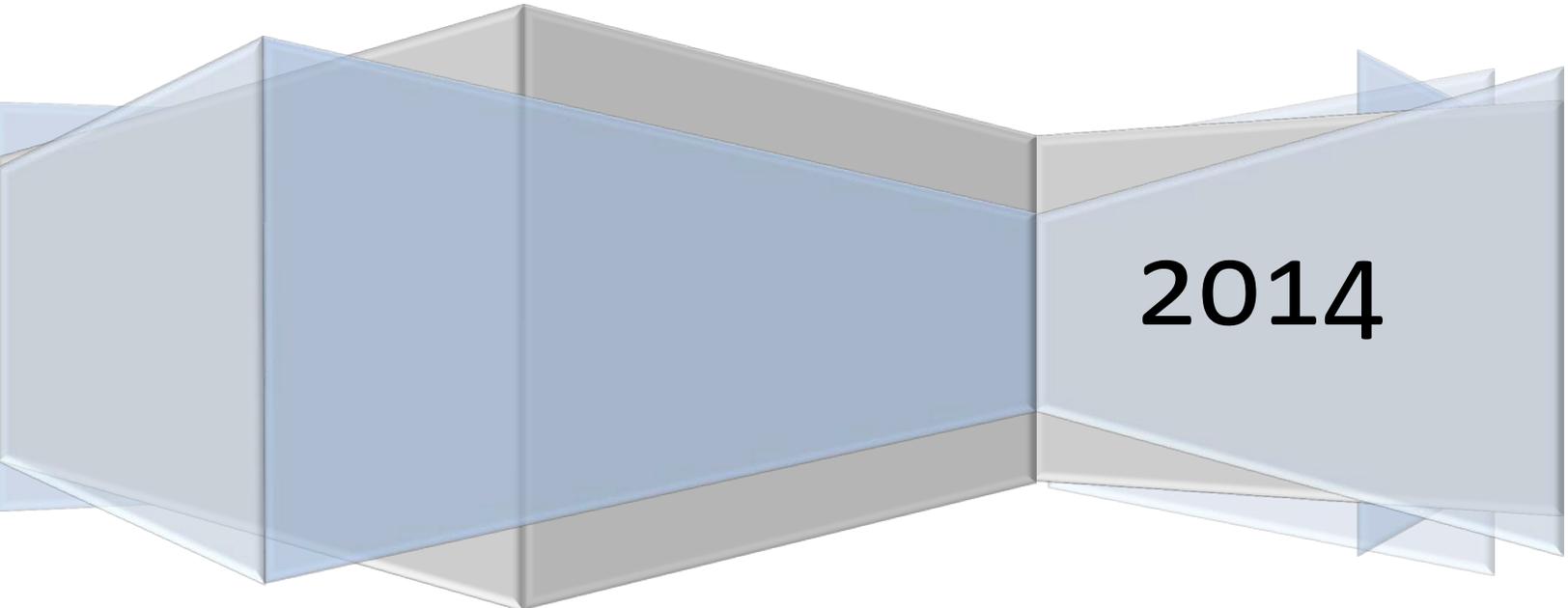


McIntyre Home Owners Association

Board Retreat

Hosted by the City of Charlotte at UNC Charlotte Uptown Campus



2014

McIntyre Home Owners Association

2014 Board Retreat

Background

On Saturday, July 19th 2014, the board members of the McIntyre Home Owners Association 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:

- Rita Barrett
- Jeff Gleaton
- Damien Huckleberry
- Helen Jackson



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?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delinquency up! • More owner-occupied • More committees • Landscape Issues • Animal control issues • More litter • More volunteers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbors taking care of property • Less volunteerism/less committees • Neighborhood appearance better • Good location • Ethnic-friendly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More committees/volunteerism • More communication • More events/more opportunities for engagement

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: McIntyre is a community where neighbors live with a spirit of respect, communication and compromise; where children grow up safely under the protective eyes of the entire village; and where every resident does his or her part to protect the value of our property

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:

- Communication:
 - Engage new residents through communication
 - Welcome committee/welcome wagon
 - Willingness to resolve issues by compromise
 - All ideas are valid
 - Teen activities
 - Website
 - Bilingual committee
 - On site point of contact for each street
 - Communication avenues
 - Communicating with children and teens

- Beautification
 - Neighborhood free of litter
 - Enforce the rules we have
 - Instill pride in residents for their properties
 - Home owners better pride of property

- Safety
 - Safety
 - Neighborhood Watch Committee
 - Safe House
 - Speed bumps
 - Respect neighbors as human beings; no personal attacks

- Volunteerism
 - More social events for residents
 - More volunteers
 - Committees
 - Incentive program
 - Home Improvement Committee

- Education
 - More neighborhood education
 - Value of HOA



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:

1
Volunteerism

2
Community Education

3
Improve Communication

Action Items for 2014-2015

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

1
More social events
(sports, teens, etc.)

2
Initiate weekly email
blast

3
Establish welcome
committee

2014 Neighborhood Board Retreat Summary

McIntyre Home Owners Association

OUR VISION: McIntyre is a community where neighbors live with a spirit of respect, communication and compromise; where children grow up safely under the protective eyes of the entire village; and where every resident does his or her part to protect the value of our property

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

1
Volunteerism

2
Community Education

3
Improve Communication

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

1
More social events
(sports, teens, etc.)

2
Initiate weekly email
blast

3
Establish welcome
committee

Resources to Get Started

Project	Getting Started	Resources
<p>Project #1 More social events (sports, teens, etc.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan a great event 	<p style="text-align: center;">Neighborhood Event Planning Toolkit http://www.sdsynod.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Block-Party-Kit.pdf</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Get proper permits to host an event 	<p style="text-align: center;">Charlotte Department of Transportation for information on street closure procedures and approval http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/Transportation/Pages/Home.aspx Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department for sound permits http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/CMPD/Pages/default.aspx</p>
<p>Project #2 Initiate weekly email blast</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decide how you want to communicate to neighbors 	<p style="text-align: center;">Free communication resources: Nextdoor: Create a private social network for your neighborhood: https://nextdoor.com/about_us/</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create an online newsletter for announcements 	<p style="text-align: center;">Mail Chimp: Free online newsletter creator: www.mailchimp.com</p>
<p>Project #3 Establish welcome committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decide how you want to welcome new neighbors to your community and what you would like for them to know 	<p style="text-align: center;">How to start a welcome wagon: http://www.ehow.com/how_4966839_start-welcome-wagon.html How to start a welcome committee: http://www.volunteerguide.org/hours/service-projects/welcoming-committees</p>

