



CHARLOTTE.

2016 NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD RETREAT



Ponderosa Community

Hosted by City of Charlotte Neighborhood & Business Services at UNC Charlotte Center City

Ponderosa Community

2016 Board Retreat

Background

On Saturday, July 16th, 2016, the board members of the Ponderosa Community participated in the Neighborhood Board Retreat facilitated by the City of Charlotte, hosted at UNC Charlotte Center City. The following board members participated in the retreat:

- Tonya Gleaton
- Vivian Phillips
- Veronica Grier
- Alfreida Brown



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 match credit toward a Neighborhood Matching Grant (NMG) to help execute one of the projects we identified.

To receive this credit we'll submit our completed Vision to Action Idea Development Plan Workbook with our NMG request. This credit will expire following the September 1, 2017 NMG application deadline.

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 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"> • Overall nicer community • Friendly • Diverse • Quiet community • Well-kept homes/yards • Everyone knew each other • Close relationship with CMPD • Christmas/Easter activity organized by CMPD • Senior citizens and young families 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presence of renters • Some neighbors keep up with house and some don't • 2nd generation home-owners have moved out and rented their houses • Investment properties are being rented out instead of being sold out • Lack of diversity in the neighborhood • Not involved neighbors • We don't know each other • New sidewalks make it easy to walk/be outside • Not as much police presence anymore 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CMPD back in the neighborhood; strong interaction with youth – not just there to arrest • Youth program available to everyone • Yards kept up with • Houses with curb appeal • Neighbors know each other again • Get renters involved in meetings and activities • Property owners screen renters • Get new neighbors involved • Get absent property owners involved

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:

The Ponderosa community: engaging everyone to complete our village where families are connected

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:

Resources:

* Senior programs/food trays * Community bank account for community needs such as food baskets, flowers, etc. * Services for families in need * Parenting programs

Safety:

* CMPD presence

Education:

* Classes for renters to understand about home maintenance * Home economics * Afterschool

Maintenance:

* Repaving of streets

Youth:

* Resource/Recreation center where youth can get information. * Safe heaven * Community center awareness to draw more youth * Classes that help youth prepare for the future * Mentor programs for youth * Connect with Big Brothers Big Sisters * Connect with Boys & Girls Club and develop relationship

Engagement:

* Church involvement in the community * More people involved in meetings

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 general activities selected as most impactful toward achieving our strategic priorities are activities in 2016-2017 are:



2016 Neighborhood Board Retreat Summary

Ponderosa Community

OUR VISION:

*The Ponderosa community: engaging everyone to complete our village
where families are connected*

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

1

Youth Development

2

Community Engagement

3

Training/Education

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

Establish a youth-
focused event for
summer 2017

Invite CMPD to
participate in 2
community events by
summer 2017

Offer one home ownership
training class to increase
homeownership in the
neighborhood

(Note: projects refined following Board Retreat to ensure they were readily attainable)

Please list any parking lot issues or items here:

Research information about food nutrition from Mecklenburg County:

Choose what topic you want to address and invite a speaker: Need a Speaker:

<http://charmec.org/speakersbureau/Pages/default.aspx>, or call 311



Resources to Get Started- You've rolled up your sleeves and established your vision. The resources below 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
<p>Project #1</p> <p>Establish a youth-focused event for summer 2017</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Research topics 	<p>Contact the Mayor's Mentoring Alliance for mentoring resources and training opportunities: http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/mayor/MentoringAlliance/Pages/default.aspx</p> <p>Mentoring resources: http://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/implement/youth-mentoring</p> <p>Ways to partner with your school: http://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/archives/partners.shtml</p> <p>Contact Neighborhood and Business Services, 704-336-3380, to learn about more ways to support your neighborhood school.</p> <p>McPie: Learn how a Charlotte community partnered with its local neighborhood school. http://christelca.org/ministries/change-the-world/mcpie/</p> <p>KaBOOM! http://kaboom.org/grants/build_it_yourself</p> <p>The State of North Carolina Department of Education offers funding for operating afterschool programs: http://www.ncpublicschools.org/21cclc/rfp/</p> <p>How to Start an Afterschool Program: http://www.nccap.net/starting-an-afterschool-program/</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite a speaker to a planning meeting 	<p>Choose what topic you want to address and invite a speaker: Need a Speaker: http://charmeck.org/speakersbureau/Pages/default.aspx, or call 311</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn about general event requirements 	<p>Neighborhood Event Planning Toolkit: http://www.sdsynod.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Block-Party-Kit.pdf</p> <p>Charlotte Department of Transportation for information on street closure procedures and approval: http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/Transportation/Pages/Home.aspx</p> <p>Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department for sound permits: http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/CMPD/Pages/default.aspx</p> <p>More information on National Night Out: https://natw.org/</p> <p>Wells Fargo offers grants that support projects that revitalize and stabilize communities: https://www.wellsfargo.com/about/charitable/nc_guidelines</p> <p>Neighborhood Matching Grants (NMG): Charlotte's NMG Program can provide grants to eligible neighborhood organizations for community events. To determine eligibility or to review program details please visit http://charlottenc.gov/nmg or call 704-336-3380.</p>
<p>Project #2</p> <p>Invite CMPD to participate in 2 community events</p>		<p>Find your community police officer: http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/CMPD/response-areas/Pages/default.aspx</p> <p>Nextdoor: Create a private social network for your neighborhood (promote opportunities via this venue): https://nextdoor.com/about_us/</p>

by summer 2017		<p>Yard Signs: Make signs to announce meetings/events with FastSigns[®] reusable yard signs: http://www.fastsigns.com/sg-yard-signs/Yard-Signs</p> <p>Mail Chimp: Free online newsletter creator to announce events: www.mailchimp.com</p> <p>Meetings tips for neighborhoods: http://nacok.org/association-tools/effective-meetings/ http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/article/Association/Effective Meeting Agenda</p> <p>Doodle to aid in scheduling meetings: http://doodle.com/</p> <p>Canva to create visuals: https://www.canva.com/</p> <p>MAVA- Metrolina Area Volunteer Administrators offers workshops on volunteer recruitment: https://www.facebook.com/MAVA-Metrolina-Association-for-Volunteer-Administrators-212961772174019/</p>
<p>Project #3</p> <p>Offer one home ownership training class to increase homeownership in the neighborhood</p>		<p>Contact Ralphine Caldwell, The Homeownership Center of Charlotte (a service of The Housing Partnership) to explore offering a training: 704-342-0933, rcaldwell@cmhp.org</p> <p><i>See resources for project 2 above for holding an event</i></p>

Your community is located within Charlotte’s Southwest Service Area. Your staff contacts for following up and community assistance are:

Millicent Powell, Community Engagement Specialist	Eugene Bradley, Community Engagement Lead
mepowell@charlottenc.gov or 704-432-6814	ebradley@charlottenc.gov or 704-432-1579

