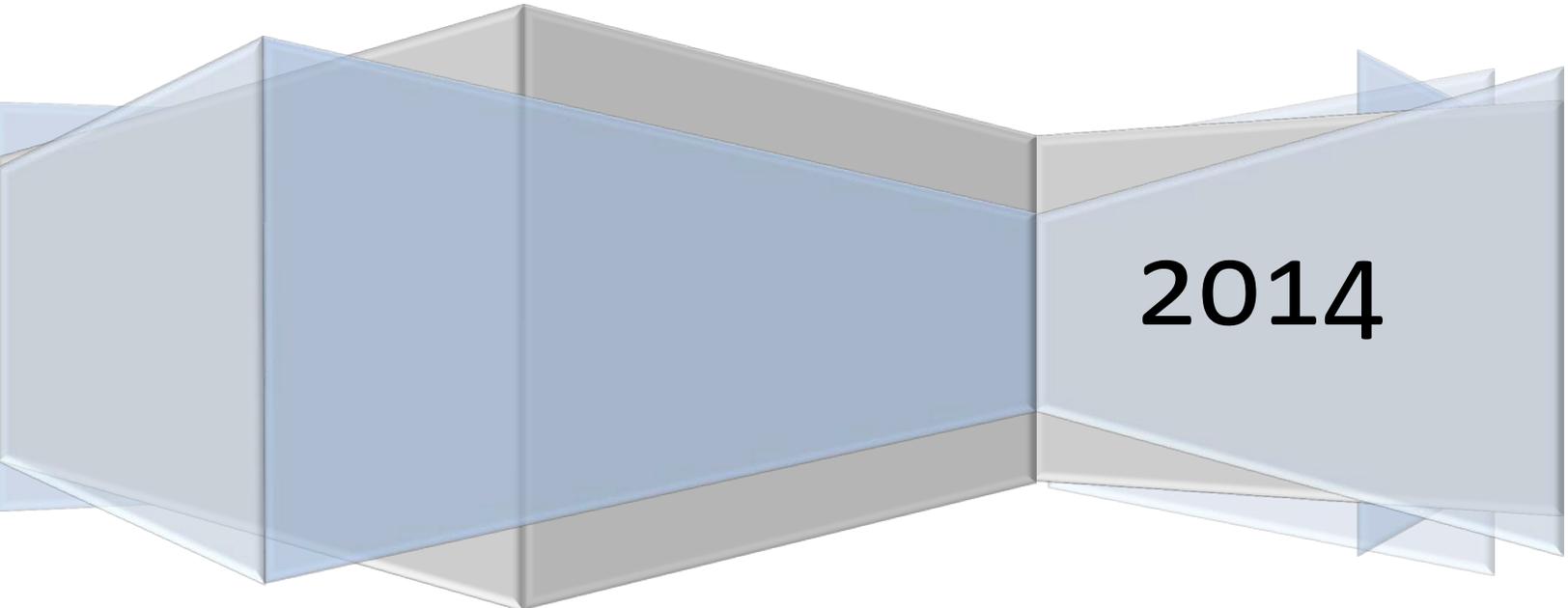


# Steelechase Homeowners Association

Board Retreat

Hosted by the City of Charlotte at UNC Charlotte Uptown Campus



2014

# Steelechase Homeowner Association

## 2014 Board Retreat

### Background

On Saturday, July 19<sup>th</sup> 2014, the board members of the Steelechase HOA 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:

- Fela Babb
- Susan Towl
- Tim Chambers
- Wendell
- Ms.



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.

<b>Where We Were:</b> Reflecting on our past, what were some of the best/worst moments?	<b>Where We Are:</b> Why/why not would a person/business want to move into our community?	<b>Where We Want to Be:</b> If you could make 3 wishes to make our community flourish, what would they be?
<p><b>Best Moments:</b>            Nature Preserve - Quiet            Tree Charlotte Project            Block Party            Family Friendly            Areas without trees            Diversity</p> <p><b>Worst Moments:</b>            Questionable            Additions/Modifications to homes            Not well maintained yards            Speeding in the neighborhood            Lack of pride in the neighborhood</p>	<p>Tree Charlotte project            Nature Preserve            Increase Diversity            Vance landscape of neighborhood            Children in the neighborhood            Family are continuing to buy homes</p> <p>Lack of Pride            Children Safety            Apathy            Lack of Lighting            Too many access point from school into the neighborhood</p>	<p><b>Increase Safety</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Police presence</li> <li>• Increase Light</li> <li>• Access Prevention</li> <li>• Traffic Calming</li> <li>• Sidewalks on both side of the streets.</li> </ul> <p><b>Neighborhood Amenities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dog Station</li> <li>• Recreational Common Areas</li> <li>• Walking Trails</li> <li>• Dog Park</li> <li>• More Trees</li> <li>• Community Events</li> <li>• Club House</li> <li>• Better upkeep of homes</li> <li>• Higher collection rate for HOA dues</li> <li>• Wildlife Certification</li> </ul>

## 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:** Steelechase: A unified, safe, family-focused, tranquil community.

## 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:

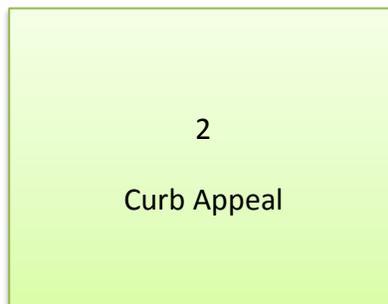
- Grab some sticky notes from the table. Keeping the vision statement in mind, write down as many of the following as you can think of, one per sticky note:
  - Current action items getting you closer to our vision.
  - Possible priorities/actions items to get us closer to our vision.
- Place the sticky 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:

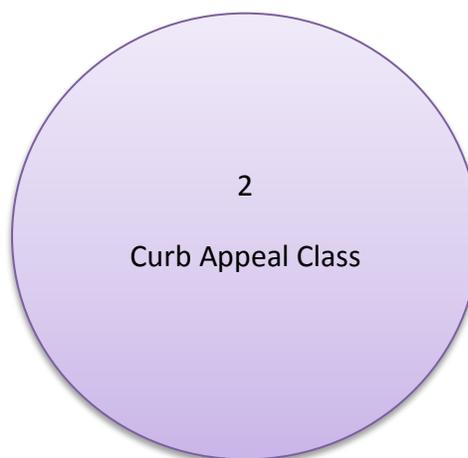
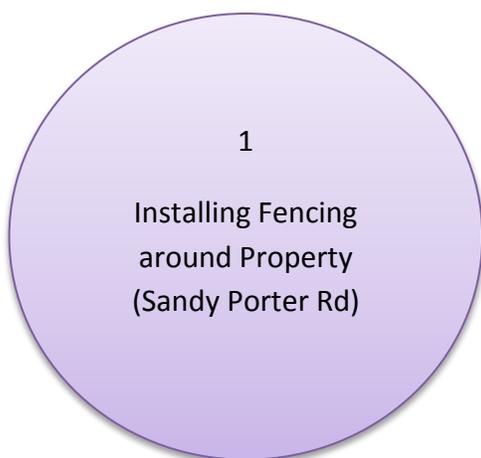
- Fencing around property- (Sandy Porter Rd)
- Safety: Increase Police Presence , Install Traffic Calming Measures, Increase Lighting
- Increase Curb Appeal- Lawn Care
- Get Nature Preserve Certification
- Identify Sponsorships
- Have Community Classes
- Maintain Quietness
- Increase Community Pride

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**

**Steelechase Homeowners Association**

OUR VISION: Steelechase: A unified, safe, family-focused tranquil, community.

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

1

Community Safety

2

Curb Appeal

3

Sponsorships

**IN 2014-2015, WE WILL WORK ON THESE ACTIVITIES GUIDED BY OUR PRIORITIES:**

1

Installing Fencing  
around Property  
(Sandy Porter Rd)

2

Curb Appeal Class

3

Develop Partnerships  
for Community Space

## Resources to Get Started

Project	Getting Started	Resources
<p>Project #1</p> <p>Curb Appeal Class</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local education resources for gardening and curb appeal</li> </ul>	<p>How-to lessons at Lowes  <a href="http://www.lowes.com/cd_How+To+Library_615580068">http://www.lowes.com/cd_How+To+Library_615580068</a>                      Master Gardeners of Mecklenburg County  <a href="http://www.mastergardenersmecklenburg.org/">http://www.mastergardenersmecklenburg.org/</a></p> <p>Home Depot Workshops:  <a href="http://workshops.homedepot.com/workshops/home?cm_mmc=SEM THD G BT2 Resources&amp;gclid=CJi3x9XeuMACFQ1p4AodDx0AmQ&amp;gclsrc=ds">http://workshops.homedepot.com/workshops/home?cm_mmc=SEM THD G BT2 Resources&amp;gclid=CJi3x9XeuMACFQ1p4AodDx0AmQ&amp;gclsrc=ds</a></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact your code enforcement inspector</li> </ul>	<p>Elizabeth Lamy                      704-432-6813  <a href="mailto:elamy@charlottenc.gov">elamy@charlottenc.gov</a></p>
<p>Project #2</p> <p>Installing Fencing around Property (Sandy Porter Rd)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply for a Neighborhood Matching Grant to install a fence</li> </ul>	<p>Neighborhood Matching Grants  <a href="http://charmack.org/city/charlotte/nbs/communityengagement/nmg/Pages/default.aspx?NotFoundURL=http://charmack.org/city/charlotte/nbs/communitycommerce/Pages/NMG.aspx&amp;Referrer">http://charmack.org/city/charlotte/nbs/communityengagement/nmg/Pages/default.aspx?NotFoundURL=http://charmack.org/city/charlotte/nbs/communitycommerce/Pages/NMG.aspx&amp;Referrer</a>                      =</p> <p>Contact Atalie Zimmerman for more information:  <a href="mailto:azimmerman@charlottenc.gov">azimmerman@charlottenc.gov</a>                      704-336-4594</p>
<p>Project #3</p> <p>Develop partnerships for community space</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Find volunteers to help with your project</li> </ul>	<p>Hands On Charlotte:  <a href="http://www.handsoncharlotte.org">www.handsoncharlotte.org</a></p> <p>Volunteer Match: <a href="http://www.volunteermatch.org/">http://www.volunteermatch.org/</a></p> <p>Habitat for Humanity Group Volunteers:  <a href="http://www.habitatcharlotte.org/getinvolved/volunteer/groups">http://www.habitatcharlotte.org/getinvolved/volunteer/groups</a></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop sustainable partnerships</li> </ul>	<p>A guide to building effective neighborhood partnerships:  <a href="http://www.neighborpower.org/papers/building-genuine-partnerships.pdf">http://www.neighborpower.org/papers/building-genuine-partnerships.pdf</a></p> <p>Additional online Resources for neighborhood associations:  <a href="http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/article/Association">http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/article/Association</a></p>

