



CHARLOTTE.

2016 NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD RETREAT



Summerville Townhomes

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

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"> • In 2002-2005 Summerville was a new development. It was quiet, pretty and small. • Area has great access to interstates and overall City. • Recession hit in 2007-2009; lots of foreclosures, change in residents, area began to deteriorate, fluctuation in crime rate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Today community is more organized, HOA more stable. • More diverse community. • Better communication/relationship with community and Police (CMPD). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer community • Increase community engagement • Beautification and landscaping

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:

Summerville is a great inclusive Community with excellent access to the City. We will develop and maintain a safe and quality 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:

- Safety
 - Lighting
 - Security surveillance cameras on designated corners
 - Bigger street bumps
- Quality of Life
 - Fence
 - Signs/identity
 - Parking
 - Playground
- Landscaping
 - Beautiful premises (grass, shrubs, flowers)
 - Improve landscaping and add community garden

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

Summerville Townhomes

OUR VISION:

Summerville is a great inclusive Community with excellent access to the City. We will develop and maintain a safe and quality Community.

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

1
Safety

2
Landscaping

3
Quality of Life

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

Lighting

Improve landscaping
and add community
garden

More parking

Please list any parking lot issues or items here:

- Improve and cleanup area around detention pond, it is filled with garbage and the HOA has agreed to look into cleaning it up. *See Keep Charlotte Beautiful resource in chart that follows.*
- Look into installing security cameras to help police the area better. *Request a security survey through CMPD to find out where trouble areas may be in your neighborhood: crimepreventionunit@cmpd.org and/or visit <http://www.charmeck.org> and enter "Security Survey" in search box*



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
<p>Project #1</p> <p>Lighting</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address any burnt out/broken street lights Explore street lighting improvements, enhancements Consider switching to LED lighting for longer life and reduced energy usage 	<p>Contact the City by calling 311, visiting http://tinyurl.com/ceglDMf or contacting Ralph Truitt in CDOT (rtruitt@charlottenc.gov or 704.336.6709) to request an upgrade for street lighting</p> <p>Request free LED's from Duke Energy: http://www.duke-energy.com/freeleds/ or call 1-800-943-7585.</p> <p>Report street light outages to Duke Energy: https://www.duke-energy.com/north-carolina-business/products/lighting/request-light-repair.asp</p> <p>Neighborhood Matching Grants (NMG): Charlotte's NMG Program can provide grants to eligible neighborhood organizations for community improvement projects. 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>Improve landscaping and add community garden</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Come up with action plan of what you would like to see improved Start a committee of interested residents to design and build a community garden Hold dedicated workdays for cleanup, new landscaping, and/or community garden construction. Provide breakfast or snacks to reward volunteers. 	<p>Keep Charlotte Beautiful (KCB) volunteers have been helping to keep Charlotte clean & beautiful since 1974. Visit http://kcb.charmeck.org or call 704-353-1235 to learn how to Adopt a City Street (AACS), participate in a Great American Clean-Up event or to learn tips and borrow supplies for your next neighborhood clean-up.</p> <p>Charlotte Community ToolBank is a great place to borrow tools for projects: http://charlotte.toolbank.org/</p> <p>Use NextDoor to discover neighbors who might be able to volunteer, donate materials, create a landscape design, and more. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9V1tlhGjSMc; https://nextdoor.com/about-us/</p> <p>TreesCharlotte for education and tree planting: http://treescharlotte.org/</p> <p>Community Garden Resources https://communitygarden.org/ https://nccommunitygardens.ces.ncsu.edu/nc-community-garden-partners-2/ http://www.letsmove.gov/community-garden-checklist http://www.annies.com/giving-back/school-gardens/grants-for-gardens http://www.nrpa.org/uploadedFiles/nrpa.org/Grants_and_Partners/Environmental_Conservation/Community-Garden-Handbook.pdf</p> <p>Green Teacher Network: http://gtnccharlotte.org/</p> <p>Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation: http://charmeck.org/mecklenburg/county/ParkandRec/Facilities/Pages/Community%20Gardens.aspx, 704-336-2082</p> <p>Direct contact: peter.cook@mecklenburgcountync.gov or 980-314-1041</p> <p>NC Cooperative Extension Resources: Steven Capobianco, 704-336-4008 or steven_capobianco@ncsu.edu</p> <p>Useful Notes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Community gardens on City/County owned property require written permission from the City/County -Community gardens on private property require written permission from the property owner -NMG funds gardens in public parks in partnership with Mecklenburg County Park & Recreation; Park and Rec approval is required -NC Cooperation Extension maintains a community garden inventory. Consider joining an existing garden before beginning a new community garden -Mulch, training and other resources may be available

		<p align="center">Neighborhood Matching Grants (NMG):</p> <p>Charlotte’s NMG Program can provide grants to eligible neighborhood organizations for community improvement projects. To determine eligibility or to review program details please visit http://charlottenc.gov/nmg or call 704-336-3380.</p>
<p>Project #3</p> <p>More parking</p>		<p>Contact your Community Engagement Specialist to review different considerations for parking and to coordinate meetings with necessary parties (CDOT, Storm Water Services, Zoning, etc.)</p> <p align="center">Neighborhood Matching Grants (NMG):</p> <p>Charlotte’s NMG Program can provide grants to eligible neighborhood organizations for community improvement projects. To determine eligibility or to review program details please visit http://charlottenc.gov/nmg or call 704-336-3380.</p>

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

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Cherie Grant, Community Engagement Specialist	Randy Harris, Community Engagement Lead
Cherie.Grant@charlottenc.gov or 704-336-3322	rharris@charlottenc.gov or 704-432-1579

