



## **Ponderosa Neighborhood Improvement Project**

### **First Public Workshop**

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**Meeting Date:** Monday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2008; 6:00PM – 8:00 PM

**Location:** Public Library of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County  
2157 West Boulevard, Charlotte, NC 28208

**Prepared By:** Scott Chinery, PE, Mulkey Engineers & Consultants

**Project Team Attendees:** Tonia Wimberly, PE, EPM  
Catherine Lester, Neighborhood Development  
Mark Cole, PE, CDOT  
Scott Chinery, PE, Mulkey Engineers & Consultants  
Eric Orozco, Neighboring Concepts, PLLC

### **MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKSHOP**

The purpose of the meeting was to provide a forum for residents to voice their thoughts, concerns, priorities and recommendations regarding the infrastructure improvements needed for the Ponderosa Neighborhood. Public input and comments recorded at the meeting will provide the city staff and consultant team a preliminary reading of the state of infrastructure conditions in the neighborhood and a direction to proceed in generating improvement options. These options will be presented for further public comment and feedback at a second public meeting.

#### **1) Opening Remarks**

Ms. Wimberly opened the meeting by thanking everyone for attending and emphasized the meeting was to focus on the infrastructure needs of the neighborhood.. Ms. Wimberly introduced the City and Consultant staff present and gave an overview of the public meeting agenda.

Ms. Wimberly introduced Ms. Lester who gave a PowerPoint overview of the City's Neighborhood Improvement Program, describing the typical process involved in the implementation of an NIP. Ms. Lester described a four-year process broken up into four distinct phases, one year in duration: (1) Planning, (2) Design, (3) Right of Way, and (4) Construction Phases.

Ms. Lester gave a history of the Neighborhood Improvement Program, stating the City has spent around \$90 million in neighborhoods around the city since the Program's inception in 1990. Ms. Lester gave a summary of the selection criteria used by the City to allocate funds for NIP's. Ms. Lester welcomed further participation in the effort by all those in attendance in order to make

the project a success. She stated the second public meeting would be conducted early next year. Infrastructure improvement options under consideration would be presented at this meeting and residents' input would be critical to the direction and next steps of the planning process.

## **2) Presentation**

Following Ms. Lester, Mr. Chinery led a PowerPoint presentation explaining the scope and goals of the NIP process for the Ponderosa Neighborhood. He gave examples of infrastructure improvements and stressed the importance of balancing critical infrastructure needs with the feasibility of those needs. The goal would be to find the most effective and appropriate improvement plan for the Ponderosa Neighborhood.

Given the set amount of funds available, the need to assess the most critical needs would be important, as well as to coordinate infrastructure improvements in the most effective and mutually beneficial manner. He explained the second public meeting would begin the process to prioritize needs and begin the problem solving process to achieve an effective solution. Mr. Chinery stressed the City would work with the residents to establish the best plan of action.

Mr. Orozco presented a summary of the basic needs observed by the consultant team. He explained the goal of the meeting was to hear the residents' first so the consultants would be keyed in the right direction for future neighborhood assessments. Mr. Chinery directed the audience members to break up into two groups to comment on the neighborhood's infrastructure needs and to gather improvement recommendations.

## **3) Break-Out Session**

Two groups of residents and stakeholders were formed to present and discuss infrastructure needs develop recommendations for the Ponderosa Neighborhood. Each resident introduced him/herself and indicated their residence on the maps available at each table. The residents took turns voicing their main concerns. The residents' voiced critical issues, including the need to place basic infrastructure and enhance the neighborhood's overlooked amenities.

## **4) Summaries and Adjournment**

At the conclusion of the breakout session, a participant representative from each group summarized recorded comments and shared table discussions.

The presentation, group comments, and public meeting handouts are attached. Citizens were encouraged to take comment sheets and forward additional comments, concerns, and suggestions to the Project Team.

The workshop concluded at 7:30 pm.

## **BREAKOUT SESSION – RECORDED COMMENTS**

### ***Group One***

***(Facilitator: Scott Chinery; Recorder: Mark Cole)***

1. Debris is in the rear-yard ditch between Wedgefield Dr. and Fordwood Dr. and needs to be cleared out. Check drainage conditions.
2. Drainage problems are also reported behind 2822 Wedgefield Dr.
3. There is pavement damage/sinking due to recent water line work in front of 2839 Wedgefield Dr.
4. Put sidewalks on remaining streets without sidewalks (except the cul-de-sacs); may be some neighbor opposition.
5. Traffic calming needed on Markland Dr., due to diversion from Kenhill Dr.
6. Potential for a ped/bike connection to Wingate Park with lights.
7. CATS bus routes had been recently changed. The buses do not go where the residents desire to go. They now have route transfers, which proves to be an obstacle during everyday errands, i.e. groceries.

### ***Group Two***

***(Facilitator: Eric Orozco; Recorder: Tonia Wimberly)***

1. Need sidewalks on Fordview, Denview and Parkmont.
2. Slow down traffic on Markland and Parkmont.
3. Resurface the cul-de-sacs.
4. Walking connection needed from Kenhill Dr. to Wingate Park. Consider crosswalk and a three-way stop at the Wingate-Mayfair intersection.
5. Drainage issues on a property at the low point on Kenhill Drive (between Wedgefield and Fordwood Dr.; previous resident had to move out.
6. Markland Dr. and some other streets may need resurfacing due to truck damage – cracks, possible base failure.
7. Make sure installed trees/landscaping don't overgrow; Crepe myrtle variety used last time proved too hard to keep under control.
8. See if pedestrian safety in crossing West Boulevard (for the bus) can be improved.
9. See if a location for existing neighborhood identity monument (that is in storage) is feasible.
10. Storm drainage behind Markland Dr. to the creek may need clearing out / improvement.
11. Some bus stops may need relocation and better lighting.