



NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD RETREAT



MARCH 2, 2022

Amity Gardens Neighborhood Association

Hosted online by City of Charlotte Housing & Neighborhood Services

Amity Gardens Neighborhood Association

2022 Board Retreat

Background

On Wednesday, March 2, 2022, members of the Amity Gardens Neighborhood Association participated in the virtual Neighborhood Board Retreat facilitated by the City of Charlotte. The following board members and/or community members participated in the retreat:

- Donna Fisher, Vice President
- Luke Carter, President
- Alan Bottorf
- Shannon Giles
- Donna Thomas, Social Media and Activities Coordinator
- Marty Payne
- Christy Tully

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
- Outline a direction for the future of the neighborhood that represents the needs and desires of current and future residents
- Set clear goals and priorities for the upcoming year(s)

By participating in the retreat, our board earned a credit of up to \$1,500 toward volunteer hours required for the Neighborhood Matching Grant (NMG) to help execute one of the projects we identified.

To receive this credit, we'll submit a copy of the Developing Your Ideas worksheet with our NMG request. This credit will expire following the June 1, 2023 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:

- Analyzing neighborhood trends and conditions
- Developing strategic priorities
- Developing project ideas

The agenda for the day was as follows:

- Introductions
- Icebreaker
- Understanding your neighborhood - SWOT Analysis
- Developing Strategic Priorities

- Creating SMART Goals
- Idea Development – Time for participants for develop an action plan for goal achievement

SWOT Analysis

We began our day with group discussion using the SWOT Analysis framework. 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

Our discussion helped us to find commonalities in our conversations.

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community and community events • Good relationship with CMPD and support staff, neighbors get to know officers as well • Everyone is so friendly and willing to help each other • Community fellowship, people are engaged - small neighborhood makes it easier to be in touch with everyone • Great relationship with local businesses, multiple donations over the years • Neighborhood provides a sense of community, more homeowners planting roots • Great partnerships (Eastern Hills Baptist Church – provides items for Owl Festival and we’ve received numerous grants from Walmart – great partner) • Has one of the lowest crime rates in Charlotte 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could use more sidewalks, not many sidewalks throughout neighborhood, concerns with people not minding speed limits • On Kistler, numerous studies done to see speed, last study was 2018 • Issue with people running stop signs, residents are running most stop signs based on when officers come out • Preserve tree canopy

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County is building a park near neighborhood, at the end of Pierson Dr. Will need to connect with the county to learn more about timeline • Try to do more events that bring neighbors in, to invite neighbors street by street over to Donna Thomas house (haven't done street cleaning, don't have enough people right now) • Would like to have the opportunity to get tree seedlings for neighbors to regrow tree canopy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Silver line is proposed to go through neighborhood, would have a shopping center at the end of neighborhood. (Few neighbors may not have homes due to right away for Silver Line). Had meeting with CDOT last year to discuss concerns. Additional concern regarding potential rezoning of single-family homes with light rail transition

Strategic Priorities

After completing the SWOT analysis, participants began to brainstorm 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. This activity led us to the following priorities/action items being identified as important within our community:

- Neighborhood Clean Up
- Tree planting event
- Return to hosting more in person events/Meet & Greet/Social Mixers
- Designated Neighborhood Watch
- Would like to continue food trucks and have at least once a month
- Create email list of everyone in neighborhood
- Working on door knocking campaign to meet everyone in the neighborhood

The three priorities receiving the most votes are the strategic priorities that are most important for us to begin working on to achieve our vision. Within these three categories, there were three activities selected as most impactful toward achieving our strategic priorities.

The strategic priorities and activities are summarized on the following page.

2022 Neighborhood Board Retreat Summary

Amity Gardens Neighborhood Association

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

1

Increase outreach and in person events

2

Tree planting event

3

Neighborhood Clean Up

IN 2022-2023, WE WILL WORK ON THESE ACTIVITIES GUIDED BY OUR PRIORITIES:

Host two food/beverage trucks once a month for the next 12 months and develop a plan to increase event outreach in the next 12 months.

Plant at least 20 trees in neighborhood in the next 12 months

Host at least one clean up within the next 5 months

Resources to Get Started- You've rolled up your sleeves and established your vision. We have compiled resources that may assist your organization in achieving your goals on our Neighborhood Training Programs and Resources [website](#). We have identified resource categories that may be applicable to your projects below; please do not hesitate to explore more categories as you undertake your work! Links and contact information are provided for information only and are subject to change.

Project	Potential Resource Categories of Interest
Host two food/beverage trucks once a month for the next 12 months and develop a plan to increase event outreach in the next 12 months. Lead: Marty Payne	Community Engagement / Recreation / Partnership
Plant at least 20 trees in neighborhood in the next 12 months Lead: Luke Carter	Environment/ Beautification
Host at least one clean up within the next 5 months Lead: Donna Thomas	Environment

Your community is located within Charlotte's Southeast. Your staff contact for following up and community assistance is:

Kim Barnes, SE Community Engagement Manager

kim.barnes@charlottenc.gov