February 18, 2017

Belmeade Green HOA

Hosted by City of Charlotte Neighborhood & Business Services at

Goodwill Opportunity Campus
Background

On Saturday, February 18, 2017, the board members of the Belmeade Green HOA participated in the Neighborhood Board Retreat facilitated by the City of Charlotte, hosted at the Goodwill Opportunity Campus. The following board members participated in the retreat:

Gina Gupton
Liesha Seseika
Colston Morris

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 March 1, 2018 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where We Were: Reflecting on our past, what were some of the best/worst moments?</th>
<th>Where We Are: Why would or wouldn’t a person/business want to move into our community?</th>
<th>Where We Want to Be: If you could make 3 wishes to make our community flourish, what would they be?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Positive</strong></td>
<td><strong>Why Would</strong></td>
<td><strong>Why Wouldn’t</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| - A better more responsive HOA Board | - Great potential  
- Great access to Whitewater Center, Airport, and Uptown | - Too much on-street parking  
- Absentee ownership  
- Too much section 8  
- Code enforcement and zoning issues |
| - New speed limit signs  
- New street lights  
- New top coat of pavement | - Affordable home price point  
- Safe and quiet, rural setting | |
| **Negative** | **Why Wouldn’t** |  |
| - Lack of organization  
- Homebuilder went out of business, parts of the neighborhood left unfinished  
- Sinkhole issues | - More community engagement between homeowners, renters, and youth  
- Improve green space that is shared as well replace trees in the planting strips  
- Develop public/private partnerships for events and beautification projects |  |
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:**

*Belmeade Green fosters community relationships by celebrating our environment to make our neighborhood a strong place to live, play, and grow.*

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:

**Outreach Strategies**
- Develop email list/reliable contact information
- More frequent meetings
- Need more innovative communication tools
- Community service clean up events that involve children
- Trust-building outreach tools due to issues with past board
- Board has to be responsive and organized to make anything happen
- Renter outreach tools

**Board Development**
- Need neighborhood watch block captains
- Board needs a five year plan for that include succession plan
- How do you ensure consistent board participation?

**Beautification**
- Tree replacement/trimming
- Secure Neighborhood Matching Grant
- Little free libraries
- Develop consensus on priorities/goals
- Create park with track in vacant filed
- Define project in shared space

**Education about City/County Resources**
- Have City/County staff come to meetings
- Education about 311 services
- Need information about Police mentoring/Mayor’s Youth Employment programs (Consider making the request through the Need a Speaker? program.)

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. 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.
**Belmeade Green HOA**

**OUR VISION:**
Belmeade Green fosters community relationships by celebrating our environment to make our neighborhood a strong place to live, play, and grow.

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

1. Develop a board that is proactive and responsive.
2. Develop outreach strategies for all residents within the neighborhood.
3. Beautification Project.

**IN 2017-2018, WE WILL WORK ON THESE ACTIVITIES GUIDED BY OUR PRIORITIES:**

- Apply and receive a Neighborhood Matching Grant to help with neighborhood board development and outreach strategies.
- Apply and receive a Neighborhood Matching Grant to help with neighborhood board development and outreach strategies.
- Define and execute a “quick win” beautification project, such as a little free library.
Please list any parking lot items or additional activities beyond the initial 3 here.

Have Code Enforcement come out to speak to the neighborhood and help determine who is responsible to repair fence near 377 Tribune Drive. Please contact Cherie Grant (see later in this document) to help facilitate this.

![Image of Tribune Drive]

Need a better understanding of the Storm Water’s timeline to fix the sinkhole problem. Perhaps have the project manager come out to speak to the neighborhood. Please see the attached memo from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services. Contact information is provided for the Project Engineer.

Need transit access and a better understanding of the services available, request to have someone from CATS come to a meeting. Consider making the request through the Need a Speaker? program.

There are issues with illegal dumping. Code Enforcement may be able to provide guidance on this issue. Cherie Grant can provide the connection point.

There is a driveway off of Moores Chapel Rd to property behind the neighborhood. Judging from virtual charlotte the driveway may be a private street? Residents along Tribune drive would like to know their options. Can access to Tribune Dr be severed? Who owns the driveway? Is it actually a street? Please contact the Charlotte Department of Transportation (704-336-4119) to explore options with severing connectivity between Tribune and this non-City maintained driveway.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Potential Resource Categories of Interest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Apply and receive a Neighborhood Matching Grant to help with neighborhood board development and outreach strategies (project fulfills two goals)</td>
<td>Board Development; Communication; Partnerships; Welcoming &amp; Engaging Neighbors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Define and execute a “quick win” beautification project, such as a little free library</td>
<td>Beautification</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cherie Grant, Northwest Community Engagement Liaison</th>
<th>Randy Harris, Northwest Community Engagement Manager</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:Cherie.Grant@charlottenc.gov">Cherie.Grant@charlottenc.gov</a> or 704-336-3322</td>
<td><a href="mailto:rharris@charlottenc.gov">rharris@charlottenc.gov</a> or 704-432-1579</td>
</tr>
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