

July 18, 2020

Carmel Village II Homeowners Association

Hosted online by City of Charlotte Housing & Neighborhood Services

Carmel Village II Homeowners Association 2020 Board Retreat

Background

On Saturday, July 18, 2020, the residents of the Carmel Village II Homeowners Association participated in the Neighborhood Board Retreat facilitated by the City of Charlotte. The following board members and/or community members participated in the retreat:

- Jane Vance
- Dorothy Willard
- Thomas Meador
- Pat Johnson
- Jeanne Chase

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 a copy of the Developing Your Ideas worksheet with our NMG request. This credit will expire following the September 1, 2021 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
- Developing Strategic Priorities
- 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 group discussion 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?

Our discussion helped us to find 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?
<p>Best</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pat being helpful and keeping everyone on track with grants • Volunteer hours were easily completed <p>Worst</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The board was disengaged • Repairs were not being made in the community • No outlook/ goals for the community • Board is/was not as social. • There was a small spurt of crime at one point 	<p>Would</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of living is low compared to other areas around • Prime location easy access to everything • Affordable housing • Large plots of land • A lot of pride and unity in the community <p>Would not</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are a lot of renters in the community • Congestion and the amount of traffic makes it difficult to move around. • The community is older was built in the 80's 	<p>Wishes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to increase property value • Recreate common spaces for maximum use • Long term planning

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. This activity led us to the following categories and action items being identified as important within our community:

- **Improve common areas**
 - Put up a better fence around the pool
 - Renovate railings around the community and maintain those which are in decent shape
 - Add a shelter like structure to allow for gathering
 - Movie projection for movie night

- **Safety**
 - Develop measures for speed control
 - Meet with CDOT to gather information, as well as possible ideas (three hotspot areas)
 - Assessment of railings to see which ones could be a hazard

- **Communication**
 - Develop welcome packages
 - Develop consistent form of communication (newsletter, email etc.)

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

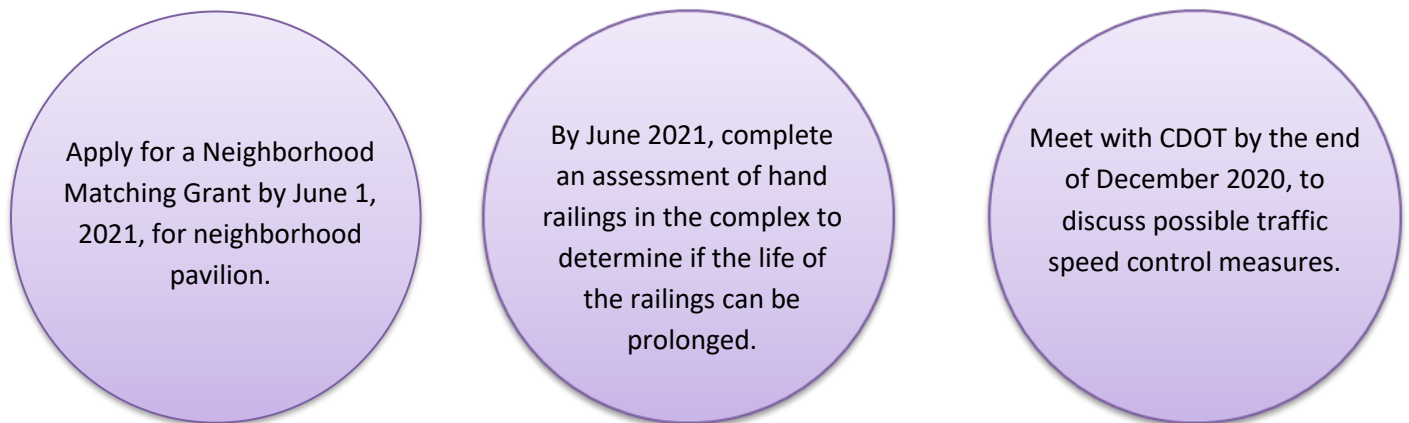
2020 Neighborhood Board Retreat Summary

Carmel Village II Homeowners Association

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



IN 2020-2021, WE WILL WORK ON THESE ACTIVITES GUIDED BY OUR PRIORITES:



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
Apply for a Neighborhood Matching Grant by June 1, 2021, for neighborhood pavilion.	Neighborhood Improvement
By June 2021, complete an assessment of hand railings in the complex to determine if the life of the railings can be prolonged.	Neighborhood Improvement
Meet with CDOT by the end of December 2020, to discuss possible traffic speed control measures.	Community Safety

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

Faith Estrada, Southeast Community Engagement Liaison	Kim Barnes, Southeast Community Engagement Manager
faith.estrada@charlottenc.gov or 704-353-1879	kbarnes@charlottenc.gov or 704-336-8408