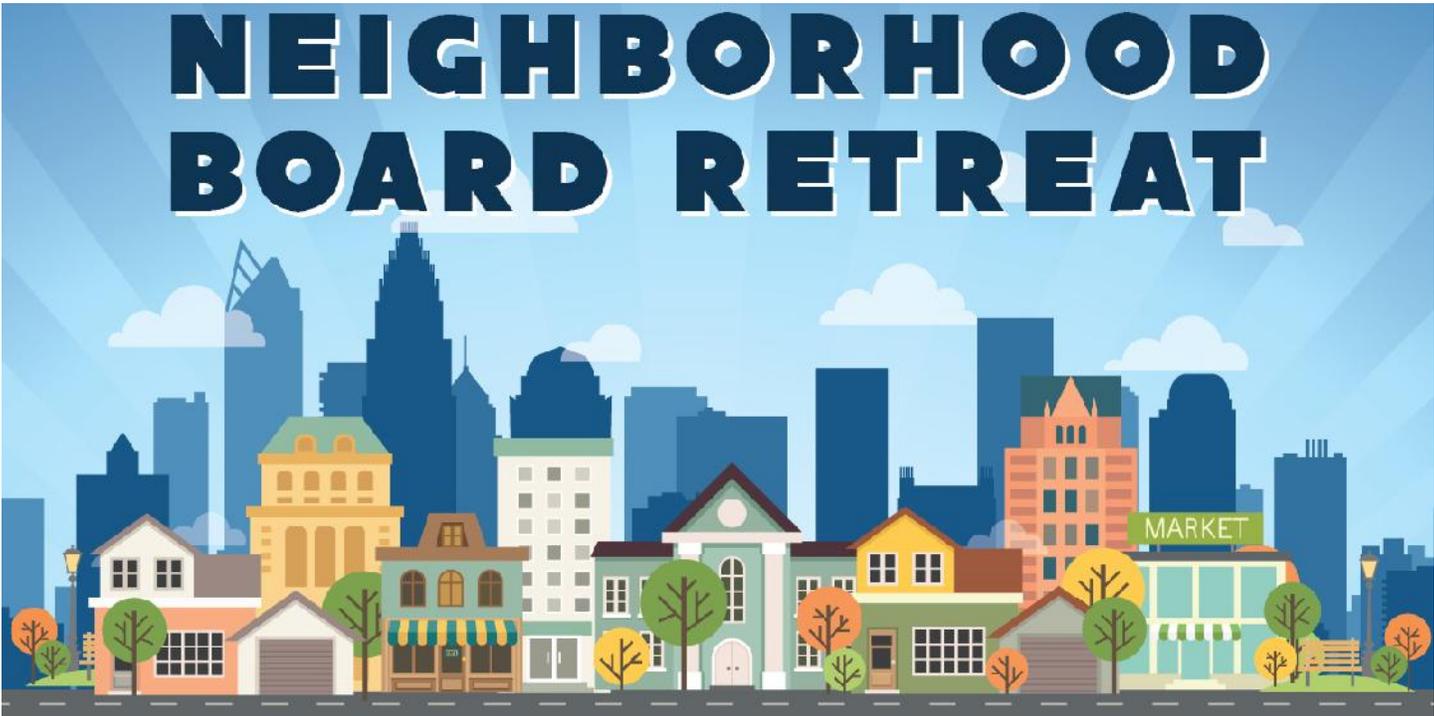




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February 18, 2017

Cheshunt Homeowners Association

Hosted by City of Charlotte Neighborhood & Business Services at

Goodwill Opportunity Campus

Cheshunt Homeowners Association

2017 Board Retreat

Background

On Saturday, February 18, 2017, the board members of the Cheshunt Homeowners Association 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:

Ernesto Giron
Gerri Rezac
Manuela de Almeida

Marsha Kozimer
Roland Wentworth



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.

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">) Swim team) Adult swim nights & block parties) Activities and more community pride) People helped maintain common areas) Home values during the recession) Lack of board transparency; apathetic and irresponsible 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">) Great location (proximity to I-77 & I-85)) Recent success of Crime Watch group) Board energy and accountability) Nearby public schools are struggling) Traffic is getting worse) Nearby apartments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none">) Increase pride, community activities) Re-evaluate nearby land use) More pool activities) Engage more neighbors) Showcase common areas) More efficient board) Traffic signal at David Cox & Statesville

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:

Cheshunt is an established neighborhood where friendly, diverse neighbors share a sense of 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:
 - o Current action items getting you closer to our vision.
 - o 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:

- J **Community Involvement:** more activities; form a walking group; more people involved in block watch; how-to workshops; hold more community/social events; help improve local school
- J **Neighborhood Beautification:** yard of the month club; greater sense of pride/ownership of individual homes and yards; dog waste stations; new flowers/landscaping at clubhouse
- J **Improve existing common areas/amenities:** fix pool; paint bathroom floors in clubhouse; new furniture for clubhouse; resurface parking lot; redo clubhouse bathrooms; repair tennis courts; new outdoor shed at clubhouse
- J **Community Identification:** sign at David Cox & Red Bridge; drone video of community for website
- J **Security:** security cameras at four entrances & common area; security lights; new street lights
- J **New Amenities:** dog park in common area; outside workout park; nature trails; develop back lake (benches, trails, etc.)
- J **Traffic:** traffic light (at David Cox & Statesville)

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.



2017 Neighborhood Board Retreat Summary

Cheshunt Homeowners Association

OUR VISION:

Cheshunt is an established neighborhood where friendly, diverse neighbors share a sense of community.

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

1

Increase community involvement

2

Neighborhood beautification

3

Improve existing common areas

IN 2017-2018, WE WILL WORK ON THESE ACTIVITES GUIDED BY OUR PRIORITES:

Hold at least 8 community/social events by March 2018

Install at least 5 new dog waste stations by March 2018

Complete plan to refinish and enhance community tennis courts

Please list any parking lot items or additional activities beyond the initial 3 here.

-) Cheshunt plans to complete pool renovations by the end of 2017. Working with contractors on this project will help them create the plan to refinish their tennis courts.
-) Cheshunt is very concerned about the number of accidents at the intersection of David Cox & Statesville Rd – they would like to see a traffic signal installed here.
-) Beavers are destroying the larger pond.
-) Cheshunt is curious if/how they could help improve David Cox Elementary School. *Please contact CMS Assistant Director of Community Partnerships Rosanna Saladin-Subero, PhD (980-343-1719; r1.saladin-subero@cms.k12.nc.us) to learn about opportunities at the school. You may also contact the school directly (980-343-6540).*



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
Hold at least 8 community/social events by March 2018	Welcoming & Engaging Neighbors; Communication
Include at least 5 new dog waste stations by March 2018	Beautification
Complete plan to refinish and enhance community tennis courts	Beautification

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

Charlenea Duncan, Northeast Community Engagement Liaison	John Short, Northeast Community Engagement Manager
csduncan@charlottenc.gov or 704-336-2173	jshort@charlottenc.gov or 704-336-3862

