



CHARLOTTE™

2015 NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD RETREAT



Colonial Village

Hosted by City of Charlotte Neighborhood & Business Services at UNC Charlotte Center City

COLONIAL VILLAGE

2015 Board Retreat

Background

On Saturday July 18th, 2015, the board members of the Colonial Village Neighborhood Association participated in a board retreat facilitated by the City of Charlotte, hosted at UNC Charlotte Center City. The following board members participated in the retreat:

- Kristin Prentice
- Jill Sochacki
- Matthew Morrison
- Kristy Freeman
- Linda Poley
- Colleen Mosier
- Alison Hall



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 Neighborhood Matching Grant credit to help execute one of the projects we identified.

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?
Traffic Calming Device Unsafe Limited Income to upgrade homes Lack of public transportation Elderly population/few families	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very social neighborhood • Bike trail • Growing • Light rail • Close to great retail • More connection and communication with neighbors • Tree canopy • Active neighborhood • More money to upgrade homes • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park/open space/community space • More connected with each other • Expand library • Increase pedestrian travel • Increase retail and dining options near 'hood • Community garden • Neighborhood Farmers market or produce trade • Financial assistance for tree care

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.

**Colonial Village: the truly connected neighborhood;
connected to nature, to each other, and to the
community at large.**

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:

Environment	Transportation	Community Space	Community Engagement	Scaleybank Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Save the trees/financial assistance for tree care ○ Improve community recycling activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support scaleybank traffic calming ○ Increased connectivity for foot traffic 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Define neighborhood entries for walkability ○ Create park space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Set up monthly produce share event ○ Define space/location for community space ○ Dog park ○ Increase social media presence ○ Build a brand (like Sedgfield) ○ Community involvement in local school ○ More social events ○ Increase involvement from community ○ Create survey asking why people do and do not participate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Spur development at scaleybank corner (retail and restaurants) ○ Expand scaleybank library ○ Contact developers about desire for retail and dining options ○ Engage elected officials so they can lobby for us

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, these are:

1
Community
Engagement

2
Community Space

3
Scaleybark
Development

Action Items for 2015-2016 The three activities selected as most impactful toward achieving our strategic priorities are activities in 2015-2016 are:

Create Participation
Survey to find out
why neighborhood
residents do and
don't participate

Identify Location
for Community
space

Increase elected
official participation
with N.A.

Roots
Online survey tools
FB
NextDoor
Newsletter
Website

Roots
Patsy K.
Park and Rec
Duke Energy (right of way)
Code Enforcement Staff
Comm. Engagement office
CDOT

Roots
Patsy K.
Email List Serve
Local Developer
Contacts

2015 Neighborhood Board Retreat Summary

Colonial Village

**Colonial Village: the truly connected neighborhood;
connected to nature, to each other, and to the community
at large.**

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

1

Community
Engagement

2

Community Space

3.

Increased involvement
with elected officials

IN 2015-2016, WE WILL WORK ON THESE ACTIVITES GUIDED BY OUR PRIORITES:

Create
Participation
Survey to find out
why
neighborhood
residents do and
don't participate

Identify Location
for Community
space

Increase elected
official participation
with N.A.

Resources to Get Started

Project	Getting Started	Resources
<p>Project #1</p> <p>Create Participation Survey to find out why neighborhood residents do and don't participate</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a survey for residents 	<p style="text-align: center;">Online survey tool: www.surveymonkey.com</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Sample neighborhood survey: http://www.santacruzneighbors.com/files/form_sampleneighborhoodsurvey.pdf</p>
<p>Project # 2</p> <p>Identify Location for Community space</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learn about resources to create a community space 	<p style="text-align: center;">How-to lessons at Lowes http://www.lowes.com/cd_How+To+Library_615580068_</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Master Gardeners of Mecklenburg County http://www.mastergardenersmecklenburg.org/</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Home Depot Workshops: http://workshops.homedepot.com/workshops/home?cm_mmc=SEM THD G BT2 Resources&gclid=CJi3x9XeuMACFQ1p4AodDx0AmQ&gclsrc=d</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply for a Neighborhood Matching Grant 	<p style="text-align: center;">Neighborhood Matching Grants Program http://www.charmeck.org/city/charlotte/nbs/communityengagement/nmg/Pages/default.aspx</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Atalie Zimmerman – NMG Program Coordinator azimmerman@charlottenc.gov, 704-336-4594</p>
<p>Project #3</p> <p>Increase elected official participation with N.A.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite City Council members to a neighborhood meeting or event 	<p style="text-align: center;">City Council Members: http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/CityCouncil/MeettheCouncil/Pages/home.aspx</p>

Your community is located within Charlotte's **South West Service Area**, your staff contacts for following up and community assistance are:

Millicent Powell, Community Engagement Specialist mpowell@charlottenc.gov or 704-432-6814	Eugene Bradley, Community Engagement Lead ebradley@charlottenc.gov or 704-432-1579
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