



CHARLOTTESM

NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD RETREAT



July 14, 2018

Cotswold Homes Condominium Association

Hosted by City of Charlotte Housing & Neighborhood Services at

Central Piedmont Community College

Cotswold Homes Condominium Association

2018 Board Retreat

Background

On Saturday, July 14, 2018, the board members of the Cotswold Homes Condominium Association participated in the Neighborhood Board Retreat facilitated by the City of Charlotte, hosted at Central Piedmont Community College. The following board members and/or community members participated in the retreat:

Linda Graham
Corey Black
Greer Caponi



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. More information on the grant program can be found online at <http://charlottenc.gov/nmg>.

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 September 1, 2019 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"> • Affordability • Too many rules • Neglected infrastructure • Lack of planning • Rental property issues • Shielded from commercial growth • Reactive vs proactive • Less friendly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordability • No amenities • Rental restrictions • Scary infrastructure • No younger people • Fight over outdoor spaces • Limited parking • Lighting • Foliage issues • Great location • Green space 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New infrastructure • Amenities • Lighting/ green spaces



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:

Cotswold Homes: An established, friendly, park-like community where all your needs are a short walk away.

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:

- **Infrastructure Improvements**
 - Building reserves for infrastructure improvements
 - Infrastructure renewal – who pays for what?
 - Replacing water and sewer lines
 - New meters

- **Pedestrian Safety**
 - Safer pedestrian walk
 - Pedestrian bridge across Randolph at greenway
 - Street crossing at Randolph and Sharon Amity
 - Service road to shopping

- **Green Space Enhancement**
 - Service road beautification
 - Landscaping
 - Tree maintenance
 - Designated dog park
 - Greenspace maintenance and growth
 - Common garden
 - Ideas for unique park-like setting

- **Building Relationships w/ Businesses**
 - Addressing noise complaints
 - Greening of business section
 - Partnerships with local establishments
 - Moving lights to the Cotswold district/ Publix

- **Community Space and Programming**
 - Aid older residents
 - Engaging community events
 - Community center
 - Outdoor community space
 - Book clubs/ socials
 - Grilling gardens/ park benches

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.

2018 Neighborhood Board Retreat Summary

Cotswold Homes Condominium Association

OUR VISION:

Cotswold Homes: An established, friendly, park-like community where all your needs are a short walk away.

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

1

**Infrastructure
Improvements**

2

**Building Relationships w/
Businesses**

3

**Community Space and
Programming**

IN 2018-2019, WE WILL WORK ON THESE ACTIVITES GUIDED BY OUR PRIORITES:

Assess the condition of pipes and create an infrastructure renewal plan by August 2019.

Host meetings between the community and both Housing & Neighborhood Services and CharMeck 311.

Receive a Neighborhood Matching Grant to improve lighting in the common area.

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
Assess the condition of pipes and create an infrastructure renewal plan by August 2019.	Environmental & Sustainability
Host meetings between the community and both Housing & Neighborhood Services and CharMeck 311.	Partnerships
Receive a Neighborhood Matching Grant to improve lighting in the common area.	Beautification

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

Kim Barnes, Southeast Community Engagement Manager
kbarnes@charlottenc.gov or 704-336-8408



Project Idea: Infrastructure Renewal	
What is the purpose of this project?	Are there similar projects within the community that could provide synergy, partnership potential, or lessons learned?
Replacing water and sewage systems- storm and rain off	Not Sure
What would be a successful outcome of completing this project? How will we measure success?	What are the benefits to the community?
Ability to have consistent water, sewer, and storm drain off for the next 75+ years	Confidence in systems, no looming future assessment environmental benefits, no leaks of excess water or sewage, hidden or otherwise, on our + surrounding properties
What are your strategies, first steps, and what resources do we need to make it happen? (in-kind donations, grants, partnering organizations, volunteers, technical experience?)	
<p>Research:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A. Can C.O.C. takeover by us granting R. O. W. on property to install meters (water)- and possible sewer as well (Ashely email) B. Where are current property/ C.O.C. responsibilities- especially on private road (Ashely email) C. If above N/A – loan to install private metering- payoff projection + APP2 funds into reserves to appease future water + sewer replacement- anew and separate reserve (Ben at cams) 	

Project Idea: Enhance Common Area Lighting	
What is the purpose of this project?	Are there similar projects within the community that could provide synergy, partnership potential, or lessons learned?
Improve the lighting in the common area in community (Cotswold Homes)	HNS Contact Duke to determine options for installing lighting and replacement of missing lights
What would be a successful outcome of completing this project? How will we measure success?	What are the benefits to the community?
Additional appropriate residential lighting across property or replacement of missing lights	Increase safety and property/ community improvement for quality of life
What are your strategies, first steps, and what resources do we need to make it happen? (In-kind donations, grants, partnering organizations, volunteers, technical experience?)	
<p>Neighborhood matching grant Tree banding grant 311- contact with Duke resources Trees Charlotte</p>	