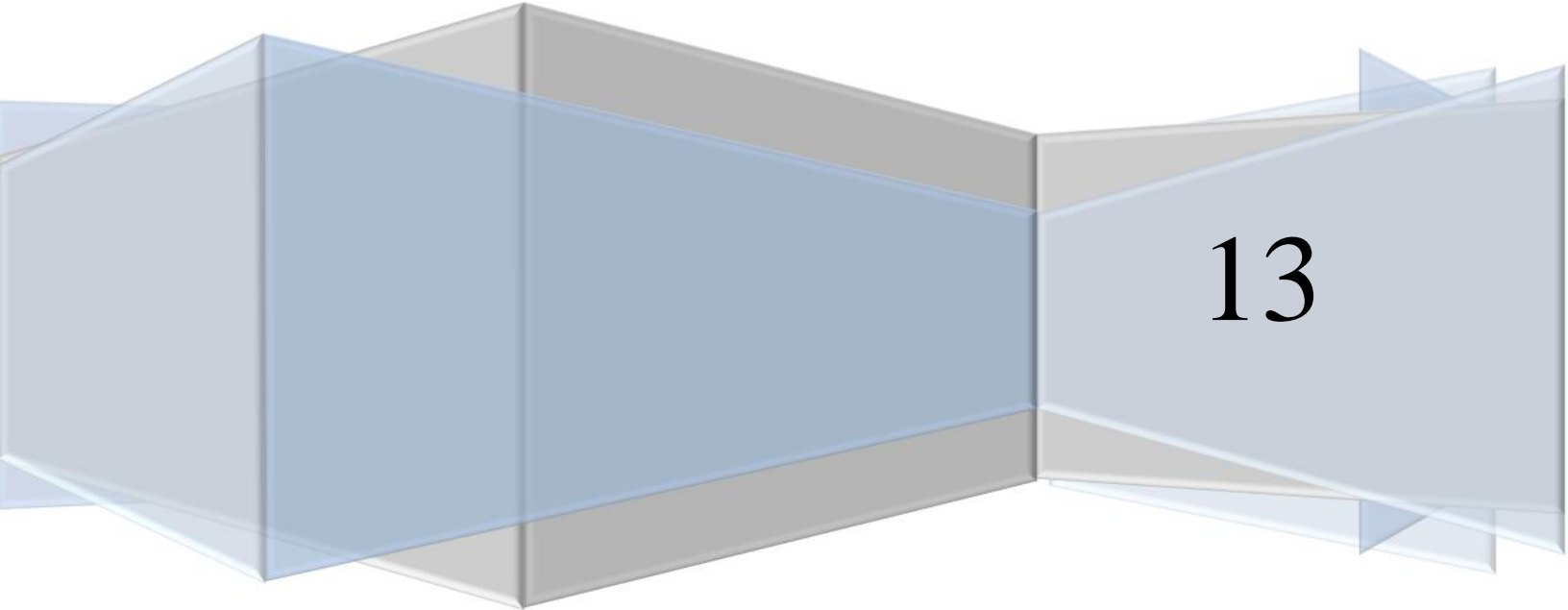


Hidden Valley

Board Retreat

Hosted by the City of Charlotte at Foundation For The Carolinas



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Hidden Valley

2013 Board Retreat

Background

On Saturday, July 20, 2013, the board members of Hidden Valley Community Association participated in a board retreat facilitated by the City of Charlotte, hosted at Foundation For The Carolinas. The following board members participated in the retreat:

- Linda Butler
- Gary Dawkins
- Doris Edwards
- Jackie Fenwick
- Edward Marsh
- TBD



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 \$3,000 Neighborhood Matching Grant credit to help execute one of the projects we identified.

Process

Our board retreat was conducted by an external facilitator, tasked to keep our conversations on-task, productive, and focused on achievable objectives. The process was designed to help us capture what was the best of the past, what is 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
- Where's the Energy – Energygram Exercise
- Project Planning Worksheet Review

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/why not would 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 style="text-align: center;">Best</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to schools • Park within community • Recreation center, pool • Hotels and good resources are available • Churches are available • Festival for the past 22 years • Engagement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Entertainment, parades ▪ Education ▪ Active community assoc. ▪ Partnership with CMPD ▪ Welcoming community <p style="text-align: center;">Worst</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Absentee landlords • Crime (Hidden Valley Kings gang) • Lack of safety for children and residents to walk throughout the community 	<p style="text-align: center;">Why</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unique setting for business development • Companies can bring their own private security for crime prevention • Access to highway, shopping & restaurants • Medium price for homes that are very well built • Diversity <p style="text-align: center;">Why Not</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The neighborhood rentals changed residences • Crime (prostitution, drugs, violence, burglaries) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pool/rec center • Awareness for crime prevention (gangs and prostitution) • Community involvement to reduce crime • Grocery store within walking distance • Peace gathering education: Police & neighborhood work together; events to bring youth and older residents together • Housing standards/code standards • Daycare available • Programs for senior • Continued sustainability projects

Based on this activity, our group identified shared values that would help us craft the vision for our community:

- Reducing crime
- Access
- Community involvement
- Quality businesses

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:

Hidden Valley: The Greening Gateway of Charlotte – A Community for all!

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. We utilized 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.
 - Current realities keeping you from our vision.
 - Possible priorities/actions items to get us closer to our vision.
- Place the sticky notes on the chart paper.
- Organize the ideas by natural categories. Which ideas go together? Feel free to move any post-it note to another place. Move yours, move those of others, and feel free to do this. Do not be offended if someone moves yours to a place where you feel it does not belong, just move it where you believe it goes.
- Once everyone agrees on the groups, give each one a name.

This activity led us to the following categories

Money

- Building treasury
- Solar farm for fresh foods
- Possible shows at the recreation center

Education

- Work, skill lessons
- GE classes

Public Relations

- Increase membership
- Communications
- Media
- Website
- Parade and festival
- Interested community members to bring in dues from their neighbors
- Re-establish crime watch activity



The board then identified the three priorities that were most important for us to begin working on to achieve our vision:

1
Money

2
Education

3
Public Relations

Potential Projects

The board then began to brainstorm on possible projects or activities that aligned with their strategic priorities:

Money

- Fundraising
- Networking
- Partnerships
- Advertising
- Grants

Education

- Sponsorships
- Revise Newsletters
- Translations
- Education-GED
- Solar Farm

Public Relations

- Website
- TV show
- Civic groups

Action Items for 2013-2015

After identifying potential projects, the board voted on one project to pursue for each strategic priority in 2013-2015:



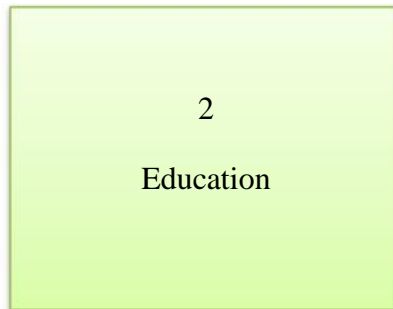
Stakeholders:

Charlotte Chronicle, CMPD, North End Partners, Charlotte N&BS, CMS, Economic Development, Optimist club, Hidden Valley, CDC, Hidden Valley Daycare, Farm communities, Area businesses, land owners, landlords, Housing Authority, local government, community coalition (hotel/motel association)

OUR VISION:

Hidden Valley: The Greening Gateway of Charlotte – A Community for all!

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



IN 2012-2014, WE WILL WORK ON THESE ACTIVITIES GUIDED BY OUR PRIORITIES:

