February 23, 2019

Kings Creek

Hosted by City of Charlotte Housing & Neighborhood Services at
Goodwill Opportunity Campus
Background

On Saturday, February 23, 2019, the board members of the King’s Creek participated in the Neighborhood Board Retreat facilitated by the City of Charlotte, hosted at the Goodwill Opportunity Campus. The following board members and/or community members participated in the retreat:

- Ruby Lloyd
- Chris Fitzgerald
- Kapriesha Thompson
- Joi Mayo
- Aaron Stamps
- Gilberto Reyes

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, 2020 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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Where We Were: Reflecting on our past, what were some of the best/worst moments?</th>
<th>Where We Are: Why would or wouldn’t a person/business want to move into our community?</th>
<th>Where We Want to Be: If you could make 3 wishes to make our community flourish, what would they be?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • Parking problems  
  • Rent cap violations  
  • Landscaping issues  
  • HOA/community communication was very combative | • Better HOA relationship  
  • New property manager  
  • More community participation  
  • Parking issues  
  • More neighborhood meetings  
  • Crowded single family parking | • Increased participation  
  • Welcome committee  
  • Delegation of tasks with board  
  • Upholding bylaws  
  • Newsletter  
  • Pride in community  
  • Bilingual communication  
  • Community resource list  
  • Website improvements  
  • Better use of NextDoor  
  • Inclusive  
  • Increased communication  
  • Embrace diversity  
  • Emphasize great location |
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:**

*King’s Creek strives to be a diverse and connected community with easy access to the heart of the Queen City.*

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:

- Community Events
  - Open mic/theater/poetry/rap event
  - Monthly community events
  - Community cookouts and community service events
  - Attend SWAN meetings as a community
  - Outdoor activities
  - Movie on side unit 7510 Silver Arrow Dr.
  - Uptown train and tour of Imaginon

- Beautification
  - Community creek cleanup
  - Community art project

- Communication
  - Team effort – everyone helps!
  - Community blog
  - Community welcome committee
  - More participation and awareness using NextDoor
  - Welcome packets
  - Google translator to translate docs into Spanish
  - Meet the neighborhood

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.
Kings Creek

OUR VISION:
Kings Creek strives to be a diverse and connected community with easy access to the heart of the Queen City.

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

1. Community Events
2. Beautification
3. Communication

IN 2019-2020, WE WILL WORK ON THESE ACTIVITIES GUIDED BY OUR PRIORITIES:

- Host open mic/theater/poetry/rap event by October 2019
- Hold a community cleanup in 2019
- Recruit community volunteers, create committees and define roles and responsibilities by April 2019
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Potential Resource Categories of Interest</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Host open mic/theater/poetry/rap event by October 2019</td>
<td>Welcoming &amp; Engaging Neighbors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hold a community cleanup in 2019</td>
<td>Beautification; Environmental &amp; Sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recruit community volunteers, create committees and define roles and responsibilities by April 2019</td>
<td>Board Development</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Millicent Powell, Southwest Community Engagement Liaison</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:mepowell@charlottenc.gov">mepowell@charlottenc.gov</a> or 704-432-6814</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

- SWAN – South West Area Neighborhoods
  - Contact Millicent at mepowell@charlottenc.gov to get connected with South West Area Neighborhood Coalition (SWAN)

- 311 outreach
  - Learn more about CharMeck 311 at https://charlottenc.gov/HNS/CharMeck311/Pages/default.aspx

- Community events – help!
  - Explore the Neighborhood Block Party Kit here: https://sdsynod.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Block-Party-Kit.pdf

- Productive activities for kids
  - Learn more about Youth & Education at the bottom of this webpage: https://charlottenc.gov/HNS/CE/CommunityInfo/Pages/NeighborhoodTrainingPrograms.aspx

- Engage local businesses
  - Learn more under the “Partnerships” tab of this webpage: https://charlottenc.gov/HNS/CE/CommunityInfo/Pages/NeighborhoodTrainingPrograms.aspx

- Adopt-a-Street for Arrowood
  - Learn more about the City’s Adopt-A-City Street program here: https://charlottenc.gov/HNS/CE/KCB/Pages/Adopt-A-City-Street.aspx