CHARLOTTE.

2015 NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD RETREAT

Kingswood

Hosted by City of Charlotte Neighborhood & Business Services at CPCC Main Campus

Kingswood

2015 Board Retreat

Background

On Saturday, February 7th 2015, the board members of the Kingswood participated in a board retreat facilitated by the City of Charlotte, hosted at CPCC's Main Campus. The following board members participated in the retreat:

- Lauren Lopez
- Tina Horton
- Chrystal Perkins

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?
• There used to be more crime and break-ins. • We have historically had a lot of community events. • There used to be a lot of crime on Heathway.	• Abatement of graffiti in the area has been a success • Street lights have been installed on Heathway, making the area safer. • We have worked with CMPD to make the community safer. • We are starting a new community program. • Neighbors know each other better. • It is a family-oriented community.	• We need to clean the volleyball area. • We need a park. • We need more community events. • We need more educational opportunities for the kids. • We need food programs. • We need to continue to work with CMPD. • We need to understand and prepare for the Blue Line Extension.

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:

Kingswood is a diverse, family-oriented community that is striving for excellence!

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:

- Making homes look more presentable
- Beautification
- Keeping the neighborhood cleaned
- Driveway repairs
- Neighborhood cleanup
- Recycling
- Matching mailboxes
- Speed bumps
- Sidewalks and speed bumps
- More communication for residents
- Area for children
- Meals for kids
- Playground
- Community center
- Afterschool and daycare
- Playground

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:

Action Items for 2014-2015

The three activities selected as most impactful toward achieving our strategic priorities are activities in 2014-2015 are:

- Building a Playground
- Initiating Periodic Community Sweeps
- Installing Speed Humps in the Community

2015 Neighborhood Board Retreat Summary

Kingswood

OUR VISION:

Kingswood is a diverse, family-oriented community that is striving for excellence!

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

1	2	3
Resources for Children	Beautification	Safety

IN 2014-2015, WE WILL WORK ON THESE ACTIVITES GUIDED BY OUR PRIORITES:

- Building a Playground
- Initiating Periodic Community Sweeps
- Installing Speed Humps in the Community

Resources to Get Started

Project	Getting Started	Resources
Project #1 Building a playground	• KaBoom! Provides grants to communities in need of playgrounds	**KaBoom! Build It Yourself Grants** http://kaboom.org/grants/build_it_yourself
	• Seek funding through Neighborhood Matching Grants	**Neighborhood Matching Grants** http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/nbs/communityengagement/nmg/Pages/default.aspx?NotFoundURL=http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/nbs/communitycommerce/Pages/NMG.aspx&Referrer= Contact: Atalie ZImmerman, 704-336-4594, azimmerman@charlottenc.gov
	• Host a fundraiser	**Neighborhood fundraiser ideas:** http://www.useful-community-development.org/how-to-fundraise.html **More fundraising ideas:** http://www.ehow.com/way_5208916_fundraising-ideas-neighborhood-association.html
Project # 2 **Initiating periodic community sweeps**	• Work with your code enforcement inspector to plan a community sweep	**Contact your Service Area Team**: Curt White Northeast Service Area Leader Phone: 704-336-2265 jcwhite@charlottenc.gov Denise Coleman Northeast Service Area Specialist Phone: 704-432-4802 drcoleman@charlottenc.gov
	• Online code enforcement toolkits	**City of Charlotte Code Enforcement toolkits:** http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/nbs/CodeEnforcement/nuisance/Pages/Toolkits.aspx
	• Team up with neighborhood volunteers to do a community clean-up	**Tips for Organizing a Community Cleanup** http://lancaster.unl.edu/community/articles/organizecleanup.shtml **Keep Charlotte Beautiful has clean up supplies, grants and volunteers for cleanups** www.keepcharlottebeautiful.org

Project #3 Installing speed humps in the community	• Contact CDOT (Charlotte Department of Transportation to discuss speed humps	**Charlotte Department of Transportation** Chip Gallup 704-336-3922 rgallup@charlottenc.gov
	• Apply for a Neighborhood Matching Grant	**Neighborhood Matching Grants** http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/nbs/communityengagement/nmg/Pages/default.aspx?NotFoundURL=http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/nbs/communitycommerce/Pages/NMG.aspx&Referrer= Contact: Atalie Zimmerman 704-336-4594 azimmerman@charlottenc.gov

City of Charlotte Northeast Service Area Contacts:

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WELCOME
TO THE
NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD RETREAT
Hosted by the Community Engagement Divison of Neighborhood & Business Services
CHARLOTTE

WELCOME