



NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD RETREAT



February 22, 2021

McGregor Downs Neighborhood Association

Hosted online by City of Charlotte Housing & Neighborhood Services

McGregor Downs Neighborhood Association

2021 Board Retreat

Background

On Monday, February 22, 2021, members of the McGregor Downs Neighborhood Association participated in the virtual Neighborhood Board Retreat facilitated by the City of Charlotte online. The following board members and/or community members participated in the retreat:

- Kimily McGuine
- Jackie Nyemb
- Chelsea Ray
- Tasha Santiago
- Delores Davis
- Deborah Hart
- Carolyn Sims
- Alan Greenberg
- Angel Collins
- CMPD Officers D. John, S. June, and A. Jean-Paul

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 a copy of the Developing Your Ideas worksheet with our NMG request. This credit will expire following the June 1, 2022 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
- Seeing the Forest through the Trees: Developing Strategic Priorities
- 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 group discussion 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

Our discussion helped us to find 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?
<p>Best</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Friendly neighborhood • People look out for one another • Nice place to raise families <p>Worst</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No special welcome for new residents • Neighborhood entrance not nice/welcoming • Loud parties • Not having an HOA to enforce issues when they came up 	<p>Would</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helpful neighbors– pick up packages, call to check on each other • Like a family, do things together, invite to functions, work together on neighborhood clean-ups and projects • People take initiative/pride in the neighborhood <p>Would not</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some homes and cars have been broken into • Kids are being destructive • People walking through private yards to get to adjacent neighborhood • Speeding, loud cars 	<p>Wishes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New entrance sign and landscaping • Better lighting • Neighborhood watch signage • Bi-annual meet & greets to welcome new neighbors and encourage relationship-building and learn who has access/knowledge about different community resources • Create directory of neighbors' skills and reliable vendors • Install security cameras • Raise height of speed humps • Limit street parking • Improve communications • More social activities

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. This activity led us to the following priorities/action items being identified as important within our community:

- Beautification
 - Improve front entrance with landscaping
 - New neighborhood signage at entry
- Public Safety
 - Improve lighting
 - Speed bumps
 - Security Cameras
- Social activities
 - Meet and Greets twice a year
 - School Supply Drives
- Communications
 - Directory of Resources

The three priorities 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.

2021 Neighborhood Board Retreat Summary

McGregor Downs Neighborhood Association

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



IN 2021-2022, WE WILL WORK ON THESE ACTIVITIES GUIDED BY OUR PRIORITIES:



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
Receive a Neighborhood Matching Grant to beautify the entrance with a new sign and landscaping by July 2022.	Charlottenc.gov/nmg, 704-336-7846
Improve street lighting by end of 2022.	Candace Inge, City of Charlotte lighting expert/liaison with Duke Energy (candace.inge@charlottenc.gov) Duke's website for fixture options
Create and implement neighborhood communications plan and social calendar by end of 2021.	Communications resources ; Training on Demand

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

Aisha Abdus-Sabur, Northwest Community Engagement Liaison	Randy Harris, Northwest Community Engagement Manager
aisha.abdus-sabur@charlottenc.gov	Randy.Harris@charlottenc.gov