



NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD RETREAT



July 11, 2020

Oak Hill Homeowners Association

Hosted online by City of Charlotte Housing & Neighborhood Services

Oak Hill Homeowners Association

2020 Board Retreat

Background

On Saturday, July 11, 2020, the residents of the Oak Hill Homeowners 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:

- Brandi Lee
- Cynthia Hill
- David Oliver
- Florence Paschal
- Georgette Hood
- Junny Williams
- Raymond Williams
- Vicki Wood

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 September 1, 2021 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"> • Getting the street lights back • Moving into brand new houses • Home price point <p>Worst</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No streetlights • Changing management companies • Property values declining during recession • Foreclosures 	<p>Would</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbors look out for one another • Pressure washing sidewalks and fences together • Rising property values • Community momentum • HOA is working together • Access to hospital, restaurants, schools, shops • Great value • A diverse community <p>Would not</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Houses are close to one another • Not much yard space 	<p>Wishes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve neighborhood entrance lights • Improve area entrance • Increased community involvement • Improved common areas • Better landscaping

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 categories and action items being identified as important within our community:

- **Beautification**
 - Improve area entrance to neighborhood
 - Improve common areas
 - Trim bamboo
 - Flowers at entrance
- **Community Safety**
 - Increased entrance lighting
 - Speed bumps
 - Establish neighborhood watch
- **Engagement**
 - More social events
 - Yard sale
 - Ice cream social
 - Music social hour
 - Increased communication with renters and landlords
 - Info sign at neighborhood entrance

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.



2020 Neighborhood Board Retreat Summary

Oak Hill Homeowners Association

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

1

Community Safety

2

Community Safety

3

Community Safety

IN 2020-2021, WE WILL WORK ON THESE ACTIVITIES GUIDED BY OUR PRIORITIES:

By the end of 2020, meet with the Charlotte Department of Transportation to determine the feasibility of installing speed bumps or other traffic calming measures on Cochran Farm Lane and Oak Pasture Lane.

By July 2021, research improved lighting options for the front entrance and common areas within the community and decide which new lighting option to pursue.

Connect with CMPD Community Coordinators to establish a Neighborhood Watch by the end of 2020.

Speed Bumps: Learn more about traffic calming options for City streets here:

<https://charlottenc.gov/Transportation/Programs/Pages/TrafficCalming.aspx> and submit a request for traffic calming here: <https://servicerequest.charlottenc.gov/service/TRAFCALM>

Learn about the Neighborhood Matching Grants program here:

<http://charlottenc.gov/HNS/CE/NMG/Pages/default.aspx> and explore resources for grant seekers here: <https://www.cmlibrary.org/resource/foundation-center>

Connect with your CMPD Community Coordinators: Officer Dave Logan (David.Logan@cmpd.org) and Officer Jason Peetz (jpeetz@cmpd.org)

Join us for another Neighborhood Board Retreat when we're back in person! Sign up to learn about future Neighborhood Board Retreats here: <https://charlottenc.seamlessdocs.com/f/NBRinterest>

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
By the end of 2020, meet with the Charlotte Department of Transportation to determine the feasibility of installing speed bumps or other traffic calming measures on Cochran Farm Lane and Oak Pasture Lane.	Safety
By July 2021, research improved lighting options for the front entrance and common areas within the community and decide which new lighting option to pursue.	Safety
Connect with CMPD Community Coordinators to establish a Neighborhood Watch by the end of 2020.	Safety

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

Aisha Abdus-Sabur, Northwest Community Engagement Liaison	Randy Harris, Northwest Community Engagement Manager
aisha.abdus-sabur@charlottenc.gov or 704-353-1923	rgharris@charlottenc.gov or 704-432-2433