July 13, 2019

Pine Valley HOA

Hosted by City of Charlotte Housing & Neighborhood Services at

Goodwill Opportunity Campus
Background

On Saturday, July 13, 2019, the board members of the Pine Valley HOA 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:

Frances Huntley  
Loretta Lewis  
Corrie Hardrick  
Stephanie Cathy  
Michael Maccathey  
Deborah Anthony

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 September 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>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Best</strong></td>
<td>Would</td>
<td>Safe haven for kids</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CMPD relationship with youth</td>
<td>Growth</td>
<td>Opioids/drugs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug Free</td>
<td>Prime real estate</td>
<td>Crime</td>
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<tr>
<td>Safe Haven</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Safety at entrance (traffic safety)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Community dances</td>
<td>Lot size (land)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More participation from neighbors</td>
<td>Schools</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outside/recreation activities</td>
<td><strong>Worst</strong></td>
<td>Opioids/drugs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field trips for youth</td>
<td>Would not</td>
<td>Crime</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Neighborhood crime</td>
<td>Opioids/drugs</td>
<td>Safety at entrance (traffic safety)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gangs/shootings</td>
<td>Crime</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Homeless</td>
<td>Location</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Internal organization changes</td>
<td>Lot size (land)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Would not</strong></td>
<td>Schools</td>
<td>Location</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opioids/drugs</td>
<td>Crime</td>
<td>Lot size (land)</td>
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<td>Crime</td>
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<td>Schools</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Opioids/drugs</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Where We Want to Be:</strong> If you could make 3 wishes to make our community flourish, what would they be?</td>
<td></td>
<td>Safe haven for kids</td>
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<td>Would</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
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:**

*Pine Valley community is a historic, hidden gem, at the start of the Blue Lynx, that strives to maintain diversity and engage all generations through support and love.*

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 Safety**
  - Decrease traffic and crime
  - Crosswalk or traffic light
  - Police training on crime prevention
  - Safer streets
  - Community crime watch
  - Police patrol

- **Pine Valley Pride**
  - Pine Valley community sign
  - Yard of the year program
  - Yard of the week/month program

- **Senior opportunities**
  - Senior meals and exercise program
  - Program to inform seniors on assistance (home taxes, insurance, programs)

- **Youth opportunities**
  - Dinner for the kids
  - Programs to help youthful offenders
  - Job readiness and computer training
  - Before and after school program (school-year)
  - Self-care programs
  - Summer enrichment programs

- **Neighborhood engagement**
  - Community meeting attendance
  - Welcome baskets for new neighbors

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.
2019 Neighborhood Board Retreat Summary

Pine Valley HOA

OUR VISION:

Pine Valley community is a historic, hidden gem, at the start of the Blue Lynx, that strives to maintain diversity and engage all generations through support and love.

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

1. Senior Opportunities
2. Community safety
3. Pine Valley Pride

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

1. Establish a senior wellness program, featuring healthy eating and exercise classes, within one year.
2. Traffic calming at Longleaf and South Blvd. (cross walk or light), to increase pedestrian safety; within one year.
3. Install an entrance sign at Longleaf and South Blvd. within 6-12 months.
Please list any parking lot items or additional activities beyond the initial 3 here.

- **Contact information requested**
  - CMPD youth programs
    - Reach Out
    - Detective Crawford 704-619-7636 or Detective Scheppegrell 704-713-7499
    - Youth Diversion program
    - Cara Evans-Patterson, Program Manager, 704-574-3186
  - **Safe Home programs** - Housing and Neighborhood Services (for senior home repairs)
    - Waleska Selles at 704-336-3311
  - **Rebuilding Together** - home repairs for seniors
    - (980) 236-0977 info@rebuildingtogether.org

**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>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Establish a senior wellness program, featuring healthy eating and exercise classes, within one year.</td>
<td>Partnerships</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic calming at Longleaf and South Blvd. (cross walk or light), to increase pedestrian safety; within one year.</td>
<td>Public Safety</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Install an entrance sign at Longleaf and South Blvd. within 6-12 months</td>
<td>Beautification</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>Chad Martin, Southwest Community Engagement Liaison</th>
<th>Millicent Powell, Southwest Community Engagement Manager</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><a href="mailto:Chad.martin@charlottenc.gov">Chad.martin@charlottenc.gov</a></td>
<td><a href="mailto:mepowell@charlottenc.gov">mepowell@charlottenc.gov</a> or 704-432-6814</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>