



September 1, 2020

Revolution Park Homeowners Association

Hosted online by City of Charlotte Housing & Neighborhood Services

Revolution Park Homeowners Association

2020 Board Retreat

Background

On Tuesday, September 1, 2020, the board members of the Revolution Park 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:

- Sharon Howard
- Brendan Howard
- Wendy McCullough
- Imogene Bacote
- Andrew Osbirn
- Brett Tempest
- Tina Tempest

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 March 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"> • Strong neighborhood association • New neighbors becoming more involved • Community garden • Spring Fling • Christmas Parties • Christmas gifts for seniors • Cohesion of neighborhood • Maintain neighborhood tradition • Family atmosphere • Younger residents moving in • Everyone knows everyone <p>Worst</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residents getting older • Home break-in spree • Neighborhood experienced a few shootings over the years • Feeling of rough area • Two girls hit by car 	<p>Would</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old trees • Sidewalks • Greenway • ¼ acre lots • Close to Center City • Bus Transportation • Lynz Silver Line Alignment • Golf Course attraction • Accessibility to South End & Uptown • Friendly neighbors <p>Would not</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corridor may be considered unsafe for females • Some crime at Remount & West Blvd • Speeding concerns 	<p>Wishes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased neighborhood involvement • New signage at West Blvd & install sign toppers throughout neighborhood • Hold City View Apts. accountable for the upkeep of their property

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:

- **Branding/Communication**
 - Develop and distribute neighborhood survey to assess needs of residents
 - Host neighborhood event or project to increase community participation

- **Beautification**
 - Arrange neighborhood meeting with property management of City View Apts., City staff (Code Enforcement, and Community Engagement) to discuss maintenance and upkeep of apartments
 - Replace signage at West Blvd. and install identification markers/sign toppers throughout neighborhood to identify neighborhood and instill a sense of community pride
 - Maintain the tree canopy to include tree removal & trimming- Research Tree Charlotte grant opportunity
 - Hold neighborhood cleanup in the Spring
 - Educate residents on the City's Housing programs

- **Community Safety**
 - Contact CDOT to conduct traffic assessment for traffic calming devices to address speeding problem
 - Create Neighborhood Watch Program
 - Identify Block Captains

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

Revolution Park Homeowners Association

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



IN 2020-2021, 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
Schedule meeting with owners of neighboring City View Apartments, Revolution Park board, and City of Charlotte Code Enforcement to discuss maintenance and upkeep of apartments by December 2020.	Beautification
Contact CDOT to conduct traffic assessment for traffic calming methods to address speeding problems throughout the community by October 2020.	Community Safety
By September 2021, apply for Neighbor Matching Grant to improve community branding and communication.	Communication

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

Chad Martin, Southwest Community Engagement Liaison	Millicent Powell, Southwest Community Engagement Manager
chad.martin@charlottenc.gov or (704) 432-1579	mepowell@charlottenc.gov or 704-432-6814