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NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD RETREAT



February 24, 2018

Sedgefield Neighborhood Association

Hosted by City of Charlotte Housing & Neighborhood Services at

Goodwill Opportunity Campus

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?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There has been a history of property crime. • Property taxes have increased. • Home revitalization • Good collaboration with the middle school • Poor school performance • Sedgefield park before the renovation • History of tree preservation • Annual Sedgefest was created. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conveniently located to Uptown and Airport—easy to get to about anywhere in town. • Proximity to Blue Line • Recent school change is a big positive • Multi-Family is replacing Single Family homes • Potential over-development is a real possibility • There is a need for more diverse business/retail • There are traffic issues, such as cut-through and speeding. • Walkability 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development should be more in context with neighborhood. There is a concern that development unchecked will overwhelm neighborhood • Strong desire to influence how neighborhood develops. • Traffic needs to be calmed to protect and expand walkability. • Protect and expand tree canopy. • Reduce property crime • Activate parks space ar Marsh, Hollis, and Anson • Create Land Use Committee.

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:

Leveraging our central location and dynamic neighborhood to create a connected community that is walkable, sociable, sustainable, and safe.

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:

- Category 1 Neighborhood Organization & Branding
 - Street sign toppers
 - Neighborhood Website
 - Community Garden
 - Reach out to local businesses to get support for neighborhood projects
- Category 2 Social Activities
 - Neighborhood bike ride
 - Charlotte Knights baseball night
 - Create more social activities where neighbors can interact
 - Continue to grow Sedgefest
 - Develop more Sedgefest sponsorships
 - Start a Fall event called Sedgetober
 - Create social events that improve use of Parks
- Category 3 Land Use Committee
 - Work with City Planning on zoning issues
 - Reinvigorate current Land Use Committee. Ask neighbors who'd like to participate with Janelle.
 - Start a continually active development review small group committee that reports to full board
 - Improve communications with Marsh Properties where they provide regular updates.
- Category 4 Safety
 - Implement Neighborhood Watch
 - Ask CMPD for more patrol
 - Create a safety committee to develop an action plan to reduce crime
 - Foster relationship with neighboring communities to help with safety
 - Work with CDOT and CMPD on a plan to calm traffic in the neighborhood.
- Category 5 Schools
 - Seek more opportunities to support neighborhood schools
 - Create a volunteer room at the school
 - Partner with school on after school programming
 - Have a school cleanup day
- Category 6 Walkability-Bikeability
 - Conduct Walk-Bike Audit
 - Seek connections to the Rail Trail
 - Map a bike route other than Pondexter Ave and Marsh Rd
 - Submit to CDOT a sidewalk audit that details needed repairs and gaps
- Category 7 Tree Canopy
 - Neighborhood tree Banding
 - Follow up with Trees Charlotte to attend neighborhood meeting to identify areas where trees can be planted
 - Plant trees where they have neem removed due to development
 - Plant large maturing trees
 - Request tree audit from the City

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.

2018 Neighborhood Board Retreat Summary

Sedgefield Neighborhood Association

OUR VISION:

Leveraging our central location and dynamic neighborhood to create a connected community that is walkable, sociable, sustainable, and safe.

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

1

Implement a website, improve social media presence and create more brand awareness

2

Develop more social events

3

Identify locations for Sign Toppers

IN 2018-2019, WE WILL WORK ON THESE ACTIVITES GUIDED BY OUR PRIORITES:

Apply for and receive a Neighborhood Matching Grant for Website & Brand Development

Using the resources and committee that successfully coordinate Sedgefest to create a new Fall event called:

Sedgetober!

Complete our first Neighborhood Matching Grant

Please list any parking lot items or additional activities beyond the initial 3 here.

Become more active with Sustain Charlotte. (Explore their website [here.](#))

Improve left turn access from South Blvd.

Seek opportunities for a neighborhood pool

There were many items related to the Park:

- Pedestrian Bridge over wild area at McDonald Ave
- Develop connections to the greenway
 - *Sedgefield Park is in Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation’s Central Region; contact the office at (980) 314-1002 or centralparkregion@mecklenburgcountync.gov.*
- Request a Bathroom at the Sedgefield Park
- Add more small parks

Seek more information about the Unified Development Ordinance and Transit Oriented Development (*Learn more about the UDO [here.](#)*)



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
Apply for and receive a Neighborhood Matching Grant for Website & Brand Development	Neighborhood Identity
Using the resources and committee that successfully coordinate Sedgefest to create a new Fall event called Sedgetober	Welcoming & Engaging Neighborhoods
Complete our first Neighborhood Matching Grant	Beautification

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

Millicent Powell, Southwest Community Engagement Liaison	Eugene Bradley, Southwest Community Engagement Manager
mepowell@charlottenc.gov or 704-432-6814	ebradley@charlottenc.gov or 704-432-1579

