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NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD RETREAT



February 23, 2019

Seversville Community Organization

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"> • Crime/ lack identity compared to other neighborhood • Lack of business/retail/ grocery stores • Grassroots initiative before Center City Partners • Huge church presence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Growth in business • Neighborhood park/ community garden • Less renters/ more owners (community board) • Moderate police presence | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Brand/ Identity • Promoting the past into current brand • Walkability into the neighborhood/ connecting paths • Preserve past/ promote future |

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:

*Seversville: Uptown's original ring village
embarking our history and vibrant
future.*

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 Economic Development- increase community safety/transportation
 - Community engagement (city council meetings, building relationship with Justin Harlow)
 - Understand process of getting sidewalks (participants spoke with Randy and Matt about the process)
- Category 2 Economic Development- Collaborative efforts
 - Research history and placement of knowledge
 - NMG for signage
 - Engaging in culture and diversity
- Category 3 Community Engagement
 - Create committee to gather Seversville history
 - Include more diverse thinkers within the board (age, gender, tenure in neighborhood etc)

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

Seversville

OUR VISION:

Seversville: Uptown's original ring village embarking our history and vibrant future.

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

1

**Community Safety/
Beautification**

2

Community engagement

3

Partnerships

IN 2019-2020, WE WILL WORK ON THESE ACTIVITES GUIDED BY OUR PRIORITES:

Prioritize the sidewalk initiative and create a sidewalk plan by March 2020.

Research & display our history/organize community block party by March 2020.

Build intentional partnership with JCSU to promote community engagement among other neighborhoods (Westerly Hills, Biddleville etc.).

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 |
|--|---|
| Prioritize the sidewalk initiative and create a sidewalk plan by March 2020. | Public Safety |
| Research & display our history/organize community block party by March 2020. | Neighborhood Identity |
| Build intentional partnership with JCSU to promote community engagement among other neighborhoods (Westerly Hills, Biddleville etc.). | Communication; Partnerships |

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

| | |
|--|--|
| Cherie Grant, Northwest Community Engagement Liaison | Randy Harris, Northwest Community Engagement Manager |
| Cherie.Grant@charlottenc.gov or 704-336-3322 | rharris@charlottenc.gov or 704-432-1579 |

