



CHARLOTTE™

2015 NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD RETREAT



Shamrock Hills

Hosted by City of Charlotte Neighborhood & Business Services at CPCC Main Campus

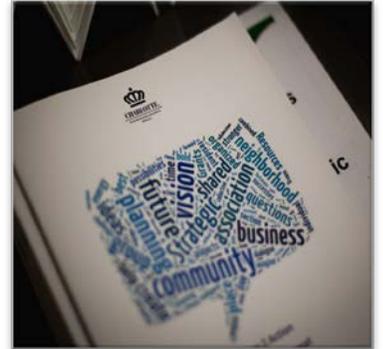
Shamrock Hills

2015 Board Retreat

Background

On Saturday, February 7th 2015, the board members of Shamrock Hills participated in a board retreat facilitated by the City of Charlotte, hosted at CPCC's Main Campus. The following board members participated in the retreat:

- Mira Brisk
- Chetan Thakker
- Ladelphia Mcnair
- Ma Moe
- Lisong Cline
- Lyvonda J. Monroe
- Ayya Sudhamma
- Jorge Rosales



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 Neighborhood Matching Grant credit to help execute one of the projects we identified.

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.

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>Positive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity • Well maintained properties • Community Friendliness • Sense of community <p>Negative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gunshots at Christmas Eve • Drug and Gang Activity • Renters moved in the neighborhood 	<p>Why</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversity • Nice houses with nice yards • Central location • Trick-or-treaters were out in numbers this year <p>Why Not</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No playground/access to the one in the area • Lack of infrastructure to attract businesses • Residents not keeping up with properties • Transition/lack of assurance • Aging community • Landlords not present • Garinger HS's reputation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safety • Identity • Economic uplift • Know our neighbors (develop database of property owners) • Beautify the neighborhood • Establish a neighborhood association • Bring infrastructure to the neighborhood-advocate to bring Google Fiber to the area • Hold community meetings

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:

A historic neighborhood of great diversity,
Shamrock Hills strives to establish safety, beauty,
economic uplift, and to increase friendly, neighborly
connections.

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:

Organization
Valuing our history and heritage
Safety
Economic uplift
Diversity
Community identity/beautification
Inviting & welcoming
Family oriented

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, these are:



Ideas for projects they discussed were:

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| Neighborhood Crime Watch | Tree wrapping |
| Neighborhood Board and Association | Crosswalk on Shamrock Drive |
| Community Signs | Community website |
| Follow up on CDOT – Sidewalk project managers | Speed bumps |
| Google Fiber | Community garden/park |
| Dealing with vacant houses | Develop a database of neighbors |
| Education on resources and local partnerships | Events |

Action Items for 2014-2015

The three activities selected as most impactful toward achieving our strategic priorities are activities in 2014-2015 are:

Organize
neighborhood board
and association

Organize
neighborhood crime
watch; partner with
N.Tryon Division

Apply for NMG to
purchase community
signs and address
sidewalk issues



2015 Neighborhood Board Retreat Summary

Shamrock Hills

OUR VISION:

A historic neighborhood of great diversity, Shamrock Hills strives to establish safety, beauty, economic uplift, and to increase friendly, neighborly connections.

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

1

Organization

2

Safety

3

Identity/beautification

IN 2014-2015, WE WILL WORK ON THESE ACTIVITIES GUIDED BY OUR PRIORITIES:

Organize
neighborhood board
and association

Organize
neighborhood crime
watch; partner with
N.Tryon Division

Apply for NMG to
purchase community
signs and address
sidewalk issues

Resources to Get Started

Project	Getting Started	Resources
<p>Project #1</p> <p>Organize neighborhood board and association</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start recruiting and organizing board members Write organizational by-laws 	<p>Neighborhood association toolkit: https://www.providenceri.com/eFile/101</p> <p>Recruiting potential board members http://www.hoaleader.com/public/351.cfm</p> <p>Board development online resources: BoardSource https://boardsource.org/eweb/</p> <p>Tips for writing community bylaws: http://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/structure/organizational-structure/write-bylaws/main</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encourage residents to join association Host effective meetings 	<p>Increase neighborhood participation: http://atlantahoamanagement.wordpress.com/2011/09/27/how-to-increase-attendance-or-participation-in-homeowner-committees/</p> <p>Recruit volunteers: http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/article/Association/Attracting_Vol</p> <p>Meetings tips for neighborhoods: http://nacok.org/association-tools/effective-meetings/ http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/article/Association/Effective_Meeting_Agenda</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Start a welcome committee to greet new neighbors 	<p>Starting a neighborhood welcome committee: http://www.volunteerguide.org/hours/service-projects/welcoming-committees</p>
<p>Project # 2</p> <p>Organize neighborhood crime watch; Partner with N. Tryon Division</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invite your community police officer to a neighborhood meeting Request a CPTED report from CMPD 	<p>Find your community police officer: http://charmec.org/city/charlotte/CMPD/response-areas/Pages/default.aspx</p> <p>Request a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) Study by CMPD crimepreventionunit@cmpd.org</p> <p>Visit Charmeck.org and enter "CPTED" in search box</p>

<p>Project # 2 Organize neighborhood crime watch; Partner with N. Tryon Division</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn more about organizing a crime watch program 	<p>CMPD: Neighborhood Watch Program http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/cmpd/safety/neighborhoodwatch/Pages/default.aspx Tips from the National Crime Prevention Council http://www.ncpc.org/topics/home-and-neighborhood-safety/neighborhood-watch</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host a National Night Out event in your community to raise safety awareness 	<p>More information on National Night Out https://natw.org/</p>
<p>Project #3 Apply for Neighborhood Matching Grant to purchase community signs and address sidewalk issues</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider a design contest with residents for a community logo • Apply for a Neighborhood Matching Grant for funding 	<p>Neighborhood Matching Grants Program provides funding for sign projects Atalie Zimmerman at azimmerman@charlottenc.gov or 704-336-4594</p> <p>Charlotte Community ToolBank is a great place to borrow tools for projects http://charlotte.toolbank.org</p>

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