



CHARLOTTE™

2015 NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD RETREAT



Southwood

Hosted by City of Charlotte Neighborhood & Business Services at CPCC Main 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"> • Community Engagement • Prime landscape and buildings for 1970's • Less due diligence by owners • Special Projects afforded by special assessments 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Older buildings • Grants to assist with special projects • First Tuesdays (community gatherings) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement activities that are open to all • Renew/refreshed landscape and buildings • Increased due diligence, tapping into residence skills and talents • Continued grant applications to support special projects

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 community that is fully engaged in using its resources and assets to enhance the culture, physical appearance, and quality of life in Southwood.

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:

- Shorter and Long Term Fiscal Responsibility
 - Prioritize capital projects and develop long term funding plan to support projects
 - Solutions for community upgrades and repairs
 - Collect delinquent payments
 - Continue to use grant resources effectively
 - Put 10% of assets into reserves annually (best practice)
- Community Engagement
 - Be open to new/creative ideas
 - Continue to activate the community by adding new members to committees
 - Continue First Tuesdays
 - Continue newsletters and postings
 - Positively promote the community
- Needs (Special Projects)
 - Painting
 - Committee to review and prioritize painting needs
 - Paint Clubhouse – interior and exterior
 - Upfit Entrance to property
- Governmental
 - Bylaws

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:



Action Items for 2014-2015

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

Prioritize capital projects and develop long term funding plan to support projects

Be open to new/creative ideas

Painting



2015 Neighborhood Board Retreat Summary

Southwood

OUR VISION:

A community that is fully engaged in using its resources and assets to enhance the culture, physical appearance, and quality of life in Southwood.

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

1

Fiscal Responsibility

2

Community Engagement

3

Needs (special projects)

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

Prioritize capital projects and develop a long term funding plan to support projects

Be open to new/creative ideas

Painting

Resources to Get Started

Project	Getting Started	Resources
Project #1 Prioritize capital projects and develop a long term funding plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create long and short-term 	<p style="text-align: center;">Organizational Goal Setting http://www.flexstudy.com/catalog/schpdf.cfm?courseid=95086</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a budget for your organization 	<p style="text-align: center;">Neighborhood Association Budget Tips http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/article/Association/Budget Preparation Tips How to Create and Manage a Budget http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/article/Community/create and manage budget</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get fundraising tips 	<p style="text-align: center;">Neighborhood Fundraiser Ideas http://www.useful-community-development.org/how-to-fundraise.html More Fundraising Ideas http://www.ehow.com/way_5208916_fundraising-ideas-neighborhood-association.html</p>
Project # 2 Be open to new/creative ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plan a fun community event for neighbors 	<p style="text-align: center;">Neighborhood Event Planning Toolkit http://www.sdsynod.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Block-Party-Kit.pdf</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host an educational workshop for neighbors 	<p style="text-align: center;">Choose what topic you want to address and invite a speaker: Need a Speaker Contact: Andrew Bowen, abowen@charlottenc.gov Website: http://charmec.org/speakersbureau/Pages/default.aspx</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get new neighbors involved in the community 	<p style="text-align: center;">Start a neighborhood welcome committee for new neighbors http://www.volunteerguide.org/hours/service-projects/welcoming-committees</p>
Project #3 Painting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apply for a Neighborhood Matching Grant 	<p style="text-align: center;">Neighborhood Matching Grants Program http://www.charmeck.org/city/charlotte/nbs/communityengagement/nmg/Pages/default.aspx Atalie Zimmerman – NMG Program Coordinator azimmerman@charlottenc.gov 704-336-4594</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If basic repairs are needed, borrow tools and supplies from the Charlotte Community ToolBank 	<p style="text-align: center;">Charlotte Community ToolBank is a great place to borrow tools for projects http://charlotte.toolbank.org/</p>

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