CHARLOTTE

2016 NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD RETREAT

Springfield Community

Hosted by City of Charlotte Neighborhood & Business Services at UNC Charlotte Center City

Background

On Saturday, July 16th, 2016, the board members of the Springfield Community participated in the Neighborhood Board Retreat facilitated by the City of Charlotte, hosted at UNC Charlotte Center City. The following board members participated in the retreat:

- Sylvia Ardrey
- David Ardrey
- Bill Jackson

- Viole Harrell

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 our completed Vision to Action Idea Development Plan Workbook with our NMG request. This credit will expire following the September 1, 2017 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
- 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?
- Location - Quiet community - Kind & concerned neighbors - Kid friendly - Reasonably price homes - Home ownership opportunity	- City bus no longer goes into the neighborhood - Bad location for park - Lack of neighborhood support - Lack of maintenance of yards and homes - Language barriers - Crime - Unleashed dogs - Lack of respect of elders - High rental	- Kids playing in the park - Engage community - More sidewalks - Better Neighborhood frontage - More children's programs - Community activities - Mentoring for kids - Afterschool Programs

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:
>
> Springfield is a neighborhood that continuously takes pride in being an attractive, safe, productive community

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:

- Improving homes and yards
- Improving vacant lots
- Improving store frontage
- Adding street trees
- Adding sidewalks
- Improve the Neighbor Watch/ communication with CMPD
- Reduce vehicle speed
- Establish an active park
- Start a Neighborhood Association
- Engage kids with afterschool program and provide a safe place
- Outreach to Latinos in the neighborhood

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:

1	2	3
Neighborhood Safety	Improving how the neighborhood looks	Bringing the community together

Action Items for 2016-2017 The three activities selected as most impactful toward achieving our strategic priorities are activities in 2016-2017 are:

Improving the Nations Ford Rd neighborhood frontage through one or more of the following: façade improvements, neighborhood cleanup, neighborhood signage

Adding sidewalks in the neighborhood

Engaging kids with afterschool programs

2016 Neighborhood Board Retreat Summary

Springfield Community

OUR VISION:

Springfield is a neighborhood that continuously takes pride in being an attractive, safe, productive community

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

1	2	3
Neighborhood Safety	Improving how the neighborhood looks	Bringing the community together

IN 2016-2017, WE WILL WORK ON THESE ACTIVITIES GUIDED BY OUR PRIORITES:

Improving the Nations Ford Rd neighborhood frontage through one or more of the following: façade improvements, neighborhood cleanup, neighborhood signage

Adding sidewalks in the neighborhood

Engaging kids with afterschool programs

Resources to Get Started- You've rolled up your sleeves and established your vision. The resources below may assist your organization in achieving your goals. Links and contact information are provided for information only and are subject to change.

Project	Getting Started	Resources
Project #1 Improving the Nations Ford Rd neighborhood frontage through one or more of the following: façade improvements, neighborhood cleanup, neighborhood signage	• Façade improvement	**City Housing Programs:** http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/nbs/housing/Pages/CityHousingPrograms.aspx
	• Neighborhood cleanup	**Tips for Organizing a Community Cleanup:** http://lancaster.unl.edu/community/articles/organizecleanup.shtml **Keep Charlotte Beautiful has clean up supplies, grants and volunteers for cleanups:** www.keepcharlottebeautiful.org **Use NextDoor to recruit neighbors to participate:** https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9V1tlhGjSMc; https://nextdoor.com/about_us/
	• Signage resources	**Neighborhood Matching Grants (NMG):** **Charlotte's NMG Program** can provide grants to eligible neighborhood organizations for community improvement projects. To determine eligibility or to review program details please visit http://charlottenc.gov/nmg or call 704-336-3380. **SouthWood Identifying our Community Grant Program:** http://www.southwoodcorp.com/ **How to Brand Your Neighborhood:** http://www.communityprogress.net/tool-3--marketing-the-neighborhood-pages-278.php
Project #2 Adding sidewalks in the neighborhood		**Pedestrian Program, Charlotte Department of Transportation (CDOT):** **Research sidewalk projects, see a list of sidewalk projects, and request a new sidewalk or repair of existing sidewalk:** http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/Transportation/PedBike/Pages/Pedestrian%20Program.aspx (general site: http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/Transportation/streetsidewalkmaintenance/Pages/Home.aspx)
Project #3 Engaging kids with afterschool programs	• Determine what type of engagement will be beneficial • It's OK to start with small youth events and build up from there! • Consider pulling youth into already-occurring events (neighborhood cleanup, for example)	**The State of North Carolina Department of Education offers funding for operating afterschool programs:** http://www.ncpublicschools.org/21cclc/rfp/ **How to Start an Afterschool Program:** http://www.nccap.net/starting-an-afterschool-program/ **KaBOOM! (Playground construction)** http://kaboom.org/grants/build_it_yourself **Ways to partner with your school:** http://www.educationworld.com/a_admin/archives/partners.shtml **Contact Neighborhood and Business Services, 704-336-3380, to learn about more ways to support your neighborhood school.** **McPie: Learn how a Charlotte community partnered with its local neighborhood school.** http://christelca.org/ministries/change-the-world/mcpie/ **Contact the Mayor's Mentoring Alliance for mentoring resources and training opportunities:** http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/mayor/MentoringAlliance/Pages/default.aspx **Mentoring Resources:** http://ctb.ku.edu/en/table-of-contents/implement/youth-mentoring

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

Millicent Powell, Community Engagement Specialist	Eugene Bradley, Community Engagement Lead
mepowell@charlottenc.gov or 704-432-6814	ebradley@charlottenc.gov or 704-432-1579