



**CHARLOTTE™**

# **2015 NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD RETREAT**



## **Stonehaven Townhomes**

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



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.

<b>Where We Were:</b> Reflecting on our past, what were some of the best/worst moments?	<b>Where We Are:</b> Why would or wouldn't a person/business want to move into our community?	<b>Where We Want to Be:</b> If you could make 3 wishes to make our community flourish, what would they be?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Low crime rates</li> <li>• Thriving clubhouse</li> <li>• Smooth roads</li> <li>• More community events</li> <li>• Clubs (gardening, etc.)</li> <li>• Architectural committee</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increasing crime</li> <li>• Need for beautification</li> <li>• Faulty water lines</li> <li>• Clubhouse in despair</li> <li>• Roads are dilapidated</li> <li>• Need improved management and landscaping</li> <li>• Active board members</li> <li>• Pool</li> <li>• Geographic location (nature/trees)</li> <li>• Character</li> <li>• Quiet</li> <li>• No through roads</li> <li>• Monthly newsletter</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Crime Watch</li> <li>• Help neighbors unable to clean their own areas</li> <li>• Solvent board</li> <li>• Improved/modernized exterior</li> <li>• Improved safety</li> <li>• Successful water valve project</li> <li>• Effective communication, including a website</li> </ul>

## 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:

Stonehaven Townhomes is a naturally beautiful, established community that strives to be diverse, vibrant, and thriving

## 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:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Water Valve Project</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Grant</li> <li>○ Reliable water</li> <li>○ Implement current grant and apply for second grant to have valves installed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community Engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Neighborhood Watch</li> <li>○ Events at clubhouse</li> <li>○ Welcome Committee for new residents</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Beautification</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Garden Committee</li> <li>○ Clean up porches and other exterior areas for neighbors that are unable to</li> <li>○ Architectural Review Board</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Communication</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Social Media</li> <li>○ Website</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

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 2015-2016** The three activities selected as most impactful toward achieving our strategic priorities are activities in 2015-2016 are:



**Stonehaven Townhomes**

**OUR VISION:**

Stonehaven Townhomes is a naturally beautiful, established community that strives to be diverse, vibrant, and thriving

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

1

Complete water valve project

2

Improve community engagement

3

Enhance neighborhood beautification

**IN 2015-2016, WE WILL WORK ON THESE ACTIVITES GUIDED BY OUR PRIORITES:**

Identify funding for water valves/apply for second Neighborhood Matching Grant

Create committees to improve community engagement:  
communication committee, new resident committee, gardening/grounds

Identify funding and resources to improve the aesthetics and infrastructure of the development

Project	Getting Started	Resources
<b>Project #1</b>  <b>Complete water valve project</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify funding for water valves/ apply for second Neighborhood Matching Grant</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Neighborhood Matching Grants</b></p> <p align="center">Contact Atalie Zimmerman for more information:  <a href="mailto:azimmerman@charlottenc.gov">azimmerman@charlottenc.gov</a> 704-336-4594</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contact CDOT to discuss challenges/opportunities</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Charlotte Department of Transportation</b></p> <p align="center">Contact Chip Gallup 704-336-3922 or  <a href="mailto:rgallup@charlottenc.gov">rgallup@charlottenc.gov</a></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research fundraising ideas that might support neighborhood needs</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Neighborhood fundraiser ideas:</b>  <a href="http://www.useful-community-development.org/how-to-fundraise.html">http://www.useful-community-development.org/how-to-fundraise.html</a></p> <p align="center"><b>More fundraising ideas:</b>  <a href="http://www.ehow.com/way_5208916_fundraising-ideas-neighborhood-association.html">http://www.ehow.com/way_5208916_fundraising-ideas-neighborhood-association.html</a></p> <p align="center"><b>Budget Preparation Tips</b>  <a href="http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/article/Association/Budget_Preparation_Tips">http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/article/Association/Budget_Preparation_Tips</a></p>
<b>Project # 2</b>  <b>Improve community engagement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop/send out a survey for neighbors with ideas for the neighborhood</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Online survey tool: <a href="http://www.surveymonkey.com">www.surveymonkey.com</a></b></p> <p align="center">Sample neighborhood survey:  <a href="http://www.santacruzneighbors.com/files/form_sampleneighborhoodsurvey.pdf">http://www.santacruzneighbors.com/files/form_sampleneighborhoodsurvey.pdf</a></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committee development</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>How to organize a committee:</b>  <a href="http://www.mycommittee.com/BestPractice/Committees/Startingacommittee/tabid/244/Default.aspx">http://www.mycommittee.com/BestPractice/Committees/Startingacommittee/tabid/244/Default.aspx</a></p> <p align="center"><b>Increase neighborhood participation:</b>  <a href="http://atlantahoamanagement.wordpress.com/2011/09/27/how-to-increase-attendance-or-participation-in-homeowner-committees/">http://atlantahoamanagement.wordpress.com/2011/09/27/how-to-increase-attendance-or-participation-in-homeowner-committees/</a></p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Engage neighbors in community participation</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>Increase Neighborhood Volunteers</b></p> <p align="center"><a href="http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/article/Association/Attracting_Volunteers">http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/article/Association/Attracting_Volunteers</a></p>
<b>Project #3</b>  <b>Enhance neighborhood beautification</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify funding and resources to improve the aesthetics and infrastructure of the development</li> </ul>	<p align="center"><b>The Foundation for the Carolinas provides Front Porch Grants to build a sense of community in neighborhoods</b></p> <p align="center"><a href="http://www.ffc.org/page.aspx?pid=663">http://www.ffc.org/page.aspx?pid=663</a></p>

Your community is located within Charlotte’s South East Service Area, your staff contact for following up and community assistance is:

Denise Coleman, Community Engagement Specialist
drcoleman@charlottenc.gov or 704-353-1235

