



June 6, 2020

Stonehaven Townhomes HOA

Hosted online by City of Charlotte Housing & Neighborhood Services

Stonehaven Townhomes HOA 2020 Board Retreat

Background

On Saturday, June 6, 2020, the residents of the Stonehaven Townhomes HOA participated in the Neighborhood Board Retreat facilitated by the City of Charlotte. The following board members and/or community members participated in the retreat:

- Matthew Carter
- Julia Sain
- Lynne Fairbanks
- Bea Decoste
- Peggy Demaree

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 a copy of the Developing Your Ideas worksheet with our NMG request. This credit will expire following the September 1, 2021 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
- Developing Strategic Priorities
- 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 group discussion 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?

Our discussion helped us to find 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>Best</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • When we started applying for grants – having the City as a partner • Volunteerism • Core group of volunteers • Numbering of parking spots • New signage • Safe area (no crime) • Little traffic <p>Worst</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Boards not knowing their responsibilities (leading to angst) • Infrastructure problems (aging properties) • Water/roof leaks • Crime has increased (car break-ins, vandalism) • Drug use in the community (led to constant police presence) 	<p>Would</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proximity to center city • 15 minutes to anywhere • Layout/floorplan of townhomes • Community garden • Low traffic • Amenities such as the pool • Trees, vegetation, natural beauty • Older, established area • Price and value • Plans for light rail • Quiet • Owner occupied • Act like a community, take care of each other <p>Would Not</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cannot walk to stores and amenities • No footprint for new construction • Some people don't feel part of the community 	<p>Wishes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dog park • Updated tennis courts • Clubhouse signage • Increased community involvement • High-speed internet for entire community • Improve pool walkway • Replace mailboxes • Infrastructure improvements (lighting, water, sewer) • Road improvements • Locate additional water pipes in complex • Composting • Solar-powered greenhouse for community garden • Seed sharing event • Tree sharing event • Curb erosion on the creek banks • Trim community trees

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. This activity led us to the following categories and action items being identified as important within our community:

- Environment
 - Enhance common area tree canopy by trimming
 - Provide compost bins and instruction for composting
 - Construct solar powered greenhouse for community
 - Create neighborhood tree and seed sharing event
- Community Safety
 - Enhance lighting
- Board Development
 - Establish committees each led by a board member
 - Increase community through use of the board
- Neighborhood Improvements
 - Infrastructure (water pipes, parking lot)
 - Pool improvements
 - Improve mailboxes
 - Clubhouse signage
 - Refurbish tennis court
 - Create a dog park

The strategic priorities and activities are summarized on the following page.

2020 Neighborhood Board Retreat Summary

Stonehaven Townhomes HOA

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 FOUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

1

Community Safety

2

Board Development

3

Neighborhood Improvement

IN 2020-2021, WE WILL WORK ON THESE ACTIVITES GUIDED BY OUR PRIORITES:

Utilize NMG funding and have first phase of outdoor security lighting installed by the end of 2021.

Review and update the purpose and roles of all HOA committees by June 2021.

Get necessary quotes for both pool pump and walkway/gate entrance (to pool) and select vendor by end of 2021.

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
Utilize NMG funding and have first phase of outdoor security lighting installed by the end of 2021.	Community Safety
Review and update the purpose and roles of all HOA committees by June 2021.	Board Development
Get necessary quotes for both pool pump and walkway/gate entrance (to pool) and select vendor by end of 2021.	Neighborhood Improvement

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

Faith Estrada, Southeast Community Engagement Liaison	Kim Barnes, Southeast Community Engagement Manager
faith.estrada@charlottenc.gov or 704-353-1879	kbarnes@charlottenc.gov or 704-336-8408