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NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD RETREAT



February 18, 2017

Stonington Homeowners Association

Hosted by City of Charlotte Neighborhood & Business Services at

Goodwill Opportunity Campus

Stonington Homeowners Association

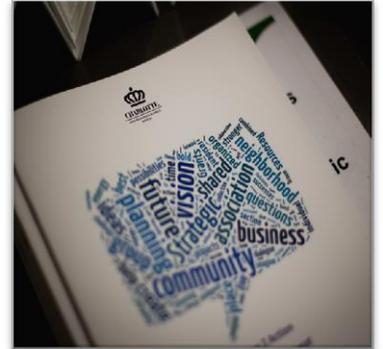
2017 Board Retreat

Background

On Saturday, February 18, 2017, the board members of the Stonington Homeowners Association participated in the Neighborhood Board Retreat facilitated by the City of Charlotte, hosted at the Goodwill Opportunity Campus. The following board members participated in the retreat:

Carolyn Hinkle
Lena Lytle
Greg McElmurry

Julie McElmurry
Jean Phillips
Cherryl Pulliam



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 March 1, 2018 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?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well maintained landscaping/ trimmed trees • Middle class professionals • Few families with children, some kids in strollers • Strong community minded • Patios with privacy fencing • 95 % homeowners • Swimming pool/tennis courts • Activities organized for neighbors to meet each other • No loitering • Some burglaries • Community came together to help out after 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Private courtyards leading to a sense of feeling safe • Walkable community • No need for flood insurance because we're not in a flood plain • 65 % rentals • Opportunity for investment • Traffic trying to cut through • Great landscapers have been hired • Neighbors are good (some) • Conveniently located close to public transportation • Close to shopping, Fire Department, close to everything • Not everyone has locks on their gates, they experience 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take care of roofing/gutters • Roads repaired, relined, renumbered • Siding on buildings redone • Tree maintenance • Security lighting (cameras) • Bring the speed bumps back • Entrance signage • “No outlet” sign installed • There is a community garden • Free spot/piece of land is being used by the community • Fence that separates neighborhood with daycare has been repaired

<p>Hurricane Hugo</p>	<p>malicious activity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Private parking• Who owns what parking lot?• Sidewalks need repair• A lot of maintenance needed from the ground up• Anything that's good needs maintenance to be better	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Neighbors can walk in the community safely• Bi-annual yard sale activity where we have hot dogs for neighbors to come out and meet each other• Trash pick-up organized• Involve youth once/twice a month on activities
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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:

Stonington, an established, diverse, architecturally unique community nestled under a canopy of trees

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:

Category: Communication

- Create Facebook page
- Have neighbors join us on Nextdoor
- Website which makes us look like a really great place to live with great photos
- Make dump truck people put speed bumps back in

Category: Community Building

- Walk around in the community (1 vote)
- Annual yard sale with hot dogs
- Rental participation
- Events to establish community pride
- Pick up trash activity (2 votes)
- HOA's organized activities
- Involved Management Company
- HOA active
- Parking in correct spots
- Identify places going into foreclosure
- Send a letter to landlords who don't live there clarifying some policies
- Register tenants
- Who owes Stonington money, get it back! (3 votes)

Category: Maintenance

- Roofing & gutters
- Siding & gutters
- Parking spaces relined, renumbered
- Repair sidewalks
- Painting lines, numbers, paved parking lot (7 votes)

Category: Safety

- Gate the community
- Eliminate strange cars that don't need to be here
- Security lighting (1 vote)
- Fencing
- Pass out flyers to encourage residents to report crimes to city

Category: Beautification

- Re-do the Stonington sign on the road
- Beautify the back field

Category: Landscape

- Landscape improvement
- Landscaping
- Bring back the crepe myrtle trees

Category: Additional

- Determine use for common area near child care center

- Make City water taste better
- Obtain “Dead End” sign from the City (4 votes)

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. Within these three categories, there were three activities selected as most impactful toward achieving our strategic priorities.

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



2017 Neighborhood Board Retreat Summary

Stonington Homeowners Association

OUR VISION:

Stonington, an established, diverse, architecturally unique community nestled under a canopy of trees

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

1

Maintenance

2

HOA's Activities – HOA
to focus on our needs

3

Community Building

IN 2017-2018, WE WILL WORK ON THESE ACTIVITES GUIDED BY OUR PRIORITES:

Repave, refurbish
parking spaces to meet
basic necessities for the
community

Concentrate on fee
collection from
residents who owe
dues

Stonington Pride Day!
NNO Cleanup/Yard
sale/Hot dogs/Get
Together

Please list any parking lot items or additional activities beyond the initial 3 here.

- Obtain “No Outlet” Street Sign from the City of Charlotte. *Please contact the Charlotte Department of Transportation at 704-336-4119. Please note that Stonington Lane is not listed as a City-maintained street so CDOT may refer you to a different entity or vendor to pursue the sign installation.*

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
Repave, refurbish parking spaces to meet basic necessities for the community	Beautification
Concentrate on fee collection from residents who owe dues	Board Development; Communication
Stonington Pride Day! (NNO Cleanup/Yard sale/Hot dogs/Get Together)	Welcoming & Engaging Neighbors

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

Kim Barnes, Southeast Community Engagement Manager
kbarnes@charlottenc.gov or 704-336-8408

