



CHARLOTTE.

2016 NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD RETREAT



Villages at Hilltop Faires Farm HOA

Hosted by City of Charlotte Neighborhood & Business Services at Johnson C Smith University

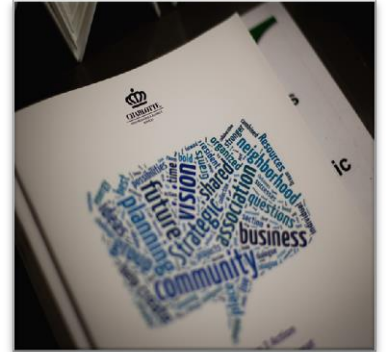
Villages at Hilltop Faires Farm HOA

2016 Board Retreat

Background

On Saturday March 19, 2016, the board members of the Hilltop at Faires Farm HOA participated in the Neighborhood Board Retreat facilitated by the City of Charlotte, hosted at Johnson C Smith University. The following board members participated in the retreat:

- Nicole Carter
- Robert Griffin
- Timeka Griffin
- Paula Washington



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 June 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?
<p>Best:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Back to School Drive • Tutoring/school partnership • Ice cream social • Community Yard Sale • 2016 annual meeting • Starting a Nextdoor site <p>Worst:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical altercation • Previous management company • Auto shop (blight) 	<p>Move in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commerce • Quaint • Location • Railway • Quiet • Family friendly/cul-de-sac • Friendly neighbors <p>Not move in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rentals • Poor property upkeep • Solicitation • Security/privacy issues • Noise Solution 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beautification • Speed humps • Clubhouse (open one) • More community events • More considerate neighbors (parking concerns)

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:

Villages at Hilltop Faires Farm is a quaint university community that respects and encourages diversity, family and the opportunity for all to prosper.

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:

Beautification

- More flowers and mulch
- Community beautification
- Grander front entrance

Know your Neighbors

- Friendly competition “Best Yard”
- Neighborhood BBQ
- Increase Nextdoor.com usage
- Welcome wagon
- Cultural community crawl
- Respect others and communicate
- Find opportunity with College Downs
- Neighborhood meet & greet event

Safety

- Speed hump
- Police/speeding

Privacy/security

- Privacy fence
- Front entrance lighting
- Additional community lighting

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 2016-2017](#) The three activities selected as most impactful toward achieving our strategic priorities are activities in 2016-2017 are:



2016 Neighborhood Board Retreat Summary

Villages at Hilltop Faires Farm

OUR VISION:

Villages at Hilltop Faires Farm is a quaint university community that respects and encourages diversity, family and the opportunity for all to prosper.

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

1

Privacy/security

2

Safety

3

Know your Neighbors

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

Privacy fence

Traffic calming (speed humps)

Host 'Meet & greet' by mid-summer

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

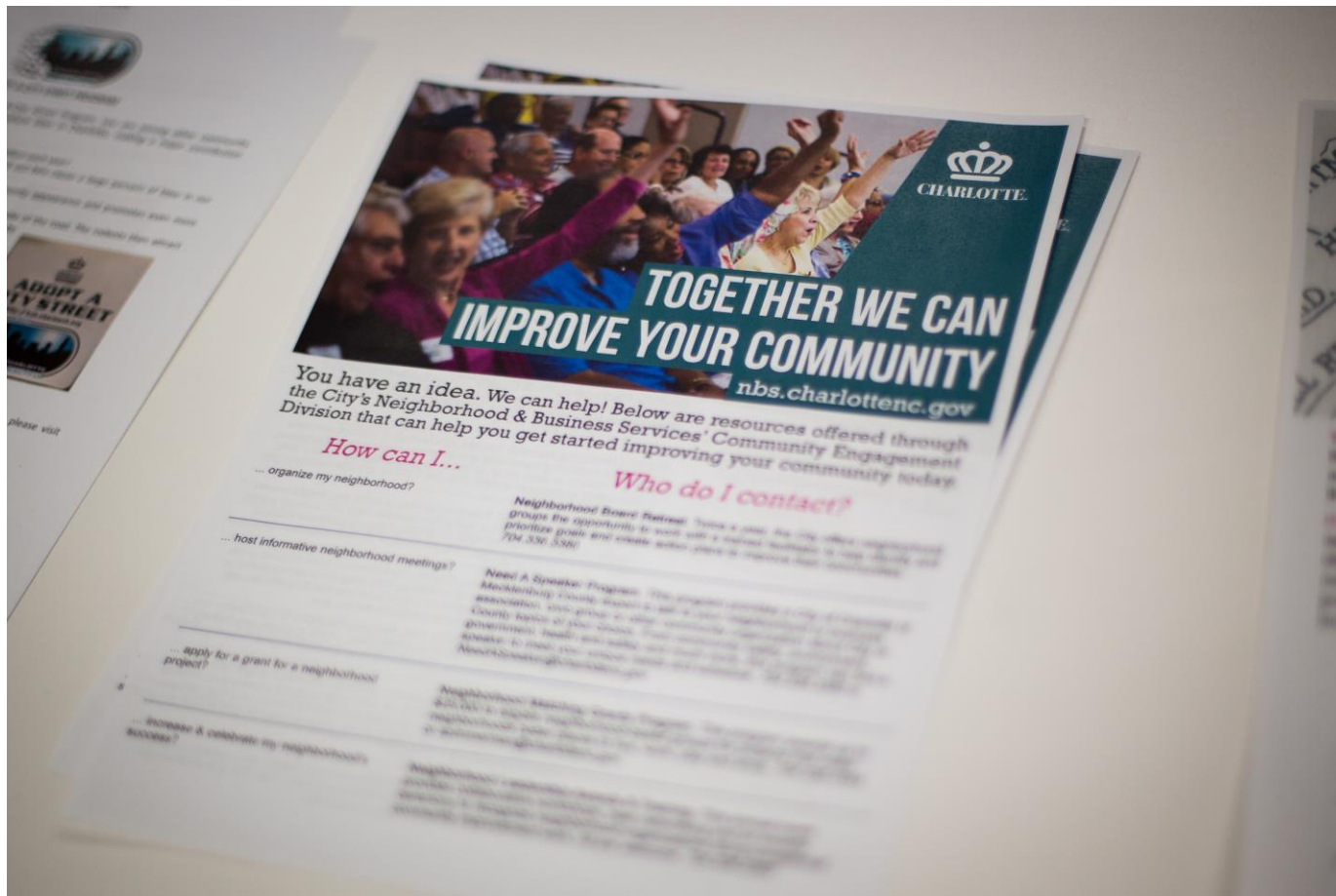
Parking lot:

- Connect with CMPD coordinator for additional patrol of neighborhood
 - Officer Eric Marcus (emarkus@cmpd.org), Officer Chad Webster (cwebster@cmpd.org)
- Meet with Executive Director of University City Partners, Darlene Heater; see what resources she may have
 - 704.688.2483
- Find support for noise pollution issues
 - CMPD and Noise Ordinance will be a good place to start:
<http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/CMPD/resources/Ordinances/pages/noise%20ordinances.aspx>
- Get to know Code Enforcement officer and invite to meetings
 - See Service Area staff listed below. They will provide contact for your officer.
- Have annual meetings in neighborhood, rather than 2 miles away at University City YMCA
- Connect with UNCC; due to proximity, see what we can learn from one another
- Meet with CDOT staff; Candace Inge or Chip Gallup about traffic calming
 - cinge@ci.charlotte.nc.us, rgallup@ci.charlotte.nc.us



Project	Getting Started	Resources
<p>Project #1</p> <p>Privacy/Security</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build a privacy fence 	<p>Neighborhood Matching Grants (NMG) Program: 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 charlottenc.gov/nmg or call 704-336-3380.</p> <p>Charlotte Community ToolBank: The Charlotte Community ToolBank offers low-cost rental of large and small hand and power tools, trash receptacles, tables, generators and other items. Visit http://charlotte.toolbank.org or call 704-469-5800 to view their inventory and make a reservation</p> <p>The Foundation for the Carolinas provides Front Porch Grants to build a sense of community in neighborhoods: http://www.ffc.org/page.aspx?pid=663</p> <p>Home Depot Grant Opportunities: https://corporate.homedepot.com/community</p>
<p>Project #2</p> <p>Safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speed humps • Community police (crack down on speeding) 	<p>Request a Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design study through CMPD to find out where trouble areas may be in your neighborhood: crimepreventionunit@cmpd.org</p> <p>Speed Hump Policy (CDOT): http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/Transportation/Traffic/Pages/Speed%20Humps.aspx</p> <p>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 charlottenc.gov/nmg or call 704-336-3380.</p> <p>CMPD: Neighborhood Watch Program: http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/cmpd/safety/neighborhoodwatch/Pages/default.aspx</p> <p>Work with CMPD Community Coordinators (see above)</p>
<p>Project #3</p> <p>Know your Neighbors</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host “Meet & Greet” by mid- summer 	<p>Neighborhood Event Planning Toolkit: http://www.sdsynod.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/Block-Party-Kit.pdf</p> <p>Charlotte Department of Transportation for information on street closure procedures and approval: http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/Transportation/Pages/Home.aspx</p> <p>Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department for sound permits: http://charmeck.org/city/charlotte/CMPD/Pages/default.aspx</p>

		<p style="text-align: center;">More information on National Night Out: https://natw.org/</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome wagon • Friendly competition 'Best Yard' 	<p style="text-align: center;">Starting a neighborhood welcome committee: http://www.volunteerguide.org/hours/service-projects/welcoming-committees</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Yard of the Month Examples: http://www.trinity-nc.gov/index.asp?SEC=00773791-D81E-493A-BFA7-0E5B90538D7F&Type=GALLERY http://www.churchillhoa.com/yard-of-the-month.html</p>



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

Charlenea Duncan, Community Engagement Specialist cduncan@charlottenc.gov or 704-336-2173	John Short, Community Engagement Lead jshort@charlottenc.gov or 704-336-3862
--	---

