



CHARLOTTE.

2016 NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD RETREAT



Windsong Trails

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

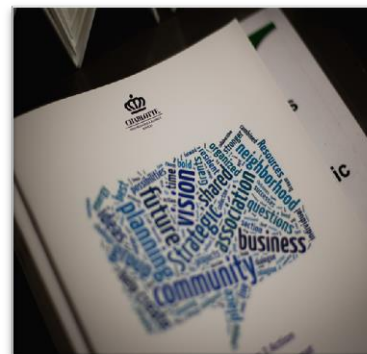
Windsong Trails

2016 Board Retreat

Background

On Saturday March 19, 2016, the board members of the Windsong Trails neighborhood 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:

- Zandra Allen
- Candy Bordner
- Carl Bordner
- Cassandra Smith



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?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer neighborhood • Summer Activities for children • Organized neighborhood association • Neighborhood programs and celebrations • Neighborhood Cleanups • Active Neighborhood Center • Calm traffic 	<p><u>Why</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Easy access to highway • Good neighbors • Majority of yards maintained <p><u>Why Not</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not as safe- Crime Up • Inoperable community center (Taxes Owed) • Loitering at Community Center • Too much traffic • Speeding • Vacant Properties 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Neighbor. Assoc. Re-established • Gained ownership of center • Youth activities • Resident activities (exercise, cooking, crafts) • Traffic light installed at entranceway • Newsletter • Block Captains • Play areas for kids • Minimum code issues • Low crime (no drugs) • Help with fees of property under code enforcement

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:

Windsong Trails is an established, safe community where diverse families and businesses can grow together

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:

Community Engagement: Neighborhood events and activities, Neighborhood cleanup, National Night Out Celebration, Host organizing meeting, regain ownership of community center, unity

Community Safety: Get tough on speeding- monitor speeding, Fix Arrowood Road to keep traffic flowing, drugs, guns, kids hanging out, unleashed pets (animal control), make neighborhood safe

Housing Repairs: Repairs on community center, assistance for residents that need help with fees and costs of repairs that are under code enforcement

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

Windsong Trails

OUR VISION:

Windsong Trails is an established, safe community where diverse families and businesses can grow together

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

1

Community Engagement

2

Community Safety

3

Housing Rehabilitation

IN 2015-2016, WE WILL WORK ON THESE ACTIVITIES GUIDED BY OUR PRIORITIES:

Host meeting to re-establish neighborhood association

Conduct CPTED Survey
Research Traffic Calming Devices
Monitor Speeding

Identify homes for repair
Rehab community center
Re-open community center
NMG for neighborhood entrance sign

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.

Please list any parking lot issues or items here:

Code Concerns (Assistance for residents that need help with fees where homes/property is under code enforcement)

- See Service Area representative below

Please list any parking lot issues or items here:

Code Concerns (Assistance for residents that need help with fees where homes/property is under code enforcement)

- See Service Area representative below

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.

Project	Getting Started	Resources
<p>Project #1</p> <p>Community Engagement</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host meeting to re-establish neighborhood association 	<p>Neighborhood Block Party Planning Toolkit: http://bit.ly/1TSlaZI</p> <p>Temporary Street Closure Procedures and Approval: Charlotte Department of Transportation (CDOT): http://charmec.org/city/charlotte/Transportation/Pages/Home.aspx</p> <p>Noise/Sound Permit Information (CMPD): http://bit.ly/1OSUOdQ or call 311</p> <p>National Night Out: Nationwide event held each August, find details and resources at natw.org</p> <p>Recruiting potential board members: http://www.hoaleader.com/public/351.cfm</p> <p>Increase neighborhood participation: http://atlantahoamanagement.wordpress.com/2011/09/27/how-to-increase-attendance-or-participation-in-homeowner-committees/</p> <p>Board development online resources: https://boardsource.org/eweb/</p> <p>How to organize a committee: http://www.mycommittee.com/BestPractice/Committees/Startingacommittee/tabid/244/Default.aspx</p> <p>Meetings tips for neighborhoods http://nacok.org/association-tools/effective-meetings/ http://www.neighborhoodlink.com/article/Association/Effective Meeting Agenda</p> <p>How to promote diversity on boards: https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/tools-resources https://www.facebook.com/MAVA-Metrolina-Association-for-Volunteer-Administrators-212961772174019/</p>
<p>Project #2</p> <p>Community safety</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct CPTED study • Research traffic calming devices • Monitor 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):</p>

		<p>http://charmec.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 http://charlottenc.gov/nmg or call 704-336-3380.</p> <p>CMPD: Neighborhood Watch Program: http://charmec.org/city/charlotte/cmpd/safety/neighborhoodwatch/Pages/default.aspx</p> <p>Work with CMPD Community Coordinators Ofcr. Ron Hill, rhill@cmpd.org; Ofcr. Mike Frazier, mfrazier@cmpd.org</p>
<p>Project #3</p> <p>Housing Rehabilitation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify homes for repair Rehab community center Re-open community center 	<p>City Housing Programs: http://charmec.org/city/charlotte/nbs/housing/Pages/CityHousingPrograms.aspx</p> <p>How-to lessons at Lowes: http://www.lowes.com/cd_How+To+Library_615580068</p> <p>Master Gardeners of Mecklenburg County: http://www.mastergardenersmecklenburg.org/</p> <p>Home Depot Workshops: http://workshops.homedepot.com/workshops/home?cm_mmc=SEM THD G BT2 Resources&gclid=CJi3x9XeuMACFQ1p4AodDx0AmQ&gclsrc=ds</p> <p>Contact Code Enforcement Inspector: contact Millicent Powell (see below) to connect with your code inspector</p> <p>Charlotte Community ToolBank is a great place to borrow tools for projects http://charlotte.toolbank.org/</p> <p>Home Depot provides grants to communities https://corporate.homedepot.com/community</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neighborhood entrance sign 	<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 http://charlottenc.gov/nmg or call 704-336-3380.</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>

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
mpowell@charlottenc.gov or 704-432-6814	ebradley@charlottenc.gov or 704-432-1579

