



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

September 12, 2023

2023-2024 Board Members

President Edwin Peacock

Pres Elect Kim Brattain

Past Pres William Bradley

Secretary John Cantrell

Treasurer Craig Field

Exec Sec Christine Cipriano

Directors 2022-2024

Will Barnhardt

Glenn Bouley

Margaret Donovan

Laura Little

Mark Norman

Diego Ramon

Robert Shaw

Directors 2023-2025

Patrick Baker

Linwood Bolles

Terri DeBoo

Andy Dinkin

Donna Dunlap

David Head

Joel Ford

Membership Terri DeBoo

Foundation Joe Morris

Programs Andy Dinkin



Monte Ritchey, *Conformity Corporation* *&* *BK Partners, LLC*

by **Bill Barte**

Monte Ritchey, the president of The Conformity Corporation, was on hand to share information on the Brooklyn Village project. He started by stating the three categories of Conformity: development, asset management, and consulting. These three operate under the mission of developing capital with partners in the southeast.

One of their “calling cards” of development is the 11-acre Lowe’s in SouthEnd, which includes office space and housing. The resume of the organization is filled with the rehabilitation of old buildings and properties.

The Brooklyn Village project, located in what is now Second Ward, is a renewal of a neighborhood that was displaced over fifty years ago. This nurturing ground for Black business and culture was made up of 1400 homes, over 200 businesses, 13 active churches, and included Charlotte’s first Black elementary and high schools, and Charlotte’s first black library.

“Planning for Brooklyn Villages' new look took a lot of processing the past and navigating the future”, according to Ritchey. Dozens of in-person meetings, marketing and communication, and relationships with members of the Brooklyn neighborhood happened as the plans moved forward.

The new development that is being done with Conformity, BK Partners, Peebles Corporation, and Mecklenburg County includes five parcels of

land and plans on bringing over 1100 residential units (12% Affordable), over 700,000 square feet of office space, 250,000 square feet of retail space, two hotels, & 3700 square feet of cultural space.

The Brooklyn Village project is being done over time and in three phases but is to include a new 21st-century public park and a renewal of the remnants of Myers Street in Brooklyn called Myers Passage. Myers Passage will be a unifying pathway bringing together Brooklyn Village's North and South phases and connecting to First Ward.

Ritchey's presentation to Charlotte Rotary gave great insight into this area's past while giving an encouraging outlook on its future.

A recording of the meeting can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/864027868>
The speaker's introduction begins at approximately 29:40 minutes.