Council-Manager Memo #70
Friday, September 17, 2010

CHARLOTTE.

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WEEK IN REVIEW:

Mon (Sept. 20)	Tues (Sept. 21)	Wed (Sept. 22)	Thurs (Sept. 23)	Friday (Sept. 24)
12:00 PM Economic Development Committee Meeting, Room 280 5:00 PM Council Zoning Meeting, Room CH-14		5:30 PM Metropolitan Transit Commission Meeting, Room 267		

CALENDAR DETAILS:

Monday, September 20

12:00 pm Economic Development Committee, Room 280
AGENDA: ED Strategic Plan, Grameen request for City funds

5:00 pm Council Zoning Meeting, Room CH-14

Wednesday, September 22

5:30 pm Metropolitan Transit Commission, Room 267
AGENDA: Advertising policy, November workshop agenda, Economic Value Added study, 2011 MTC Legislative Agenda

September and October calendars are attached. ***(see left side table of contents for attachment)***

AGENDA NOTES:

NEW: Zoning Agenda Item #7A

Staff Resource: Tammie Keplinger, Planning, 704-336-5967, tkeplinger@charlottenc.gov

Rezoning petition 2010-037 was inadvertently left off the City Council decision agenda for Monday September 20, 2010 and should be added as item #7A. The item is noted below and staff will provide Council with a revised agenda at the Zoning Dinner Meeting.

On July 19, 2010, this case was deferred by Council to September 20, 2010. The petitioner is requesting an additional three-month deferral to work on outstanding issues.

7A. Petition No. 2010-037 by Boxman Studios, LLC for the adoption of a text amendment to the City of Charlotte Zoning Ordinance to expand the type of structures acceptable for use under the Mobile Food Vending Services definition, and to add additional standards for their use.

The petition is found to be inconsistent with adopted plans and policies, but to be reasonable and in the public interest, by a unanimous vote of the Zoning Committee. The Committee voted unanimously to recommend **APPROVAL** of this petition

Staff recommends **DENIAL** of this petition.

Zoning Notebook information for this item, which includes the Zoning Committee Recommendation and the Text Amendments, is attached: ***(see left side table of contents for attachment)***

INFORMATION:

Eastburn Storm Water Capital Improvement Project Condemnation and Staff Response

Staff Resource: Jeff Reid, E&PM, 704-614-2122, jlreid@charlottenc.gov
Stephen Frey, E&PM, 704-621-2517, scfrey@charlottenc.gov
Matthew Anderson, E&PM, 704-336-7923, manderson@charlottenc.gov

The attached report is to brief City Council on proposed storm drainage infrastructure improvements at Hazelton Drive and Fairheath Road within the Eastburn Storm Drainage Improvement Project (SDIP). On August 23, Council was asked to consider the condemnation of 6400 Hazelton Drive for storm drainage, utility and temporary construction easements. Mr. Andrew Thrasher, the property owner, addressed Council indicating he felt the project was inappropriately directing water to his property. Council deferred action on the condemnation until September 27 and requested more information concerning the proposed improvements.

This property is needed in preparation for storm water infrastructure improvements for neighborhoods along Park Road, Park South Road, Fairview Road and Sharon Road as part of the Eastburn SDIP. Mr. Thrasher has signed up to speak on this matter on September 27. A copy of the staff report will be provided to him.

The Eastburn SDIP is funded by the Storm Water Flood Control Program. The project will improve the storm drainage infrastructure to help reduce street flooding and house/crawl space flooding and address storm water requests throughout the project area. Construction is scheduled to begin first quarter of calendar year 2011 and is anticipated to take approximately two years to complete.

Of the project's 74 total acquisitions, 43 have been donated, 22 settled and 4 have been approved for condemnation. Staff is still working with five property owners including the Thrashers.

If City Council approves, the City's condemnation attorney will institute condemnation actions. As part of the process, the City's attorney, the property owners, and a third party mediator will attempt to negotiate a settlement, which resolves the majority of cases. If no settlement can be reached, the case will proceed to trial where a judge or jury who will determine "just compensation." ***(see left side table of contents for attachment)***

Request from Grameen America

Staff Resource: Tom Flynn, N&BS, 704-432-1396, tflynn@charlottenc.gov

Grameen America is a lender that provides micro-loans to financially empower low-income entrepreneurs. The company currently has branches in New York City and Omaha, Nebraska. A local organizing committee is currently raising funds to open a Grameen America branch in Charlotte. The organizing committee has requested a City grant of $200,000 for the lender's revolving loan pool.

Staff will be discussing this request with the Economic Development Committee on Monday, September 20, 2010. This is part of the City's Small Business Initiative already in committee.

City Plans to Lease Greenville Recreation Center for Use by Gang of One

Staff Resources: Fran Cook, CMPD, 704-336-7331, fcook@cmpd.org
Gina Shell, E&PM, 704-336-4648, gshell@charlottenc.gov

The Gang of One Program has been awarded a grant of $339,765 from the NC Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency to develop a Culinary Arts Program to train gang-involved juveniles toward a career in the culinary arts industry. The program will focus on youth transition/re-entry into the community from a youth development center.

The grant application was submitted through the Mecklenburg County Juvenile Crime Prevention Council and the funding is scheduled to be accepted by the Mecklenburg County Commissioners on September 21. The funding will support the Culinary Arts Program for one year and may be renewed for a second year.

The Greenville Recreation Center was conveyed from City to County ownership per the 2005 Agreement to Transfer Zoning Functions, and the County agreed to operate the facility as a recreation center. Due to budget reductions, the County has ceased recreation operations at the facility and plans to close it September 24. In order to use the facility for the Culinary Arts Program, City and County staff are drafting a set of agreements for the City to lease and operate it on a year-to-year basis and have it available for use by the Gang of One, the Police Activities League and other entities. The agreements will appear on the October 11 agenda for Council consideration.

The Gang of One grant will fund 100% of any improvements required for culinary training at the center, including the installation of commercial-grade equipment in the kitchen, and between 80% and 90% of annual operating expenses. The grant will fund a part-time facility manager to keep the facility available on a fee basis to the many neighborhood and community groups which use it. The Police Activities League has plans to use the center for after-school programming beginning in January 2011.

Center City Market

Staff Resource: Ron Kimble, City Manager's Office, 704-336-4169, rkimble@charlottenc.gov

Based on feedback from City Council on Monday and the need to further develop the Center City Partners proposal on a City Market, Michael Smith has requested a thirty to sixty day delay before presenting the recommended plan to the Economic Development Committee. This item will be rescheduled for discussion at that time.

ATTACHMENTS:

Council Follow-Up Report ***(see left side table of contents for attachment)***

Contents Include:

- Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Update

June 2 Housing and Neighborhood Development Committee Meeting Summary
(see left side table of contents for attachment)

June 8 Housing and Neighborhood Development Committee Meeting Summary
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September 7 Governmental Affairs Committee Meeting Summary
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