Council-Manager Memo #27
Friday, April 15, 2011

CHARLOTTE.

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WEEK IN REVIEW:

Mon (Apr 18)	Tues (Apr 19)	Wed (Apr 20)	Thurs (Apr 21)	Fri (Apr 22)
		2:00 PM Community Safety Committee, Room 280		HOLIDAY GOOD FRIDAY

CALENDAR DETAILS:

Wednesday, April 20

2:00 pm Community Safety Committee, Room 280
AGENDA: Passenger Vehicle for Hire ordinance; Noise ordinance; schedule additional meetings

Friday, April 22

Holiday Good Friday

April and May calendars are attached (SEE TABLE OF CONTENTS ON LEFT).

INFORMATION:

Creating Community: A Symposium for Neighborhoods Information and Schedule Update

Staff Resource: Cynthia Woods, N&BS, 704-336-2646, cwoods@charlottenc.gov

The sixteenth annual Neighborhood Symposium will be held on Saturday, April 16, 2011 in the Overcash Building at Central Piedmont Community College's (CPCC) central campus on Elizabeth Ave. Mayor Foxx and Councilmember Kinsey will make welcoming remarks.

The Neighborhood Symposium was to have taken place in conjunction with the Charlotte Clean and Green and Sensoria Arts festivals. However, those events have been moved to Sunday, April 17 due to severe weather anticipated for Saturday. Neighborhood & Business Services will continue the indoor Symposium program as planned for Saturday.

The fifty-five outdoor Symposium exhibitors will be given the opportunity to set up again on Sunday from 10 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. alongside the Clean and Green and Sensoria activities. Staff is encouraging Symposium participants who attend Saturday morning to return on Sunday to enjoy the many exhibits.

Staff feels this is the best option to keep Symposium participants safe and achieve the highest attendance.

The City of Charlotte hosts the Neighborhood Symposium annually as a citywide conference of neighborhoods. It provides opportunities for citizens to learn about community services and resources, explore successful neighborhood practices, network and participate in dialogue with other neighborhood and community leaders.

This year's Symposium theme is "Connecting Community." The opening program will feature brief neighborhood-led presentations about successful projects that showcase real examples of neighborhoods doing good work. The projects promote community safety,

energy/environment, community engagement, youth involvement, economic development and community appearance.

Following the program, participants will proceed to break-out sessions, where representatives of public and non-profit agencies will provide updates on major projects and initiatives in each of N&BS's Community & Commerce division service districts. Topics will include new roads/sidewalks, greenway construction, updates on public facilities, volunteer opportunities in local parks and schools, civic projects and business activities.

A Networking Lunch (boxed lunches) will allow citizens to ask questions of the morning's presenters and dialogue with each other to discuss issues and share ideas. In addition, City and County departments, neighborhoods and non-profits will share information at more than 50 exhibit booths along Elizabeth Avenue.

Neighborhood Symposium Schedule:

- 8:00 a.m. – ongoing Symposium Registration/Check-in (Overcash Building)
- 8:00 a.m. – 8:45 a.m. Networking Continental Breakfast (Overcash Student Commons)
- 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Opening Program (Halton Theatre, Overcash)
- 10:45 a.m. – 12 noon Break-Out Sessions (Overcash classrooms & auditorium)
- 12:10 p.m. – 1:00 p.m. Networking Lunch (Overcash Student Commons)

The Neighborhood Symposium is free and open to all Charlotte residents. Parking is available at CPCC's Faculty & Theatre deck off Fourth Street, or at any of the other parking facilities on campus. For additional information about the event, or to RSVP/register, citizens may visit http://nbs.charlottenc.gov or call 704-336-2061.

April 25 Zoning Hearing

Staff Resource: Laura Harmon, Planning, 704-336-4565, lharmon@charlottenc.gov

Several months ago, the City Council rescheduled the April 18 Zoning meeting to April 25. After 4 pm yesterday, April 14, the Legal Advertising group at the *Charlotte Observer* notified the City Clerk's Office that the required legal ads for the five rezoning hearings scheduled for the April 25 Zoning meeting had not been included in the paper.

The City Clerk's Office submitted the ads to the *Observer* on April 5 and received confirmation from the paper that the ads would be published. The public hearing ads were supposed to run in the paper on April 11 and 18. The ads did not run on April 11. State statute requires that the first legal advertisement for rezoning public hearings run at least 10 days prior to the scheduled hearing.

After the City Clerk's Office was made aware that the April 11 ad did not run, they made three requests that the ads be placed in today's (April 15) paper so that the statutory requirement could be met. However, they were told by the Legal Advertising staff at the newspaper that the deadline had passed and that the ads could not be placed in today's paper.

As a result, the hearing for the five cases scheduled for April 25 will have to be delayed. Since learning of the situation, Planning staff has been working with the agents/petitioners for these cases and informed them that their cases will now be heard on May 16. Eleven cases are already scheduled for May 16. The addition of these five cases will result in sixteen public hearings that evening.

If any of the five petitioners that had cases scheduled for an April 25 hearing cannot wait until the June zoning meeting for a decision, staff will ask the Zoning Committee of the Planning Commission to schedule a special meeting to make their recommendation and then staff will place the cases on a future business meeting for Council decision.

Area Plan Implementation Program Receives National American Planning Association Award
Staff Resource: Bryman Suttle, Planning, 704-336-8325, bsuttle@charlottenc.gov

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Department received the American Planning Association's (APA) County Planning Division and National Association of County Planners' (NACP) Award for Excellence in the Small Area/Special Area Planning Category for the Area Plan Implementation Program. The award was presented at the APA National Conference in Boston, Massachusetts on April 10. It recognizes the Area Plan Implementation Program's efforts to inventory, analyze, track, and implement land use policy, capital improvement projects, and other recommendations originating from Council-adopted area plans.

The Program addresses the need to comprehensively follow-through on community visions developed during lengthy and in-depth planning processes. Utilizing GIS mapping technology, staff created a geographic database of thirty Council approved area plans. Hundreds of recommendations were extracted including recommended sidewalks, corrective rezonings, pedestrian scale lighting, community safety strategies and creation of neighborhood organizations.

This effort has resulted in increased implementation of area plan recommendations. Additionally, the Program provides a more seamless and comprehensive planning approach that seeks to accelerate implementation of area plans. **Attached (SEE TABLE OF CONTENTS ON LEFT)** is a document containing information about the award winning program.

Second Recycling Cart Purchase Option for Citizens
Staff Resource: Victoria Johnson, Solid Waste Services, 704-336-3410, vojohnson@charlottenc.gov

In response to citizen demand, the City will expand its single stream recycling program to include a second recycling cart purchase option. Beginning May 2, citizens will be able to call 311 and pre-order a second recycling cart for second cart service scheduled to begin July 1, 2011. The City currently offers a second garbage cart purchase option. The recycling purchase option will duplicate the garbage cart model where a citizen is required to help offset the cost

for the additional cart. The price for the second recycling cart is $40. The second recycling cart will have a different color lid which will easily identify it as a second cart. This will help prevent confusion between the primary recycling service cart and the addition and also help minimize recycling cart displacement or theft which is an on-going problem with garbage carts.

Inland Service Corporation, the City's recycling collection contractor, will only service at a residence the primary and approved second recycling cart. The contract with Inland, which currently requires collection of a single recycling cart per residence, will be amended to include the new recycling service option. The total cost of the service expansion is undetermined at this time, but is not expected to be prohibitive. To help manage the startup cost of the new service option, the City will not conduct an extensive marketing campaign but instead respond to demand as it is initiated by citizens. However, information about the program will be made available to citizens through 311, the City's website and in a planned mailing to citizens of new recycling collection calendars during the week of June 13, 2011.

If citizen demand for second recycling cart services supports it, staff will submit a request to Council for approval of additional funds for recycling collection. Increases in the recycling collection expense should be offset to some extent by decreases in the landfill disposal expense.

Lastly, the second recycling cart service option is expected to give a boost to an already successful single stream recycling program. It will also help the City achieve its Environmental Focus Area Plan goal to increase residential recycling tonnage and the 10-Year Solid Waste Management Plan goal to decrease per capita waste disposal.

Yard Waste Update

Staff Resource: Victoria Johnson, Solid Waste Services, 704-336-3410, vjohnson@charlottenc.gov

Solid Waste Services has had limited activity related to the severe storms experienced last week. While only 20 requests for the collection of excessive storm debris have been received, staff does anticipate an increase over the next few weeks as the weather permits residents to perform yard work.

Although collections staff has experienced heavier than normal yard waste routes, all routes have been completed on the scheduled collection service day.

April 15 State Legislative Update

Staff Resource: Dana Fenton, City Manager's Office, 704.336.2009, dfenton@charlottenc.gov

Attached (SEE TABLE OF CONTENTS ON LEFT) is the April 15 State Legislative Update. Changes from last week's update are denoted in **bold face** type.

The No High Speed Rail bill (HB 422) is scheduled for further debate and possibly a vote in the

House Transportation Committee this coming Tuesday, April 19. Reportedly, it will be overhauled to require General Assembly approval of future grant applications for high speed rail funding, while exempting the current awards made by the federal government. Such requirements for General Assembly approval could conceivably be extended to other grant applications made by Executive Branch departments.

The subcommittees of the House Appropriations Committee are expected to approve their recommended amendments to the Governor's proposed budget by Thursday, April 21. The amendments would then be processed by the full Appropriations Committee and the House of Representatives. As the schedule is firmed up for consideration by the full House, staff will communicate such to the Council.

STIMULUS INFORMATION:

Uptown On-Street Recycling Expands

Staff Resource: Victoria Johnson, Solid Waste Services, 704-336-3410, vjohnson@charlottenc.gov

The City's On-Street Recycling Program has recently been expanded with the installation of 20 additional recycling containers along Tryon Street. The recycling containers (paired with trash cans) are made possible through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) awarded to the City last spring. A total of 35 recycling containers are now available for public use in Center City.

Pedestrians who live, work and visit Center City are encouraged to use the recycling containers to help reduce the amount of materials taken to the landfill. All recycling containers include signage promoting the City's Power2Charlotte campaign (www.power2charlotte.com) as a way to inform residents about projects, events and other regional energy initiatives associated with the campaign.

In addition to increasing recycling efforts along Tryon Street, Solid Waste Services plans to implement an on-street recycling pilot program for the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Government Center area. Next week, two pebble stone recycling containers (paired with existing garbage containers) will be placed along Davidson Street in front of CMGC.

Staff is currently working on promotional efforts for the implementation of the pilot recycling campaign, which include featuring information in the CMGC employee newsletter, through email blasts and at CMGC First Friday events.

Start-up costs for the pilot program are minimal. During the course of the pilot, staff will assess participation, contamination and servicing costs to determine the possibility of program expansion into other areas of Uptown.

Photos of the new Uptown recycling containers and the pebble stone containers to be placed near CMGC are included below.