Mayor and Council Communication
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Friday, April 9, 2010

CHARLOTTE.

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WEEK IN REVIEW:

Mon (April 12)	Tues (April 13)	Wed (April 14)	Thurs (April 15)	Friday (April 16)
3:30 PM Transportation and Planning Committee, Room 280 5:00 PM Council Business Meeting, Room 267		3:00 PM Budget Retreat, Room 267	2:00 PM Community Safety Committee, Room CH-14	

CALENDAR DETAILS:

Monday, April 12

3:00 pm Transportation and Planning Committee, Room 280
AGENDA: University Research Park; Freeway managed lanes study update

5:00 pm Council Business Meeting, Room 267

Wednesday, April 14

3:00 pm Budget Retreat, Room 267
AGENDA: Utilities budget update; Draft General CIP; General Fund budget update

Thursday, April 15

2:00 pm Community Safety Committee, Room CH-14
AGENDA: FY11 Focus Area Plan; Domestic Violence Advisory Board recommendation; Noise ordinance; Tethering (chaining/tying) of canines

calendars are attached (end of this document).

INFORMATION:

April 13 – Interstate 485 (from NC 115 in Huntersville to Interstate 85 near Concord Mills Mall) Public Meeting

Staff Resources: Tim Gibbs, CDOT, 704-336-3917, tgibbs@charlottenc.gov
Stuart Basham, Planning, 704-336-4695, sbasham@charlottenc.gov

The North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, April 13 at Mallard Creek High School (located at 3825 Johnston-Oehler Road) to discuss the completion of Interstate 485 between NC 115 and Interstate 85 in northeast Charlotte. This project includes completion of the I-85/I-485 interchange (which is funded separately). The meeting will begin at 5:00 pm. The completion of Interstate 485 will improve connectivity in the Charlotte region and provide a bypass route for commuters and regional traffic.

The meeting is being held at the request of Senator Malcolm Graham. NCDOT staff plans to make announcements of the meeting in local media before April 13. City staff first received notification about this meeting via a telephone call on April 6.

The meeting is expected to consist of a formal presentation followed by a question and answer session.

April 23 – Planning Coordinating Committee Joint Luncheon

Staff Resource: Jonathan Wells, Planning, 704-336-4090, jwells@ci.charlotte.nc.us

The Planning Coordinating Committee (PCC) – composed of members of City Council, County Board of Commissioners, Board of Education, and the six Mecklenburg Town Boards – is a vehicle to facilitate cooperation and communication on relevant planning issues. Every spring, the PCC holds a luncheon and invites all members of the local elected bodies. The attendees will receive presentations of current planning issues, and define priority planning issues for the following year. The PCC is chaired by the Chair of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission, with staff from the Mecklenburg municipal planning departments serving as resources.

The 2010 Joint Luncheon has been scheduled for Friday, April 23 at Matthews Town Hall. The Mayor and each City Council member will receive invitations. The planning issue identified at the fall 2009 PCC meeting (defining the theme for the 2010 Joint Luncheon presentation) is "Planning opportunities in the down economy". The meeting will highlight a number of initiatives undertaken during the past year by local public agencies involved in planning and development, a time during which the level of land development review has been reduced. The keynote presentation will be delivered by Mecklenburg County Director of Code Enforcement James Bartl, accompanied by presentations of information from the Mecklenburg towns', Charlotte's, and CMS' planners.

May 13 – Peachtree Hills KaBOOM!™ Playground Build

Staff Resource: Aisha Alexander, Neighborhood & Business Services, 704-336-2175, valexander@charlottenc.gov

The build date for the Peachtree Hills KaBOOM!™ playspace previously scheduled for May 20, 2010 has been moved to Thursday, May 13, 2010, from 8:00 am – 3:30 pm. The entire playspace will be built in six hours by approximately 250 volunteers from Home Depot and the community. A ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on build day at 2:30pm; Council members and City Manager's Office staff are invited to attend and participate.

The Peachtree Hills Homeowner's Association was awarded a grant valued at $75,000 from KaBOOM!™ on behalf of The Home Depot Foundation to fund an all new playspace in the Peachtree Hills community. The KaBOOM!™ process employs a community-build model, designed to help a community build a playground, strengthen existing support networks, and discover new community assets. Since 1996, Home Depot and KaBOOM!™ have worked with communities across North America to lead the hands-on construction of over 1,000 playspaces. Home Depot is contributing significant resources to bring this project to life – including funding for approximately two-thirds of the equipment, build day supplies, and employee time.

Mecklenburg County/City West CDC Tax Foreclosure

Staff Resource: Stan Wilson, Neighborhood & Business Services, 704-336-3337, swilson@charlottenc.gov

Mecklenburg County intends to foreclose on a number of parcels owned by the City West

Community Development Corporation (CDC), formerly known as Reid Park Associates and Reid Park Community Development Corporation, to collect more than $70,000 in unpaid property tax liens. The parcels have a combined tax value of $107,500. In an effort to dissolve the organization, the CDC has been winding down its affairs and will no longer participate in the development of affordable housing in the Reid Park Community.

Since 1995 the City of Charlotte, through federal funds, loaned the CDC a total of $1,422,500 for affordable housing development activities. Currently, there is a loan balance of approximately $343,515.00. These loans are secured by deeds of trust that are subordinate to both the tax liens and bank loans. The County foreclosure process will wipe out the City's and the banks' deeds of trust. The City will receive its portion of the unpaid property taxes out of the proceeds of the foreclosure sale.

The tax foreclosure eliminates the possibility of the CDC repaying the loan balance owed to the City. However, the CDC's current debt load, combined with the depressed housing market, makes loan repayment highly improbable.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg's Ten–Year Implementation Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness

Staff Resource: Patrick T. Mumford, Neighborhood & Business Services, 704-336-5612, pmumford@charlottenc.gov

Charlotte-Mecklenburg's Ten-Year Implementation Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness (Ten-Year Plan) establishes an aggressive path to end homelessness and represents a movement to address homelessness is Charlotte-Mecklenburg. The Ten-Year Plan not only responds to the local need for more specific and immediate action, it also responds to the federal mandate for communities to develop ten-year plans to end homelessness as part of a unified national movement and as a requirement to continue receiving certain housing and homeless-related federal funding.

On November 12, 2007, City Council approved the following action:

A. Adopt the Ten-Year Plan to End and Prevent Homelessness;
B. Establish a high-level Ten-Year Plan Advisory Board;
C. Officially designate A Way Home as the manager and coordinator of the ongoing development and implementation of the Ten-Year Plan;
D. Direct staff to establish yearly benchmarks and annual goals starting in FY2009, by working in conjunction with A Way Home and the Advisory Board; and
E. Review and approve the Ten-Year Implementation Plan goals and performance as part of the annual U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Consolidated Plan and Budget process.

In October 2009, the City's Neighborhood & Business Services Department, Mecklenburg County and the Foundation For The Carolinas (FFTC) asked the Lee Institute to research ten-year plans for homelessness from communities around the country. The goal of the Lee Institute research, funded by the FFTC, was to analyze the leadership structure and effectiveness of other plans to inform Charlotte-Mecklenburg on how to strengthen the Ten-Year Plan implementation strategy.

One of the Lee Institute's key findings is that successful plan implementation requires a leadership structure specifically designed for the local jurisdiction. Charlotte-Mecklenburg's Ten-Year Plan implementation effort should include committed ownership by City and County government, adequate staffing, sustainable funding partnering with service providers and the re-establishment of a community-based Ten-Year Plan Advisory Board to oversee the Ten-Year Plan effort in a more comprehensive manner.

The Advisory Board would operate similarly to the current Housing Trust Fund Advisory Board. In fact, the Housing Trust Fund Board would disband and its role would be incorporated into the community-based board. City Council would still be responsible for approving funding recommendations for Housing Trust Fund projects.

At the May 3, 2010, Council Workshop, Neighborhood & Business Services staff will provide a detailed update on the proposed implementation strategy and timeline. Attached is a complete summary of The Lee Institute's findings and recommendations.

(see attachment at end of this document)

STIMULUS INFORMATION:

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds Awarded to the North Carolina Department of Transportation for Railroad Improvements in Charlotte

Staff Resource: Tim Gibbs, CDOT, 704-336-3917, tgibbs@charlottenc.gov

On January 28, the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) announced that the North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) would receive a $545 million award from the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) for future development of the Southeast High Speed Rail (SEHSR) Corridor. Approximately $247 million are earmarked for three projects in the Charlotte area. These projects are:

1) North Carolina Railroad Improvement Program (NCRRIP) Double Track Project (northeast Charlotte to Concord) ($95M);
2) NCDOT Locomotive and Railcar Maintenance Facility ($23M); and
3) NS/CSXT Mainline Grade Separation near Uptown ($129M).

For the Double Track Project, NCDOT will construct one additional railroad track adjacent to the existing track from just north of the NCRR/Eastway Drive overpass to Concord. This is one component of a larger project to double track the NCRR corridor between Charlotte and Greensboro. NCDOT will close some existing at-grade railroad crossings, while constructing grade separations at select locations throughout the corridor to eliminate potential conflicts between trains, cyclists, pedestrians and vehicles.

NCDOT's Locomotive and Railcar Maintenance Facility project will include the purchase of land and construction of a maintenance shop to service conventional intercity train sets, such as

the *Carolinian* and *Piedmont*, and future SEHSR. The facility will be located west of the John Belk Freeway, adjacent to the Norfolk Southern mainline tracks.

The NS/CSXT Mainline Grade Separation will eliminate the existing at-grade crossing of the CSXT and Norfolk Southern mainlines. This is the busiest at-grade crossing of two railroads in North Carolina. NCDOT will design this project to allow for placement of a future CATS North Corridor bridge over the new CSXT trench. The Mainline Grade Separation project will also improve and simplify rail access to the new Charlotte Gateway Station.

Another key component of this project will be the relocation of the adjacent ADM Flour Mill. This mill, the largest ADM plant in the South, operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week and 365 days a year, and has the capacity to process over one million pounds of flour per day. It is located at the junction of one of the busiest rail crossings in the state. Currently there are 50 trains per day in this area, with up to 30 more per day projected by 2015.

NCDOT Rail Division staff will make a presentation on these projects at Council's April 12 dinner briefing.