Mayor and Council Communication
Memo Number: 29
Friday, April 23 2010

CHARLOTTE.

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WEEK IN REVIEW:

Mon (April 26)	Tues (April 27)	Wed (April 28)	Thurs (April 29)	Friday (April 30)
5:00 PM Council Business Meeting, Room 267 6:30 PM Citizens' Forum, Council Chamber		5:30 PM MTC Meeting, Room 267 7:00 PM District 4 Community Meeting, Vance High School Auditorium 7600 IBM Drive		

CALENDAR DETAILS:

Monday, April 26

5:00 pm Council Business Meeting, Room 267

6:30 pm Citizens' Forum, Council Chamber

Wednesday, April 28

5:30 pm Metropolitan Transit Commission, Room 267
AGENDA: TSAC update; CTAG update; Transit Operating Program and CIP; Customer service

7:00 pm District 4 Community Meeting, Vance High School Auditorium

April and May calendars are attached.

Apr May 042310 (2).pdf

AGENDA NOTES:

Agenda Item #20 – Fire Station #42

Staff Resource: William Haas, E&PM, 704-336-4625, whaas@charlottenc.gov

The bid from Southside Constructors, Inc., for Fire Station #42 was rejected for failure to comply with the Small Business Enterprise Program. On April 15, Southside Constructors, Inc., requested an appeal with the City Manager. The appeal took place on Wednesday, April 21 with Deputy City Manager Ron Kimble. Because the appeal took place after the April 26 final agenda was printed, the Fire Station #42 Council Agenda item is attached in this Council-Manager Memo. The Deputy City Manager's appeal ruling to Southside Constructors, Inc. is also attached.

Agenda Item #20 RCA.pdf

Fire Station 42 Bid Appeal Let...

INFORMATION:

Charlotte Awarded EPA Brownfields Grant

Staff resource: David Wolfe, E&PM, 704-336-3602, dwolfe@charlottenc.gov
Tom Warshauer, N&BS, 704-336-4522, twarshauer@charlottenc.gov

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has selected Charlotte for a $400,000 Brownfield Community-Wide Assessment Grant. These grants are competitively awarded each year.

The Brownfields Program encourages redevelopment of contaminated sites such as abandoned gas stations, old textile mills and other industrial and commercial properties. Grant funds will support environmental assessment activities by the City of Charlotte and the private sector within the City's Business Corridor Revitalization geographical area. Previously, EPA funds were used only for private sector assessments. This will enable the City to consider using its current locally-funded assessment program to provide limited cleanup funding. The City is awaiting additional communication from the EPA which will have the grant guidelines and a cooperative agreement. Acceptance of the grant funds will be brought to Council this summer.

Update on Neighborhood Symposium

Staff Resource: Cynthia Woods, Neighborhood & Business Services, 704-336-2646, cwoods@charlottenc.gov

The City of Charlotte's 15th annual Neighborhood Symposium, "Creating Community: A Symposium for Neighborhoods," was held on Saturday, April 17, 2010, in collaboration with the Charlotte Clean and Green Earth Day Festival and CPCC's Sensoria Celebration of the Arts.

Additional partners included more than 25 organizations that made workshop presentations and 55 exhibitors, including City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg County departments, non-profit agencies, neighborhood organizations, the U.S. Census Bureau and the Earned Income Tax Credit program (through Community Link).

Other highlights included the opening program with greetings from Mayor Anthony Foxx and the presentation of a $2,000 check from the Conference of Mayor's Financial Literacy Program through the 2010 DollarWi$e summer youth campaign. The grant will support the incorporation of financial literacy into the Mayor's Youth Employment Program. The *Creating Community* video featuring local neighborhood leaders was received well and can be seen on the City's website at http://nbs.charlottenc.gov

Winners of the Neighborhood Achievement Awards were:

Neighborhood Diversity – Hidden Valley
Neighborhood Safety – McCarron Neighborhood Watch
Neighborhood Improvement – NoDa Greenification Committee
Neighborhood Youth Involvement – Rockwell Park Kick Back Krew
Neighborhood Engagement – Windy Ridge Neighborhood Association

INFORMATION (continued):

Staff will continue to gather feedback from Symposium participants, exhibitors, presenters, volunteers and other partners for their opinions and suggestions for future events.

STIMULUS INFORMATION:

Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance: Retrofit Ramp-up Program
Staff Resource: Rob Phocas, City Attorney's Office, 704-336-7558, rphocas@ci.charlotte.nc.us

Last fall, the Department Of Energy released a nation-wide competitive solicitation under an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program: the "Retrofit Ramp-up and General Innovation Fund Programs." This competitive grant is different from the EECBG award the City received this past Tuesday and provides additional funding for energy efficiency improvements.

The Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance (SEEA), a non-profit organization that promotes energy efficiency throughout the southeastern United States, submitted an application for this competitive grant on behalf of several cities in the southeast, including Atlanta, Miami, New Orleans, Charleston, Charlottesville and Charlotte. SEEA categorized participating cities as Tier I or Tier II cities. Tier I cities are those cities that are ready to implement energy efficiency programs immediately. Tier II cities are those cities that need additional time to develop and implement energy efficiency programs. In December 2009, the Mayor advised the SEEA that Charlotte would be interested in participating as a Tier II city. At that time, Charlotte had just submitted its application for the block grant money and, therefore, did not yet have any experience with the energy efficiency programs proposed for implementation under the Council-approved Energy Strategy.

On Wednesday, DOE notified SEEA that it had been awarded a $20 million dollar EECBG competitive grant. This amount is approximately one third of the award SEEA requested. At this time, it is not clear how much funding may be available, and under what conditions, to Tier II cities like Charlotte. If additional money was to become available to Charlotte under this grant opportunity, one possible application would be to ramp-up the community-based programs in the Energy Strategy: the Commercial Retrofit Program; the Residential Energy Efficiency Improvement Program; and the Neighborhood Energy Challenge. With the award of the City's EECBG funding, these programs will get underway very soon. Staff will be having additional dialogue with SEEA about prospects for additional energy efficiency funding for Charlotte and will keep Council advised.