Council-Manager Memo #21
Wednesday, March 14, 2012

CHARLOTTE.

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INFORMATION:

March 17 – Peachtree Hills Tree Planting Event
Staff Resources: Aisha Alexander, N&BS, 704-336-2175, valexander@charlottenc.gov
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The City is partnering with the Catawba Lands Conservancy, Knight Foundation, and Duke Energy to pilot a neighborhood-level approach to tree planting in the Peachtree Hills neighborhood on this Saturday, March 17 beginning at 9 a.m. Homeowners have volunteered to plant more than 100 trees in the neighborhood park and at their homes. Participants will sign a stewardship pledge and will receive guidance and resource materials to help them know how to properly plant, nurture, and maintain the trees.

This pilot effort will inform the City's future efforts to encourage citizens in tree planting, management, and stewardship. City staff will learn from this pilot event and continue to partner with local groups and neighborhoods for similar planting events each year. Creating well-treed neighborhoods is a vital part of the City Council's goal to achieve 50% tree canopy coverage by 2050.

City Council members are invited to stop by the event during the day on Saturday.

Neighborhood Grants Update
Staff Resource: Aisha Alexander, N&BS, 704-336-2175, valexander@charlottenc.gov

There has been a high level of community interest and participation in the Neighborhood Matching Grants Program. Due to increased community engagement efforts, program participation climbed from 28 applications in FY10 to 52 applications in FY11 and 70 applications so far in FY12. Eighteen neighborhood based organizations submitted applications for the February cycle of regular grants, requesting $204,959.03. Neighborhoods match the City's investment $1 for $1 with a combination of cash, in-kind donations and volunteer service, resulting in an over $4 million investment from community members since the program's inception. If all the applications are approved, the Neighborhood Matching Grant Fund will have $33,374 available for the April application cycle. This is a highly competitive cycle with the highest volume of applications since communities plan for the summer and out of school time activities for neighborhood children.

A list of the projects that received matching grants, as well as pending applications, is **attached below (see "2. Matching Grants.pdf")**

STIMULUS INFORMATION:

Power 2 Live Green Special Initiative Neighborhood Matching Grant Program

Staff Resources: Nicole Storey, N&BS, 704-336-2929, nrstorey@charlottenc.gov
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Charlotte announced the Power2 Live Green Special Initiative Neighborhood Matching Grant Program in January 2012, funded through the City's Energy Efficiency Conservation Block Grant (EECBG). This unique program provides up to $10,000 per neighborhood for community-based sustainability projects in six categories. Applications were reviewed by the Neighborhood Matching Grants Interdepartmental Review Team, with focuses on energy savings, community involvement, sustainability, and project design. The selected neighborhoods represent a cross section of geographic, social and economic characteristics. Staff received 19 applications, exceeding expectations. Staff was able to reallocate resources within the federal EECBG grant funds to award funding to 11 neighborhoods on Thursday March 1.