

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Cedar Riverside, 5-16-07

Cam's next Cedar Riverside Office Hours:
Tuesday June 5, 9:30-11:00am
Hard Times Café, 1821 Riverside Ave

Items:

- 1) Roundtable: NRP & Neighborhood Orgs
- 2) Community Engagement and NRP
- 3) Bike/Walk to Work Day
- 4) Public Safety and Organizing Interns
- 5) 7 Corners Parking Ramp
- 6) Bedlam Theater
- 7) Youth Opportunities this summer
- 8) EPA Award
- 9) Minneapolis: *Living Well*
- 10) Police Department plans
- 11) 311 in rental dwellings
- 12) McMansions
- 13) Currie Park Flats project
- 14) NTP Program Grants
- 15) Wind Turbines
- 16) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Please join me, City Coordinator Steven Bosacker and others for a Roundtable Discussion **Thursday, May 24, 7-8:30 pm, Matthews Park, 2318 28th Ave S** on Neighborhood Organizations and NRP: What now? What next? The City Council is taking a look at Neighborhood Organizations and the future of NRP. How can the City do a better job of supporting the work of neighborhood organizations? How can we help shape the future of citizen participation in city government and the future of neighborhood revitalization in Minneapolis?
- 2) The Council Committee of the Whole directed staff to begin work on some recommendations and approved a work plan which identifies a timeline and next steps to improve the City's community engagement system, including its relationship with neighborhood organizations and with the future of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP). You can download the City Coordinator's report, recommendations and work plan here <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070427/COW20070426agenda.asp#TopOfPage>
- 3) May is National Bike Month and this **Friday, May 18**, group rides and walks are being organized to downtown Minneapolis. There is not yet a walk or ride organized from Cedar Riverside, but you can still volunteer to organize a ride. For more information, go here: www.tcbikewalktowork.org.
- 4) My office will be hiring up to three interns to do outreach and organizing work on block clubs, crime & safety committees, and community events, including a "welcome to the neighborhood" event for new student renters this fall. Interns will work 10-20 hours per week, for a wage of \$12.09/hr. If you know anyone who might be interested, please have them contact my office.
 - 5) All RFPs have been received on the sale of City-owned parking lots, and the Council will be making decisions on selling the ramps next month. The 7 Corners ramp will remain a parking ramp, with public parking. We are working with City staff to ensure that there is input from the community throughout this process.
 - 6) I supported Bedlam Theater's application for a beer and wine license last week, and it was supported by the full Council. I am helping the theater navigate the City bureaucracy regarding their site plan.

- 7) Minneapolis has plenty of opportunities for youth this summer. There are more than 750 activities and programs covering a wide array of topics available for children and teens. For students old enough to work, the **Step-Up** summer jobs program recruits, trains, and places Minneapolis teens in jobs that provide them with solid work experience, puts them on career paths, and lets them earn some money in the process. There are around 2,000 summer jobs available through Step-Up this summer, 600 more than last year. Find out about many of these programs by going to the Minneapolis' new youth Web page at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/residents/youth.asp. Also, call the "What's Up?" youth information line at (612) 399-999 or search the organization's database at www.whatsup.org.
- 8) The US Environmental Protection Agency has recognized Minneapolis (as one of only two winners nationwide) with a Clean Air Excellence Award and Minneapolis in the "Regulatory/Policy Innovation" category. Air quality in Minneapolis is among the best of major metropolitan areas in the United States, and the City is working to make it even better.
- 9) The full Sustainability Report, entitled *Minneapolis: Living Well* has been released: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070525/docs/Living-well-Report.pdf>. This document includes the already-released *Greenprint*, but also covers all Sustainability Indicators. It shows that we have made some good progress on many of our Indicators, but also shows where we have room for improvement.
- 10) The Minneapolis Police Department has released their 2007-2011 Business Plan. You can read it here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070511/docs/MPD-5-Year-Plan.pdf>. It references the "Safe City Resolution" that I helped craft during last year's budget cycle, and includes measures of Department performance other than crime and arrest rates, such as complaints against officers, City liability and crime prevention. It refers to the ongoing work of the Youth Violence Prevention Steering Committee. The Internal Affairs Unit is going out for an external audit, and has released their yearly report, which you can read here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070511/docs/IAU-Annual-Report-final.pdf>. I believe that we are making slow progress in making the MPD more accountable and prevention based.
- 11) I supported CM Schiff's ordinance requiring city-prepared information on 311 to be posted in all rental dwellings in the City. This is a small step that can help better connect renters to City services, especially regarding Snow Emergencies and rental housing inspections.
- 12) I am supportive of the Infill Housing Ordinance, proposed by my colleague Betsy Hodges, which will establish a maximum size of residential property, based on lot size. This will help us protect neighborhood livability and existing housing stock, and conserve energy.
- 13) Fine Associates' Currie Park Flats development has been ranked seventh of eight applicants for Hennepin County Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA) funding. Fine Associates has applied for \$1,964,743 in LCDA funding.
- 14) Minneapolis has been granted \$350,000 by MNDOT and \$75,000 from Blue Cross/Blue Shield for developing a citywide Pedestrian and Bicycle plan. We have also submitted an application for NTP funds to develop a "Bicycle Ambassador Program," which will help us match experienced bike commuters with first-time riders. The goal of all of these programs is to increase the bicycling mode share.
- 15) The wind turbine ordinance I sponsored passed the City Planning Commission by consent. It will now go through the Zoning & Planning Committee and finally to the full Council. This change will broaden the applicable uses of wind turbines in the City, a small step in the right direction. To see the proposed ordinance, go here: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/agendas/planning-commission/2007/docs/20070423_wind_ordinance.pdf.
- 16) There are openings on the Advisory Committee on People With Disabilities, the Empowerment Zone Governance Board, the Heritage Preservation Commission, the Housing Board of Appeals, the Private Industry/Workforce Council, the Public Health Advisory Committee, the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee and the Zoning Board of Adjustment. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us