

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Milwaukee Avenue Homeowners Association, 5-16-07

Cam's next Seward Office Hours:
Tuesday, May 22, 9:30-11:00am
Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St

Items:

- 1) Roundtable: NRP & Neighborhood Orgs
- 2) Bike/Walk to Work Day 5-18-07
- 3) Public Safety and Outreach Interns
- 4) Energy Challenge Grants
- 5) Community Engagement Report
- 6) Minneapolis *Greenprint* and *Living Well* Reports
- 7) EPA Air Quality Award
- 8) McMansions
- 9) Minneapolis Police Department Plans
- 10) Maximum Occupancy
- 11) 311 in Rental Dwellings
- 12) Wind Turbines
- 13) Youth Opportunities this summer
- 14) Bicycling Grants
- 15) LCDA Grants to Bystrom Bros. Site
- 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) Please join my Aide, Robin Garwood, for a **Bike to Work Day** ride into downtown this **Friday, May 18**, leaving at **7:15AM** from the **Birchwood Café**. For more information, go here: www.tcbikewalktowork.org.
- 3) 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.
- 4) The City will be giving out up to 25 \$1,000 grants to community organizations to organize Minneapolis residents to take small, simple steps that can both reduce carbon emissions and save them money, working through the Minneapolis Energy Challenge at <http://mnenergychallenge.org>. I encourage MAHA to take advantage of this opportunity.
- 5) 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>
- 6) The Minneapolis *Greenprint*, the 2007 report on the ten environmental sustainability indicators, is now available. Go here to see it online: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news/20070413GreenPrint.asp, or contact my office for a physical copy. The report on the rest of the Minneapolis sustainability indicators will be coming out this summer. *Minneapolis: Living Well*, the report on the all of the sustainability indicators, is here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070525/docs/Living-well-Report.pdf>.

- 7) 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.
- 8) I am supportive of Council Member Betsy Hodges' proposed ordinance to address teardowns and "McMansions," which will establish a "gross floor area" maximum, based on the size of a lot.
- 9) 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.
- 10) The group I have set up to talk about possible reforms to the Minneapolis Maximum Occupancy codes has met four times. We have reviewed the current codes, laid out our goals for "ideal" maximum occupancy regulations and studied how Minneapolis has regulated occupancy in the past and other municipalities regulate it today. The consensus of the group was to move towards regulating the maximum number of adults, regardless of their "relatedness," who can share a dwelling unit based on the habitable square footage of the unit.
- 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) 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.
- 13) 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.
- 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) Seward Redesign's application for \$2,334,200 in Metropolitan Council Livable Communities Demonstration Account (LCDA) grants for the Bystrom Brothers site was ranked 5th of 8 projects by the Council's Community Development Committee.
- 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