



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Items:

- 1) Election Day November 6
- 2) Please Vote No on Both
- 3) Birchwood Café Rezoning
- 4) Seward Café Rezoning
- 5) Hiawatha Substation Changes
- 6) Tri State Bearing Building
- 7) Fall Street Sweeping
- 8) Gun Violence in Minneapolis
- 9) New Legislative Agenda Items
- 10) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Election day is **November 6**. Please remember to vote! You can find your polling place and a sample ballot here (mnvotes.sos.state.mn.us/VoterStatus.aspx), or here (pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/).
- 2) The Minneapolis City Council has voted to formally oppose both of the constitutional amendments on the ballot this November 6. The first would enshrine anti-gay bigotry in the state constitution, and the second would make it much more difficult to vote in Minnesota elections, with the aim of disenfranchising certain types of people – the elderly, recent immigrants, students, and people living in poverty. I urge you to **vote no on both**.
- 3) The City Planning Commission has unanimously voted to grant the variance requests tied to the Birchwood Café's proposed expansion and to recommend that the Council rezone the property to C1. I expect this rezoning application to come before the Zoning and Planning committee on November 8th. With the Seward Neighborhood Group, the Seward Civic and Commerce Association, City Planning staff and the Planning Commission all strongly recommending this rezoning, I intend to support it and expect it to pass. I will continue to listen to the concerns of the near neighbors and encourage the Birchwood, other nearby businesses, and the City to do what we can to address the issues that have been raised about traffic, parking, loading and more.
- 4) The City Planning Commission has unanimously granted the Seward Café's request to rezone their parcel to C2, to allow them to request a beer/wine license that can include general entertainment.
- 5) Xcel has recently decided to do away with any art walls on the east side of its soon to be built Hiawatha Substation, resulting in an unscreened view of the substation for bike trail users approaching from the east. There will be an [Xcel Open House](#) on **October 30th, from 5 - 7 p.m.**, at Plaza Verde (1516 E. Lake Street) where you can learn more about the change and share your opinions about the new design. You can also share your comments directly with the state of MN/Public Utilities Commission by emailing Bill Storm at bill.storm@state.mn.us. People should send in comments before October 31. More information, plus a copy of the Midtown Greenway Coalition's resolution, can be found at <http://midtowngreenway.org/news-and-developments/hiawatha-substation-resolution/>.

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email

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Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons may call 311 or 612-673-3000. TTY users may call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

Attention: If you want help translating this information in language other than Hmong, Spanish or Somali, call 311

Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800;

Spanish - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2700;

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

- 6) Hennepin County has held a public hearing on the Leifman Memorial Foundation's application to repurchase the old Tri-State Bearing building on 25th St E. Scott Henderson, who speaks for the Foundation, has made clear that he intends to sell the building to a third party soon after repurchasing it. My office encouraged the hearing officer to make the County's decision to sell the property back to the Foundation contingent on this sale taking place within a short period of time. A potential buyer attended the hearing and made clear that he intends to purchase it immediately after the County resells the building to the Foundation. He currently owns a building in Seward, the An-Nuur center (site of the old American Legion and later Pi Bar) on 25th Ave S. He intends to rent the building to another user, and is hopeful that the use will be arts related. City Zoning staff have made clear that any future use of the building will require a change of nonconforming use certificate.
- 7) The City's fall street cleaning effort has begun. To make sure the sweepers can do the best job possible parking will temporarily be prohibited the day each street is cleaned. "No Parking" signs will be posted at least 24 hours in advance of the cleaning and car users will need to follow street sweep parking rules or their cars may be ticketed and towed. Parking will be banned from 7 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on the day a street is swept. The "No Parking" signs will be removed as soon as possible after a street has been completely swept to allow people to resume parking. You can use the City's website to find out when the sweepers are coming through their neighborhoods: www.minneapolis.gov/streetsweep. Visitors to the website will be able to find out which week their street is scheduled to be swept. Street sweeping is also explained in English, Hmong, Somali and Spanish as part of the City's "Did you know..." series of short videos that can be viewed on at <http://www.youtube.com/cityofminneapolis> and on City cable channels 14 and 79. Please share links to this information with as many people as you can.
- 8) Six people were killed on September 27 in a hand gun shooting in a Minneapolis business. Another four people were wounded in a separate shooting on the same day when someone shot into their home. My thoughts and prayers go out the victims, their families, co-workers and other community members devastated by these terrible crimes. These should remind us that we need to work harder to prevent acts of violence and address this epidemic of gun violence head on. It is clear that this is a national as well as local problem. According to David Hemenway from the Harvard School of Public Health, the United States has a rate of homicide 7 times that of other wealthy nations, driven by a 20-times higher rate of gun homicide. For more you may want to see this new investigation by Mother Jones has found a national trend of rising mass shootings since 1982. Mother Jones also reported a nationwide rollback in gun regulations since 2009 <http://www.motherjones.com/politics/2012/09/mass-shootings-investigation>.
- 9) The Council's Committee of the Whole has discussed a set of items for the City's 2013 Legislative Agenda that include some interesting new requests. The first is improvements to the Sewer Availability Charges that make it so difficult and expensive for many Longfellow-area businesses to open and expand. Also on the list are a new host of City positions on issues related to bicyclists and pedestrians. If passed two weeks from now, Minneapolis will support the following changes:
- More flexible state lane-width standards that will allow us to design and build streets that safely meet the needs of all who use them
 - Increased funding for pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure and programing, including programs that seek to incentivize innovation in bicycling infrastructure, with flexibility on design standards
 - Complete Streets policies at all levels
 - Local flexibility to reduce speed limits below 30 MPH for both local residential streets and when accommodating bicycling infrastructure
 - A state level study of the economic impact of bicycling
 - Legislation to make clear that drivers should yield to bicyclists in bike lanes
 - Adding bike lanes to the list of prohibited locations for stopping, standing, or parking a vehicle
- 10) There are more than 186 open positions on 24 boards and commissions that the City Council and Mayor will appoint this fall. The City is seeking applicants with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences to strengthen the work of the City. Boards/Commissions. For a full list of appointment opportunities and position descriptions visit <http://www.minneapolis.gov/boards/index.htm> To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolis.gov.