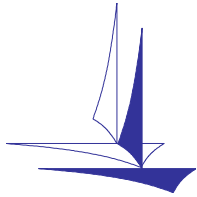


Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Southeast Como, 3-5-13

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:
Tuesday, March 12th, 9:30-11:00am
Muddsuckers Coffee, 1500 Como Avenue SE



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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, llame 612-673-2700;

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

Items:

- 1) Business Licensing Conditions
- 2) Garbage Burner/HERC
- 3) Turn Off Your Lights
- 4) Setting Environmental Priorities
- 5) Minneapolis Wins Roadmaps to Health Award
- 6) Increasing Recycling Rate
- 7) 2013 Election
- 8) Proposed Filing Fee Increase for City Candidates
- 9) Bike Walk Counts.
- 10) 2012 Minneapolis Resident Survey
- 11) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) In February the Council amended our ordinances to allow the City to impose business license conditions on businesses with significant and documented violations that threaten public safety and community livability. It will allow the City to limit hours of operation, restrict where liquor can be sold, limit occupancy levels, limit the means of ingress or egress, and/or restrict where people under age 21 can be admitted. The process includes checks and balances to ensure that the business is afforded due process and includes the opportunity for an independent third party review. In order to impose license conditions, a quasi-judicial hearing is required and the conditions must be approved by the full City Council.
- 2) Hennepin County's application to increase the amount of garbage they may burn in downtown Minneapolis was discussed in February at the Zoning and Planning Committee. When this came to the Planning Commission over 3 years ago they denied the application. The County then appealed that decision and this has been stuck at the committee level ever since. It was clear at the committee that we had the authority to deny the appeal. I favored this position in part because of the long delay, but also, more importantly, because the evidence supports the findings of the Planning Commission that increasing the capacity of the garbage burner could be detrimental to public health, safety, that it could be injurious to the use and enjoyment of other property in the vicinity and could impede the development and improvement of surrounding property for uses permitted in the district. Despite my opposition, the committee supported a continued postponement until after the state's environmental review is complete. If and when new information is presented as part of that process I will certainly consider it carefully before taking another vote in the future. In general I support much more aggressive goals to move us to a no-waste city and county. It is worth noting that under the current practices, even as Minneapolisians reduce waste, increase composting and recycle more, the amount of waste burned at the downtown facility will not change because the county continues to bring waste in from other cities.
- 3) The Regulatory, Energy and Environment is once again recommending passage of a resolution supporting Earth Hour in 2013. During Earth Hour (Saturday, March 23 from 8:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. central time) millions of people around the world will call for action on climate change by turning off their lights for one hour. During the hour the City will turn off all uses of electricity in municipal buildings not required for life, safety or operations, and will turn off the decorative lighting on the Stone Arch Bridge for the entire night as a symbol of the City's commitment to being part of the solution to climate change.
- 4) On Thursday the Council is expected to formally establish an internal working group to set priorities related to greening the City enterprise and supporting green initiatives in the private and not-for-profit sectors. I am one of three Council Members who will be on this work group along with key staff. The group will be led by the City Coordinator's Office and report back to the Regulatory, Energy & Environment Committee on progress no later than June 1,

- 5) The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has awarded Minneapolis their inaugural Roadmaps to Health prize. This prize celebrates Minneapolis' community-wide efforts to promote a culture of health. Minneapolis is one of only six cities to receive this award. The award honors the City for work led by the Minneapolis Health Department, including: Increasing access to healthy foods, opportunities for physical activity and smoke-free living; connecting clinics and communities to prevent chronic disease; making Minneapolis a leader on bicycling; and working to close the educational achievement gap.
- 6) Minneapolis residents have increased the amount we recycle since one-sort recycling started and the city started accepting more types of plastic last April. The four collection routes that switched to one-sort last fall show a **63%** increase (over 390 tons) in recycling over the same period a year ago, when they still used the older multi-sort process. One-sort recycling, where people can combine glass, plastic, paper, aluminum and cardboard into one container, began in the fall for 30,000 homes. The other 80,000 households will enter the program later this year. Although residents using one sort no longer need to separate their recyclables, it is important to rinse them and not to mix in garbage or other materials such as yard waste or plastic bags.
- 7) The Council's Elections committee has taken a number of actions regarding the 2013 municipal election to help insure successful elections and support the purchase of certified Ranked Choice Voting compatible voting equipment. We are also forming of a Polling Place Work Group to evaluate the City's polling places, and make recommendations about modifying the number of precincts and/or polling places. We are also moving forward with work on amendments to our ranked choice voting ordinance, to a) allowing the City to declare unofficial winners when one candidate gets more than 50% of the vote (without having to go through every write-in, etc.), b) only counting unique votes for registered write-in candidates, and aggregating the rest into a broad category of "write-ins," and c) allowing staff to keep more types of voter errors (skipped or duplicate rankings, etc.) in the count.
- 8) Elections staff is recommending increasing the filing fees, or requiring a petition for individuals wishing to file to be on the ballot for city elections. Candidate filing fees for Minneapolis are established under Minnesota Statute §§205.13. The original statutory fee was \$10; however, that amount was increased in 1967 to \$20, and has not been adjusted in Minneapolis since. St. Paul and Rochester, have increased their fees. Under the proposal (and State law), a potential candidate also has the option of submitting a petition in lieu of the candidate filing fee (500 signatures or five percent of the total number of votes cast in the election district at the preceding general election for that particular office). The proposed fees would be \$500 for mayor, \$250 for City Council, \$20 for the Board of Estimate and Taxation and \$50 for Park and Recreation Board. To accomplish this for this will require a charter amendment which could be done in time for this year's election by a unanimous vote of the Council.
- 9) In February, Transit for Livable Communities released their counts of bikers and walkers for 2012. Counts at 40 locations indicate that bicycling increased 50.5% and walking 23.5% between 2007 and 2012. Between 2011 and 2012, bicycling increased only 1.8%, and walking 2.4%. Once again Ward 2 locations had some of the highest number of bikers. The top location was at 15th Ave SE with one of the highest shares of nonmotorized traffic of any benchmark location. From 2011 to 2012, the share increased from 67% to 74%, with an estimated 17,569 trips a day. You can see the full report here <http://www.bikewalktwincities.org/sites/default/files/bwtc-2012-count-report-final-web2.pdf>
- 10) The 2012 resident survey results are now available online. A majority of the respondents, 91%, rate the city as a very good (57%) or good (34%) place to live. Among City services, residents gave their highest satisfaction ratings to fire protection and emergency services (98% were either satisfied or very satisfied), sewer services (96%), 311 for City services and information (96%) park and recreation services (95%), and Animal Control programs (92%). Although a majority of residents were satisfied or very satisfied with all City services, using a national benchmarking system revealed that, for example, of 13 services that could be compared to other communities only two were above the national benchmark, 4 were similar and 7 were rated much below the national norms. The report calls out two potential areas of focus based on services ranked of very high importance to people that were below the national benchmarks: snow removal and providing park and recreation services | As in previous years (2001 -2011), about one in 6 respondents reported experiencing discrimination in Minneapolis. Most was identified as discrimination based on race or economic status. It was discouraging to learn that more than last year (14% vs. 7%) reported experiencing discrimination in dealing with the City enterprise itself. While one must be cautious using and interpreting data from a survey of only 1,378 residents, but used properly, and with other measures it can inform our planning and priorities for the future. To find the full report and do you own analysis visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/coordinator/rm/WCMS1P-104458> and let me know what you learn.
- 11) There are openings on the Arts Commission, Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Police Conduct Review Panel, and the Minneapolis Telecommunications Network. . To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov