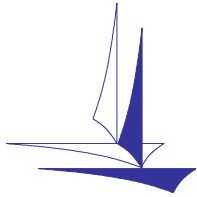


Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Southeast Como, 4-2-13

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:
Tuesday, April 9th, 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) Transit Bill at Legislature
 - 2) Roundtable Discussion April 10: Minneapolis Energy Options
 - 3) Municipal Utility Study
 - 4) Street Sweeping
 - 5) Beekeeping Ordinance
 - 6) Rental License Restrictions
 - 7) Flea Market Ordinance
 - 8) Recreational Fire Ordinance
 - 9) Urban Agriculture Expo
 - 10) Trap-Neuter-Return
 - 11) Central Corridor Walkability Study
 - 12) Openings on City Boards and Commissions
- 1) In A "Transit for a Stronger Economy" bill I strongly support is working its way through the Legislature that will, if passed, increase sales taxes by three quarters of a cent in the metro area to expand investment in transit. It will increase bus service by **4%**, ensure that we can build **3** new Light Rail lines, put Bus Rapid Transit on **4** highway corridors, and help create **12** higher-amenity "Enhanced Bus" routes. It will also include \$50 million per year for metro-area cities and counties to address local needs, including accessibility enhancements, safer sidewalks, and bicycle routes. The bill is supported by over 50 organizations, including Transit for Livable Communities and the Minneapolis Bicycle Advisory Committee, A sales tax is the way that nearly all US regions fund transit – and it's one of the ways that other regions have made significantly more progress on transit than the Twin Cities region has. I urge you to contact your State Legislators and encourage them to support this incredible opportunity to provide stable, adequate funding for transit in Minneapolis. You can take action here: <http://www.mntransit.org/takeaction.asp?aid=6578>.
- 2) Please join me for a roundtable discussion about our energy future with members the Minneapolis Energy Options campaign, on **Thursday, April 10th**, at **7:00pm** at Matthews Center, 2313 28th Ave S. As you may have heard, the City's franchise agreements with Xcel Energy and Centerpoint Energy will expire in 2014. This represents a rare opportunity to push for cleaner, more reliable, more affordable and more local energy. To this end, I support putting a question on the ballot for this fall's election that will authorize the City to form a municipal power utility, if we can prove that a municipal utility would bring us clean, affordable, reliable and more local energy. Without voter approval to make a public owned utility an option, we will have little or (in the case of the electric company) no bargaining power when we begin discussions about the franchise agreements.
- 3) In April I expect the Regulatory Energy and Environment Committee will consider a proposal to dedicate significant funds (up to \$250,000) to study the issues related to our utility franchise and forming a municipal energy utility in Minneapolis. The funding will come from the existing City Coordinator budget and I believe will be an important next step to getting the information we need to make future decisions about energy options in Minneapolis.
- 4) On April 16, City crews will start cleaning all city streets and alleys. Through early May, sweepers will take care of all 1,000 miles of city streets and parkways. In addition to the "No Parking" signs that will be posted the day before sweepers come through, the City will make about 3,500 automated phone calls each evening to let residents know their street will be swept the next day. Folks can also use the City's Web site to find out when the sweepers are coming go to www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping and click on "street sweeping schedule lookup," to find out which week a street is scheduled to be swept. The weekend before that week, they can revisit the Web site to find out which day of the week the street is scheduled to be swept. You can also view streetsweeping videos at www.YouTube.com/cityofminneapolis.

- 5) Council Member Goodman is bringing forward an amendment to the City's ordinance on keeping honeybees. This amendment will remove the requirement for signatures of 80% of neighbors for any hive that is one or more stories off the ground. When honeybees leave their hives, they tend to fly upwards and quickly disperse, so a hive on a rooftop is likely to have very little effect on near neighbors. As this moves forward, I will also be bringing forward an amendment that would change the City's honeybee permitting process from an annual \$50 permit to a one-time City approval with a recurring free renewal. The public hearing for this ordinance will occur at the next Public Safety, Civil Rights and Health committee on Wednesday, April 3rd, at 1:30pm in Council Chambers.
- 6) There will be a public hearing on **April 4th** at 1:30pm on a proposed amendment to our Housing Maintenance Code that will allow the city to impose conditions or restrictions on rental dwelling licenses. We will also consider a set of operating procedures that clarify when and how the conditions would be imposed. Owners of rental properties are now required to have rental licenses for each of their properties and the City has the authority to conduct inspections and issue fines or even revoke licenses if license holders do not meet rental housing standards. If this amendment passes, when a rental property owner is in violation of a rental licensing standard/s, the City could also place specific operating conditions on the rental license. Property owners must adhere to these conditions in order for their rental license to remain in good standing. To learn more about the procedures and see examples of conditions see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-104736.pdf>. You can find the amendment here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-105139.pdf>
- 7) In April the Council will consider an ordinance amendment that would allow and regulate Flea Markets in Minneapolis. There will be a public hearing **April 4th**, at around 1:30pm on a proposal to allow and license (previously prohibited) temporary markets/flea markets for the sale of arts, crafts, antiques, and/or secondhand goods by any person, partnership, corporation or association to be sold at tables, stalls, or booths at a fixed location in Minneapolis. You can find the full ordinance here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-105719.pdf>
- 8) I expect the hearing on the Recreational Fire ordinance amendment I am authoring to be held on **May 1st at 1:30 p.m.** at the Public Safety Civil Rights and Health Committee. I am proposing that we add an additional restriction to prohibit outdoor recreational fires during times of air quality alerts when the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency issues an Air Pollution Health Advisory for the Twin Cities Area.
- 9) The 2013 Urban Agriculture Expo will be held on **April 20th** at the Sabathani Community Center in Minneapolis. The Expo will be from 9:00am - 1:30pm, with educational seminars beginning at 9:30am. This event is for those who currently have an urban farming enterprise, are considering starting one, are supporters of urban farming, or are just curious to learn more. No preregistration is required for the event. For more see <http://blog.lib.umn.edu/efans/small-farms/2013/03/2013-urban-agriculture-expo-on-april-20th.php>
- 10) I have received a number of comments about a new project I am working on that would allow Trap Neuter Return (TNR) programs to operate in Minneapolis. Allowing TNR programs offers us a potentially effective and affordable way to address the out-of-control growth of the populations of wild cats that spread disease, kill birds and other wildlife, create offensive smells, damage property and disturb residents. In this approach cats are trapped, taken to a vet to be vaccinated and sterilized and then returned to a feral cat colony caretaker. The ordinance changes I am proposing will not take any current tool away from Animal Control staff. They will still have the authority to kill a stray cat after it has been held for the necessary time (5 days), has been checked for Identification to return it to an owner and has been assessed to determine if it is suitable for adoption. To help get started I have established a working group that includes of city staff, and representatives from Minnesota Spay Neuter Assistance, Audubon Minnesota, the Minneapolis Animal Care and Control Advisory Committee, Minnesota Voters for Animal Protection and the Audubon Chapter of Minneapolis. I believe that Trap Neuter (vaccinate) and Return programs offer a promising, affordable and humane method of reducing feral cat numbers, while also protecting public health and reducing impact on wildlife. For information about the programs in New Jersey that might be a model for ours visit <http://www.aplnj.org/projectTNR.php>. You can also learn more and watch a short introductory video on the subject here <http://www.alleycat.org/page.aspx?pid=730>.
- 11) In April I will be participating in a panel discussion of the District Council Collaborative's Green Line Walkability Survey Summary on Monday, **April 8th**. The event begins at 5 pm and will be held at the Wilder Center, 451 Lexington Parkway North Saint Paul. The program will include a presentation of Walkability Survey Findings, followed by a panel discussion.
- 12) There are openings on the Arts Commission, Animal Care and Control Advisory Board, Disability Advisory Committee, Public Housing Authority Board of Commissioners, Workforce Council, Neighborhood & Community Engagement Commission, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Police Conduct Review Panel, Seniors Advisory Committee and Telecommunications Network. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov