



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

**Cam Gordon**

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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.

## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Southeast Como, 7-2-13

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:  
Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:00am  
Muddsuckers Coffee, 1500 Como Avenue SE

### Items:

- 1) Storm Response
- 2) Municipal Power Ballot Question
- 3) 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue Bridge Rehabilitation
- 4) Climate Action Plan
- 5) Funding for Streetcars
- 6) NCEC Appointments
- 7) Neighborhood Policy Amendments
- 8) National Night Out
- 9) Energy Pathways Study
- 10) Openings on City Boards and Commissions

- 1) On June 21, Minneapolis was hit by a strong storm, and many of us are still recovering. Since then the Minneapolis Park Board and the City have been working to clear city streets and remove boulevard trees from homes, garages and other structures. The Park Board has also begun to remove additional boulevard trees that fell during the week due to winds and saturated soils. Park Board crews will collect homeowner yard tree debris that can be brought to the boulevard beginning July 1 through July 12 (excluding July 4 and 7) for properties affected by the storm. Please move larger limbs, branches, and trunks to the boulevard area in front of your house and Park Board crews will pick up and dispose of these items at no charge. Property owners adjacent to tree debris placed on the boulevard are asked not to park vehicles near the debris, to help crews in the removal process. Watch for No Parking signs that may be used. If you have large tree debris in your back yard, it should be brought to the street for collection. If that is not possible, you may call 311 weekdays to request an alley pickup. The City will check the location to determine if the needed equipment can access the site. If collection is not possible, the City will advise you, and you will then be responsible for disposal. If alley collection is possible, debris needs to be moved as close to the alley as possible so crews can remove it, since City crews cannot go onto private property to do removal. If you have small branches and pieces of brush, you can use the regular weekly Solid Waste & Recycling yard waste collection service to have them picked up. Crews will pick up tied bundles of brush and small branches that are less than three inches in diameter, less than three feet long and weigh less than 40 pounds. Robin, from the Ward 2 office, has gone out throughout the ward to identify and help address ongoing problems and people should feel free to call us here with questions or concerns (**673-2202**) in addition to the numbers for Xcel (**1-800-895-4999** for downed power lines, **1-800-895-1999** for outages) and the Park Board (**612-313-7710**). I am very grateful for all the hard work of our park and city staff, as well as utility workers, and all the neighbors and community volunteers who have pitched in and cooperated to help with the recovery.

- 2) On June 28, the City Council voted to hold a public hearing on **August 1**, 2013, to discuss placing a question on this fall's general election ballot regarding the City's energy future. If passed by the voters of Minneapolis, this question will authorize the City to form a municipal power utility. I view this as a necessary step to meeting the City's aggressive climate change mitigation goals. Approximately two-thirds of the greenhouse gas emissions in Minneapolis come through our existing electricity and natural gas utilities. A vote to authorize the creation of a municipal utility will not *require* the City to form one, but will give us that option – which I think will help in the ongoing electrical and natural gas franchise negotiations with Xcel and Centerpoint. I will work hard to make sure that Minneapolis will only form a municipal utility after we make certain that we can provide energy services as or more affordably and reliably as the incumbent utilities, and with a greater focus on renewable energy, energy efficiency and local generation. For more information, see:

[www.minneapolisenergyoptions.org](http://www.minneapolisenergyoptions.org).

- 3) The Council has approving moving ahead with hiring SRF Consulting Group for bridge rehabilitation engineering services to rehab the deteriorated 10<sup>th</sup> Ave SE Bridge over the Mississippi River. This link between the west and east banks of the river provides an important connection for motor vehicles, bicyclists, pedestrians, and buses between. In 2009 Public Works hired a consulting firm to perform a structural evaluation and provide a report detailing the bridge's existing conditions. This report helped Public Works solicit and receive both federal and state funding to assist with the bridge rehabilitation costs of over \$12 million. Design will begin in July and is scheduled to be completed early in 2014. Construction will begin in the summer of 2014 is projected to be completed in the summer of 2015.
- 4) The City Council has approved hiring the Center for Energy and Environment to draft a report that explores the various paths the City could take to achieve its energy goals, including examination of potential utility partnerships, changes to how the City uses energy utility franchise fees, and municipalization of one or both energy utilities. The study will help frame the future franchise negotiations with Xcel Energy and CenterPoint Energy. The City has utility franchise agreements with Xcel Energy for electricity and CenterPoint Energy for natural gas that were signed in the early 1990s and expire at the end of 2014. The Center for Energy and Environment is charged with drafting "energy vision" goals and an overview of the various paths the City could take to achieve them. The study should include a review of the current legislative and legal landscape; an examination of existing municipal utilities in Minnesota and across the country, a report on a "municipalization pathway," to include a description of the process, schedule and preliminary cost estimates for forming a municipal utility under Minnesota law. The report will also include information about forming utility partnerships, as well as potential state legislative or Public Utilities Commission regulatory changes. More information can be found at [www.minneapolismn.gov/energyfranchise](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/energyfranchise)
- 5) The Council has unanimously passed the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan ([www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/climate](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/climate)). The Plan, subtitled "a roadmap to reducing citywide greenhouse gas emissions," offers goals and potential strategies to help achieve a 15 percent reduction in emissions by 2015 and a 30 percent reduction by 2025 from 2006 levels. The strategies are grouped into four categories: improving the energy efficiency; increasing our use of local, renewable energy; reducing vehicle miles traveled in Minneapolis and reducing waste. The Plan includes many intriguing recommendations for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, including the use of property-assessed and on-bill financing to fund energy efficiency and renewable energy retrofits for residential and commercial building; encouraging net zero buildings; creating more walkable "complete neighborhoods;" constructing 30 miles of on street, protected bike facilities by 2020 and identifying products and packaging that are neither recyclable or compostable. This plan is a great step in the right direction and I look forward to helping implement many of its ideas and strategies in the years to come.
- 6) The Council has voted to establish a Value Capture District to finance our first streetcar line, on the Central Ave-Nicollet Ave route. This was enabled by the legislature's creation of the Value Capture District funding mechanism, which grants authority to the City to establish a project area including one block to either side of a streetcar line, and place certain taxable parcels into the Value Capture District. The future tax revenues from these parcels may be used to fund the construction of the streetcar line. One of the reasons for taking this action at this time was to enable the City to request – and hopefully receive – federal transit funding to help us build this first streetcar line.
- 7) On July 18, 2013 there will be a public hearing in the City Council Chambers in City Hall to consider five appointments to the NCEC for two-year terms to be effective July, 2013 through June, 2015.
- 8) The *Department of Neighborhood & Community Relations* has recommended adopting a new policy for Preparation and Processing of Neighborhood Priority Plans, and revising the existing NRP Policy on Changing Approved Action Plans. I have some concerns about what the reports considers evidence of broad neighborhood support and also about the provisions that would allow the department director to approve plan changes of up to and over \$100,000 without bringing them to the NRP Policy Board and the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission. Because of these concerns I am considering bring forward amendments when this returns to the Council for final approval on July 19. You can find the full recommendations here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/cow/WCMS1P-101777>
- 9) The 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Minneapolis National Night Out will be Tuesday, August 6. National Night Out is an annual nationwide event that encourages residents to get out in the community, hold block parties and get to know their neighbors as a way to encourage crime prevention. You can [register your event](#) online or through 311. If you want to block your street, you can do so for free through July 23. Not all streets can be blocked, depending on traffic flow. From July 24 through August 1, there is a \$100 fee. After August 1 no applications for blocking off a street will be allowed. To register and for more information see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/nno>.
- 10) 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](mailto:cityclerk@minneapolismn.gov)