



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Second Ward

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Prospect Park, 9-30-13

Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:
Pratt School, October 15th, 9:30-11am

Items:

- 1) Vote November 5th – Election Judges Still Needed
- 2) Tree Community Meeting
- 3) 2014 Budget
- 4) Surly Brewery Project
- 5) Alliance Parking Task Force
- 6) New Licenses approved
- 7) Good Samaritan Property Sold
- 8) Nicollet-Central Streetcar
- 9) Plain Language Charter
- 10) Responsible Banking
- 11) City Energy Vision
- 12) Funding for Streetcars
- 13) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The City has launched website, www.vote.minneapolismn.gov, where voters can register, find their polling place, apply for an absentee ballot and mark a ranked-choice ballot and see how the ballot-counting works. Voting absentee can be done in person at City Hall, or entirely by mail. It can be done in person (as of September 20) in City Hall during regular business hours, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. or on the final two Saturdays before Election Day, Oct. 26 and Nov. 2, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. To vote absentee by mail, voters may request a ballot now. Additionally the city is in need of more election judges. We especially need judges who are fluent in a second language to provide additional language support in the polling place, including in Spanish, Somali, and Hmong. To find out more about becoming an election Judge, visit vote.minneapolismn.gov/volunteer or call 612-673-2296.
- 2) I have organized a Roundtable Discussion about the threats and opportunities facing our urban tree canopy, for **Monday, October 7**, 7-8:30pm, at Longfellow Park, 3435 36th Ave S. We will discuss the tree loss from this summer's storm, Emerald Ash Borer, the importance of watering trees, and the Longfellow Trees program.
- 3) The Mayor has presented his 2014 proposed budget. It calls for a 1% reduction in the property tax levy, an increase in police and fire staffing to deal with expected aging and attrition, adding 311 services on Saturday, increased infrastructure spending, and an air quality study. Notable investments in the Second Ward include \$11 million to rehabilitate the 10th Ave Bridge, \$2.3 million for Bridge 9 improvements, \$1.4 million for long awaited lighting on the Hiawatha LRT Trail, and \$1.3 million for reconstruction of 15th Ave and 4th St near the Brian Coyle Center. I look forward to hearing and sharing more details and exploring ways to better align the city budget with my priorities and the needs and values of my second ward constituents. The Council will now consider the budget from now through December with final approval of the 2014 budget scheduled for Wednesday, December 11th. I expect there to be two public hearings on the proposed 2014 property tax levy and budget on November 19th **at 6:05pm** and December 11th **at 6:05pm** in room 317 of City Hall. You can read Mayor Rybak's 2014 budget speech here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/mayor/news/speeches/WCMS1P-113009>, see the slides that accompanied his speech here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@mayor/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-113013.pdf>, and find the complete proposed budget here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/finance/budget/WCMS1P-113263> I welcome your thoughts and input.

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

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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.

- 4) The Surly Brewery development went before the Planning Commission this afternoon. They are applying for two variances, to reduce the number of parking spaces required and to increase the maximum size of food and beverage uses over 5,000 square feet in an industrial district. They are also seeking site plan approval. Planning staff is recommending that the Planning Commission approve all three applications, and I expect the Planning Commission to do so.
- 5) The University District Alliance has set up a task force to look at changing the parking requirements for residential development in the University Area Overlay. I have introduced this due to concerns I have heard from folks from the U area about some of the ordinance's unintended consequences. John Kari, from Prospect Park, has agreed to chair the task force. The current regulation requires at least one off street parking stall for every 2 bedrooms, or one per dwelling unit (whichever is greater) in any new development. We are considering loosening up on this requirement in some cases and I want to make sure the issue gets fully vetted and influenced by all the views of our University partners who helped create the overlay district.
- 6) The City Council's Regulatory Committee has approved liquor licenses for two new restaurants in the stadium village area. With final Council approval likely to occur later this week, Dino's Fresh Med Grill at 856 Washington Ave. and the Haiku Japanese Bistro at 620 Washington Ave. will be granted class "E" licenses and be permitted to serve wine and strong beer as part of their restaurants businesses. A Class "E" license allows the license holder to have radio, TV, jukebox, or electronically reproduced music but live entertainment is not permitted.
- 7) Bianca Fine, of Fine Associates, has purchased the Good Samaritan property on 27th Ave. near East River Road and Franklin Ave. I have met with her and have encouraged her to meet with the neighborhood. I understand that they are finalizing some plans and renderings and Aaron Roseth, their lead architect, has already started conversations with PPERRIA committee members. As she explained it to me, her intention is not to convert the building into student housing, but to do "a complete upgrade of the building into a high-quality multifamily residential community." Fine Associates does have a track record in Minneapolis and you can find out a little more about them at their website <http://www.fineassociates.com/> . Typically they build and then manage their properties over the long term. They are also currently working on a project in the Cedar Riverside area.
- 8) The Council's Transportation and Public works committee has voted to recommend the Locally Preferred Alternative for the Nicollet-Central Transit Corridor be modern streetcar running between Lake Street and at least 5th Street NE on Nicollet Avenue, Nicollet Mall and Hennepin/1st Avenues, using the Hennepin Avenue bridge to cross the Mississippi River.
- 9) The Council has approved the ballot language for the Plain Language Charter amendment that will appear on the ballot November 5th. If passed the new 63 page charter would replace the current 192 page charter with a more modern language version drafted for brevity and reorganized into nine articles. While it makes no structural changes to how city government works and retains the current role and relationships of City boards and commissions, it does reorganize related provisions together and removes many provisions (many outdated) for possible enactment into ordinance. You can find a full report and read the new charter here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-109178.pdf>
- 10) Council Member Glidden has introduced an ordinance regarding financial institutions and disclosure of information to encourage and ensure that banks and other lending institutions operating in our city, and other lending institutions are socially responsible. I will be very interested in seeing the specifics of this and in finding ways to hold financial institutions accountable if they are not investing in our communities.
- 11) The Council has adopted a strong, future-focused Energy Vision, which you can read here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-113830.pdf>. This document makes clear the sort of energy system the City would like to see in 2040: clean, reliable, affordable and with lots of local energy production and local economic benefit. This is a great start, and I look forward to using the opportunity we have next year – both at the State Legislature and through our energy franchise negotiations – to put us on a path to making this vision a reality.
- 12) Applications are now being accepted for open positions on the following City boards and commissions: Open Positions, Arts Commission, Civil Rights Commission, Advisory Committee On People With Disabilities,, Ethical Practices Board, Homegrown Minneapolis Food Council, Housing Board of Appeals, Minneapolis Public Housing Authority, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Planning Commission, Telecommunications Network (MTN), Zoning Board of Adjustment. For a full list of appointment opportunities and position descriptions, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings