



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Prospect Park, 10-28-13

**Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:
Pratt School, November 19th, 9:30-11am**

Items:

- 1) Vote November 5th
- 2) Ranked Choice Voting Information
- 3) Municipal Election Information
- 4) Good Samaritan Project
- 5) Alcohol Licensing
- 6) I-94 Sound Wall
- 7) Groundbreaking for Surly Brewery
- 8) Community Solar
- 9) "Power Breed" Policy
- 10) Responsible Banking Ordinance
- 11) Streetcars
- 12) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Election day is Tuesday, November 5th. You can find your polling place by going to <http://vote.minneapolismn.gov> and clicking the "Where to Vote" link. The Minneapolis Elections Department is also sending a Voters Guide to all Minneapolis residents, with all the information you need to find your polling place, use Ranked Choice Voting, register same day and more.
- 2) This year, we will be using Ranked Choice Voting in Minneapolis for the second time. I encourage every voter to use all three of your rankings, if you have three preferences in a given race. Remember: your second-choice vote does not hurt your first-choice vote. I have written a "Frequently Asked Questions" piece that you can find here: <http://www.southwestjournal.com/news-feed/faqs-on-ranked-choice-voting>. You can also find a helpful video on RCV here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7XVD9V4wXqc>.
- 3) I have been asked by many constituents for more information about the upcoming municipal election. There are some good resources for people looking to do more research about candidates, especially for mayor. Minneapolis E-Democracy has compiled a list of all of the candidates running for office in Minneapolis, along with links to their contact information, their websites and other information about them, which you can find here: http://pages.e-democracy.org/Minneapolis_elections. Our local Second Ward community radio station, KFAL, has recorded interviews with many, if not all, of the 35 candidates available at their website, <http://kfai.org/news/62>. Additionally there are several mayoral forums coming up including:
 - Oct. 30 – Time TBD - Theater of Public Policy Forum - Bryant Lake Bowl, 810 W. Lake St.
 - Nov. 1 – Noon - MPR Forum - Westminster Presbyterian Church on Nicollet Mall in downtown
- 4) Bianca Fine, of Fine Associates, has purchased the Good Samaritan property on 27th Avenue 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 PPERIA 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." The work that is occurring now is to remove any asbestos from the property. This will take about four months. The company doing this work, Envirobate, is one of the most respected companies in this business. I understand that there are neighborhood concerns about the parking impact of this project, and I have shared those concerns with Fine Associates.

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

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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.

- 5) It is good to hear that PPERRIA has established a task force to discuss the neighborhood's approach to liquor license applications. I have tasked my Policy Aide, Robin Garwood, with attending and helping to the extent possible. I also want folks to know that there are at least two parallel proposals out there for changing the City's current 60/40 requirement for food/alcohol revenue to something else. One idea, being proposed by Council Member Schiff, is to use the same ratio but change the amounts to 50/50. Another, being proposed by a group of restaurateurs, is to come up with a set of performance measures that will ensure that restaurants that serve food remain restaurants and don't start operating as de-facto bars. I am open to this idea, and will be having further discussions with the industry, staff, my colleagues and the communities I represent over the next few months.
- 6) It sounds like we are close to a design solution for the I-94 sound wall that will decrease the noise being reflected up into Prospect Park, resolve the aesthetic concerns of neighborhood residents, and reduce the likelihood that the wall will be a graffiti target. I want to thank Senator Kari Dzeidzic for her hard work on this issue, and Representative Phyllis Kahn.
- 7) Tomorrow is the groundbreaking ceremony for the new Surly Brewery, at 11:00am at the site of the new brewery, 520 Malcolm Ave. This project moved forward with the strong support of the City and the neighborhood, and I'm thrilled to see it break ground.
- 8) Xcel Energy has complied with the state law that requires them to put in place a community solar program by filing their proposed plan with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission just before the September 30 deadline. Community solar is a program that allows people to invest in and benefit from solar panels that are not on their own property. The idea is to allow, for example, homeowners with shady yards to partner with nearby commercial property owners on solar installations, and pay off that investment over time. Unfortunately, Xcel's community solar plan leaves much to be desired. I plan on working on a response to this unimpressive filing by Xcel with City sustainability staff, solar industry experts and my colleagues.
- 9) The Council has unanimously adopted a new policy on adopting large, and so called "power breed," dogs. This represents a large number of dogs that we take in like pit bulls and Rottweilers. When implemented later next year, it will allow Animal Care and Control to adopt out more of these dogs to good homes if they pass a behavioral assessment. This policy is likely to substantially reduce the number of dogs euthanized by the City, as 45% of dogs euthanized last year belonged to power breeds. The Council will have to increase the funding for Animal Care and Control by about \$50,000 per year to pay for the behavioral assessments, but we may also save money in the long term by not having to house as many dogs for as long a time. I was very supportive of this policy change, and appreciate the focus by Animal Care and Control on reducing the number of animals they put down each year.
- 10) The Council has approved Member Glidden's changes to the City's responsible banking ordinance that require financial institutions that provide banking services to the City to publicly disclose an expanded set of information about their lending practices and policies each year. The newly expanded ordinance will create greater transparency and allow the public a clearer view of how banks that handle public dollars operate in our community. The Council can also use the information when selecting financial service providers. The ordinance requires financial institutions to publicly share information by July 1 of each year on loan modifications and foreclosures on residential mortgages on properties located within the city, as well as numbers and amounts of loans given to small businesses, among other data. Commercial banks that provide banking services will also be required to file a Community Reinvestment Plan every two years that describes current and proposed initiatives to address the financial needs of the city and its residents and businesses. Minneapolis is the tenth city in the country to adopt a responsible banking ordinance. I supported this and will be very interested in seeing how we will use it to help us do a better job of holding financial institutions accountable.
- 11) The City Council, with my support, 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. While I have some concerns about the funding and the high cost of building the line I am excited to see the potential of bringing streetcars back to Minneapolis being realized.
- 12) Applications are now being accepted for open positions on the following City boards and commissions: Animal Care and Control Advisory Board, Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Minneapolis Workforce Council, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Police Conduct Review Panel, Seniors Advisory Committee and Telecommunications Network. For a full list of appointment opportunities and position descriptions, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings.