



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Prospect Park, 7-28-14

Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:
Pratt School, Thursday, August 21st, 9:30-11am

Items:

- 1) Briefing on Prospect North
- 2) Open Streets Coming to East Franklin Avenue
- 3) National Night Out
- 4) West River Parkway Closure
- 5) Community Engagement Listening Sessions
- 6) Southwest LRT
- 7) Southeast Library
- 8) Resolution for Natasha Holtman
- 9) Honeybee Ordinance
- 10) City Coordinator and CPED Director
- 11) Youth Tobacco Policy
- 12) Redlining Report
- 13) Expansion of Premises and Parking Lot Ordinances
- 14) Sale of MnDOT Land in Prospect Park
- 15) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) My office has scheduled a briefing on August 27th with Mayor Hodges, Council President Johnson, and the Chairs of the Council's Zoning and Planning, Community Development and Regulatory Services, and Transportation and Public Works committees, along with the appropriate staff, to brief them on the enormous potential of the Prospect North district.
- 2) Open Streets is coming to Franklin Avenue! This linear festival that promotes walking, biking, healthy living, local businesses and civic pride is coming to our neck of the woods in on Franklin Avenue East, **Sunday, August 17**, from 10:00am-4:00pm from Portland Avenue to the Seward Coop. For more information visit <http://openstreetsmpls.com>.
- 3) The 31st Annual Minneapolis National Night Out will be **Tuesday, August 5**. You can still register your event online or through 311. From July 23 through July 31, there is a \$100 fee. After July 31 no applications for blocking off a street will be allowed. To register your event or find a list of those registered in your neighborhood visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/nno>.
- 4) As you've probably heard, a portion of West River Parkway has been closed following a large mudslide. The street, bike path and walking trails remained closed from 4th Street South to near Franklin Avenue. Because the mudslide occurred on the river bluff adjacent to the University of Minnesota Medical Center, Fairview, a number of partners are working together to determine next steps to ensure the site is stabilized, both in the short term and over the long term. The Park Board is leading the effort working with City staff, the University of Minnesota and its contractors, including geotechnical and structural engineers, to develop plans for moving forward.
- 5) The Health, Energy and Community Engagement Committee that I chair and the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission are holding two community meetings on community engagement, first on **Thursday, July 31**, 6-9pm at East Phillips Park, 2307 17th Avenue South, and then on **Saturday, August 2**, 9:30am-noon at Folwell Park, 1615 Dowling Avenue North. This marks a purposeful first step in identifying possible changes to our community engagement system. These meetings will help set the stage for a more careful review and proposed improvements in our community engagement system that could be considered by the Council late this year or early in 2015. If you have ideas or concerns about neighborhoods organizations, the city's neighborhood and community relations and how to improve civic involvement more generally, your participation is especially needed.

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

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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.

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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, llama 612-673-2700;

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

- 6) On July 8 Metropolitan Council Chair Susan Haigh and Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges announced a tentative agreement regarding the plan to build the Southwest Light Rail Project that would extend the Green Line from downtown Minneapolis to Eden Prairie. I remain most concerned about the potential loss of the trail that would result if future elimination of the south tunnel was allowed. I am also concerned about risk posed to our lakes by the south shallow tunnel and would prefer to have supplemental environmental impact study, already drafted, completed before having to vote on this. It is my understanding that this development will require a new timeline for a final approval and that the City Council is expected to set a public hearing on municipal consent on **August 19** and to vote on it at its regular meeting on **August 29**.
- 7) Hennepin County has hired a consultant, Steve Kelly, from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, to lead research and community engagement efforts involved in planning for a new or renovated Southeast Library and future library services for the southeast area. I have appointed Laura Waterman Wittstock, Southeast Como resident and former Minneapolis Library Board member, to be my representative on the Steering Committee that will be guiding this work. I am delighted that Laura will be serving in this capacity and believe that she will represent both me and the community well.
- 8) I was thrilled to be able to author a resolution honoring Prospect Park resident and South High senior **Natasha Holtman** for taking first place in the senior paper category at the National History Day competition. Her paper examines the Kindertransport, a British rescue effort of more than 10,000 Jewish children from Austria, Czechoslovakia and Germany in the lead up to the Second World War. This is a truly impressive academic achievement.
- 9) Council Member Lisa Bender's proposed ordinance to make it easier to keep honeybees in Minneapolis has passed the Council unanimously. Prospective beekeepers will now have to notify their immediate neighbors, but will no longer have to ask neighbors for permission to keep bees.
- 10) Mayor Betsy Hodges has nominated Craig Taylor to be the new Director of the Community Planning and Economic Development department and Spencer Cronk to be the next City Coordinator. Mr. Taylor has run the University of Minnesota's Office for Business and Community Economic Development and Business and Technology Center since 2001. He has also worked in the City enterprise before, heading the Office of Women and Minority Business Enterprise in the 1980s. Mr. Cronk has most recently headed the State of Minnesota Department of Administration, and served as executive director of Organizational Development and senior advisor for the Department of Small Business Services for the City of New York, under former Mayor Michael Bloomberg. Both of these nominations have moved through the Executive Committee, and I expect them to pass the full Council.
- 11) On July 7th, the Minneapolis Youth Congress shared a set of recommendations about how to better regulate tobacco products with the Health, Environment and Community Engagement committee. They asked the City to include e-cigarettes in our Clean Air ordinances and restrict the sales of flavored and small, low cost packs of cigars, cigarillos and other tobacco products targeted to young teenagers. I'm excited to hear from the Youth Congress about the changes they'd like to see in the City's ordinances and policies around tobacco, and will work to bring all the recommended changes forward.
- 12) Myron Orfield from the Institute on Metropolitan Opportunity at the University of Minnesota Law School has presented the findings of the report "Twin Cities in Crisis: Unequal Treatment of Communities of Color in Mortgage Lending" to the Public Safety, Civil Rights and Emergency Management Committee. Representatives from Wells Fargo also made a presentation in response to the findings of the study. The report (which you can find here: <http://www.law.umn.edu/metro/index.html>), raises serious questions about discriminatory lending practices that have disproportionately harmed people of color.
- 13) As expected, the full Council has approved the ordinance amendments I authored on game-day expansion of premises and allowing greater game-day parking flexibility near the TCF stadium.
- 14) The Council's Transportation and Public Works Committee will has recommended the acquisition and "pass-through" sale of Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) land in the Prospect Park East River Road area to the adjacent property owners at 1812 Franklin Ave SE. The owners already have an agreement with the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MNDOT) to buy the small land next to their house for \$2,285. The land is approximately 25' x 85'.
- 15) Visit the City's website for a [full list of appointment opportunities](#) and position descriptions for City boards and commissions. Appointments to boards and commissions are made twice a year — in the spring and fall. This streamlined appointment process makes it easier for folks to learn about volunteer opportunities, ensures a more open and understandable process for residents and staff, and increases the diversity of the applicant pool.