



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

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# Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Longfellow, 8-21-14

**Cam's next Cooper/Seward Office Hours:**  
**Thursday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11:00am**  
**Blue Moon Coffee Café, 3822 E Lake St**

**Items:**

- 1) Pepper and Fries Public Hearing
- 2) Walgreens on Lake
- 3) State Rules for Development Near the River
- 4) Minnehaha Reconstruction in Seward
- 5) Conservation District Ordinance
- 6) CPED Director and City Coordinator
- 7) Disparity Work Group
- 8) Open Data Policy
- 9) Charter Question on Alcohol Ratio
- 10) West River Parkway Closure
- 11) Accessory Dwelling Units
- 12) Trees for Businesses
- 13) Farmstands
- 14) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) City staff is working to schedule a public hearing on the application for a new restaurant called Pepper and Fries in the old SuperAmerica building at 39<sup>th</sup> and Lake Street. The public hearing will be at Brackett Park.
- 2) The proposed Walgreens relocation project at 31st and E Lake Street has changed its site plan to eliminate the curb cut on Lake Street. This modification includes a change to the parking lot that will eliminate the second small building on the corner and replace it with a larger landscaped area. Walgreens will be making this submittal early next week with an expected date for a public hearing at the Planning Commission on **September 29<sup>th</sup>**.
- 3) The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) currently is soliciting public comments on potential new rules for the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA). The DNR will continue to accept comments through **September 30**. More information is available on the DNR website at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/input/rules/mrcca/index.html>. The city has already drafted and I worked specifically to make sure that the area South of 26<sup>th</sup> around Riverside park and all the way to Franklin Ave. is designated a River Neighborhood not an "urban core" or urban mixed area that will likely be the designation for the Hospital and West Bank Campus. I will also be drafting my own comments and am working closely with the Park Board, and Friends of the Mississippi to advocate for the rules that do more to protect the health of the river and also allow the kind of urban park preservation and development that makes the most sense for Minneapolis. Here is a link to the Friends of the Mississippi page on this issue: [http://fmr.org/our\\_programs/river\\_corridor/critical\\_area](http://fmr.org/our_programs/river_corridor/critical_area)
- 4) The City is planning a total street reconstruction of the small stretch of Minnehaha Avenue between 24<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> Streets East that will include new pavement, curbs and gutters, driveways, storm drains, sidewalks and signal modifications. Construction is scheduled for 2015. There will be an informational meeting about this on **August 19, at 1pm** in the community room at Gandhi Mahal, 3009 27<sup>th</sup> Ave S. For more information see <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cip/all/WCMS1P-129264>
- 5) The City Council has unanimously approved the nomination of Craig Taylor as the new Director of the CPED Department, and of Spencer Cronk as the new City Coordinator.

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email [Ahmed.Muhumud@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:Ahmed.Muhumud@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)

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) My proposed amendment to create the legal framework establishing conservation districts in Minneapolis was amended and approved by the Heritage Preservation Commission in July. The amendment, which I intend to support, adds a provision that all complete applications would be reviewed by the HPC as well as by staff. I expect this matter to come before the Zoning and Planning Committee in September (most likely on the 11th) and am considering additional minor amendments based on some of the comments.
- 7) I am delighted to report that the Intergovernmental Relations Committee has authorized the establishment of a working group of city council members, staff of the Mayor's office, and city departments including Civil Rights, Human Resources, Community Planning and Economic Development and Finance to develop, as part of the city's 2015 legislative agenda, proposals that focus on policies that are intended to reduce racial disparities and provide opportunities in employment and economic development. The work group should complete its work by the end of 2014.
- 8) The Council has approved the City's first open data policy. This will lead to the creation of an open data portal so that much more City data can be accessed on line. By doing this people will be able to access entire sets of data in accessible formats that previously were not available without a formal request. I commend Council Member Elizabeth Glidden who initiated this idea in 2013 and Council Member Andrew Johnson for leading the effort this year. You can find the full policy here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-128865.pdf>
- 9) The Charter Commission has authorized putting an amendment to the City Charter on the November ballot relating to the sale of wine and beer in certain establishments. The proposed ballot language and title is as follows: "Remove Mandatory Food Requirements for Wine Licenses Shall the Minneapolis City Charter be amended to remove the requirement that businesses holding on-sale wine licenses in the City must serve food with every order of wine or beer and to remove mandatory food to wine and beer sales ratios?"
- 10) I am sorry to report that it looks like we will have to tolerate the closure of West River Parkway near the site of the mudslide that occurred in June for several more months. Park Board staff have reported that soil continues to move despite current efforts to prevent it and that another slide could occur. They are convinced that a more permanent and expensive solution is needed. They are working with University/Fairview and the Met Council (which owns a tunnel under the slope) to find a construction plan that will work for all groups. We might see construction this fall but it looks like roadway and trail will not reopen until next spring or summer.
- 11) In June Council Member Lisa Bender introduced a Zoning Code Text Amendments that would allow Accessory Dwelling Units (ADUs) in residential areas. ADUs are smaller dwellings that are attached to or on the same property as existing homes. ADUs are currently allowed with a conditional use permit in the North Phillips Overlay District, but they are not allowed in the rest of Minneapolis. Many cities across the country allow ADUs, including Seattle, Portland, and Austin. To explore the idea of allowing ADUs in Minneapolis, Planning (CPED) staff will host four open houses in August and September. Open houses will be held: **Saturday, August 23**, from 10:30am-12:30pm at the Hosmer Community Library, 347 E 36th Street; **Wednesday, August 27**, 5:00– 7:00pm at Eastside Neighborhood Services, 1700 2nd St NE; Tuesday, **September 16**, from 5:00 – 7:00pm at the North Regional Library, 1315 Lowry Ave N; and Wednesday, **September 17**, 5:00 – 7:00pm at Kenwood Community Center, 2101 W Franklin Ave.
- 12) The Minneapolis businesses that pay pollution control fees and have enough space may be eligible for free trees. Our urban forest has been hard hit with storms, pests and diseases. Because of the emerald ash borer pest alone we will likely lose nearly 200,000 ash trees in Minneapolis, so we need to plant as many new trees as we can. One of the best options to replant trees is on private land and the City is planting trees on commercial properties for free. Qualifying businesses must maintain and water the tree. Learn more here <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/environment/green/index.htm>.
- 13) My proposed amendments to reduce regulations on farmstands operating at community gardens, market gardens, has unanimously passed the Planning Commission. The Commission recommended that the City Council approve the amendment as proposed, with one additional change that would allow farmstands to keep one sign up through the entire growing season. The amendment already proposes eliminating the current requirement to obtain a Temporary Use Permit; increasing from 15 to 75 the number of days they can operate per year, and allowing the sale of products from other farms and gardens which are run by the same producer. You can read the staff report here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-129260.pdf>.
- 14) Applications are now being accepted for a number of open board and commission positions that the City Council and mayor will appoint this spring. Applications will be reviewed beginning April 25, but the positions are open until filled. Visit the City's website at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/index.htm> for more information.