



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

Cam Gordon
City Council Member
Second Ward

350 South 5th Street - Room
301M
Minneapolis MN 55415

Office 612-673-2202
Fax 612-673-3250
Cell 612-296-0579

cam.gordon@minneapolismn.gov

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2>

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Longfellow, 5-15-14

Cam's next Cooper/Seward Office Hours:
Thursday, May 22nd, 9:30-11:00am
Blue Moon Coffee Café, 3822 E Lake St

Items:

- 1) License Hearings for Zeke's and Merlin's
- 2) Report on Tree Failure due to Sidewalk Work
- 3) Mobile Grocery Ordinance Passes Committee
- 4) Comment on Park Board Urban Ag Plan
- 5) Environmentally Acceptable Packaging Ordinance
- 6) Proposed Bike Safety Changes to Intersections
- 7) Green Deconstruction Pilot
- 8) Charter Liquor Code Public Hearing
- 9) Upper Saint Anthony Lock to Close
- 10) Progress at the State Legislature
- 11) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) City Licensing staff are organizing a public hearing to discuss the proposed liquor license upgrades for Zeke's Unchained Animal and Merlin's Rest. Both businesses have applied for an upgrade of their entertainment licenses from C-2 to C-1.

- 2) Last June 21, as many of you will recall, a powerful storm caused severe damage to many of the trees in the Second Ward, especially in the greater Longfellow and Seward areas. Concern for all the boulevard trees that were damaged prompted the City to ask the University of Minnesota, Department of Forest Resources' Urban Forestry Outreach, Research and Extension lab to investigate this to determine what if any pre-existing factors may have contributed to the rate of tree failures during this storm. The major finding is that having sidewalk repair and replacement work done increased the odds of root failure and tipped trees by **2.24 times**. For example, when no replacement work was done, the average Linden had a 10.6% chance of root failure; this increased to 21.0% when replacement work was done. Tree species, when combined with replacement work, was also significant, with Linden most likely to fail, followed by Ash, Maple and Elm. Essentially, when replacement work was done near any one of these trees, the rate of failures more than doubled. Tree size was also related to failure rates, with wider trees more likely to fail. The boulevard width and soil compaction also played roles, especially when sidewalk replacement work was conducted. I expect that this study will be reported to the Transportation and Public Works committee, and will do what I can to use it to change our approach to sidewalk and utility work that might damage tree roots.

- 3) Following the public hearing on May 13, the Community Development and Regulatory Services committee unanimously recommended approval of the new Mobile Grocery Store I am authoring. I am happy that some recent changes to the proposal improved it by requiring the businesses to sell only staple foods (not candy, chips or soda). I expect this to pass the full Council on Friday May 23rd and am looking forward to seeing new mobile grocery store businesses operating in the city this spring and summer helping to make sure than more people have better access to healthy foods in Minneapolis.

- 4) The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board (MPRB) has been working on a plan to support urban agriculture within the park system since last December. The final draft of the plan has now been submitted to the Board of Commissioners for approval. The public hearing is scheduled for **Wednesday, May 21st** at 6:30 pm before the Planning Committee of the Board. This plan will guide the MPRB in defining and prioritizing community needs, recommends service delivery goals and strategies, and will guide allocation of resources to support these activities within the neighborhood and regional parks. For more information see <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org/default.asp?PageID=1399>.

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

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, llama 612-673-2700;

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

- 5) The Health Environment & Community Engagement has unanimously recommended approval of the amended packaging ordinance that Council Member Andrew Johnson has authored. I am a strong supporter of the changes being proposed that will help clarify and expand the definition of packaging to be closer to the intent of the 1989 ordinance. It now identifies recyclable materials (including the recycling number stamped on the packaging), and, for the first time, allows for compostable packaging. If approved by the full Council I expect that this will mean that polystyrene (EPS) containers will no longer be used as a food or beverage at any business serving food and beverages in Minneapolis I hope this is only the first step towards eliminating all food containers that contain chemicals that are harmful to human health and the environment and banning all packaging that is not reusable, returnable, recyclable or compostable.
- 6) Seward Montessori School has secured a state Safe Routes to School grant. The grant funding will focus on making 29th Avenue and 24th Street Bike Boulevards and safety improvements along 29th Avenue and the Midtown Greenway, which could be implemented this year. The Seward Neighborhood Group's Community Development Committee has also approved a plan to improve biking in multiple locations in Seward, by: 1) testing a closure of 29th Ave S at the Greenway to motor vehicles, 2) flipping the stop sign at 26th St E and 29th Ave S, to make 29th more bikeable and slow traffic on 26th, 3) flipping the stop sign at 30th Ave S and the Greenway to give bicyclists and pedestrians priority, 4) flipping the stop signs at 27th Ave S and the Greenway to give bicyclists and pedestrians priority, 5) installing bollards to narrow the roadway at 26th Ave S and the Greenway to slow traffic on 26th and prevent potential "double threat" accidents, and 6) installing a center median where the Greenway crosses Minnehaha Avenue, similar to what the City installed where the Greenway crosses 28th St E, to prevent "double threat" accidents and give priority to Greenway users. Several of these ideas impact intersections on the border of Seward and Longfellow, so I would appreciate hearing a formal position from the Longfellow Community Council on these proposals.
- 7) On May 13 the Community Development and Regulatory Services committee approved a new Green Deconstruction Pilot Project with Better Futures Enterprises to pursue deconstruction on two City-owned properties. I am very supportive of this and see it as a step towards significantly reducing waste in the region. Deconstruction is the planned disassembly of buildings with the purpose of harvesting materials for reuse. A great deal of waste from demolition of building goes to landfills in the metropolitan area. I enthusiastically support this effort and expect it to be approved by the full Council at our next meeting.
- 8) The Charter Commission will conduct a public hearing on Wednesday, **June 4**, beginning at 4:30 p.m., for the purpose of soliciting comments concerning the proposed elimination of the requirement that 70% of sales are from food for some restaurants with liquor licenses in the Charter. This would leave regulation of these establishments to Ordinance, along with our other laws concerning bars and restaurants. The proposed amendment would also eliminate Charter restrictions on the ability to sell alcohol until after food has been purchased and limitations on the ability to have a bar area and leave these issues to Ordinance. Written comments may be sent to: Charter Commission Coordinator, Room 304 City Hall, 350 S 5th St, Minneapolis, MN 55415; or e-mailed to: peggy.menshek@minneapolismn.gov. Written comments will be accepted up until 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, June 3, 2014.
- 9) Senator Amy Klobuchar and the Minnesota congressional delegation have won passage of a bipartisan provision to keep invasive carp out of Minnesota's waterways by closing the Upper Saint Anthony Lock. This action was included in final water infrastructure conference bill, which will now go to the full Senate and House of Representatives for final approval. It is expected to pass. This is a huge victory for Minnesota. It will protect the Mississippi and all of its tributaries north of Minneapolis from this invasive species that has done such damage to ecosystems downstream. I want to thank Senator Klobuchar and the delegation for their work to achieve this tremendous success.
- 10) I am glad to see that the state legislature has passed a number of bills I was supporting. Highlights include a raise in the minimum wage to \$9.50, indexed to inflation; a statutory definition for Farmers Markets that allows sampling with more reasonable sanitation standards; restrictions on gun possession for persons convicted of domestic violence offenses; protections for renters who must break a lease early due to safety reasons; the women's work equity bill; and the establishment of the Housing Opportunities Made Equitable (HOME) program that will provide resources and services to increase homeownership and improve rental housing for communities of color and American Indians. The bill expanding expungement of criminal records was also passed by both chambers and now awaits the Governor's approval. The bill allows expungement of certain records following post-discharge crime-free periods. The legislature has also passed a bill prohibiting soaps and cleaning products from containing triclosan, an action supported by the Minneapolis legislative agenda. I want to thank all of the members of the Minneapolis legislative delegation for their work to bring about these accomplishments.
- 11) Applications are now being accepted for a number of open board and commission positions that the City Council and mayor will appoint this spring. 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.