

## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Prospect Park, 9-26-16

**Cam Gordon**  
City Council Member  
Second Ward

**Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:  
Hub City Cafe & T Rex Cookie 3338 University Ave SE  
Thursday, October 20, 9:30-11am**

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### Items:

- 1) New Office Hour location in Prospect Park
- 2) Electric Steel Elevators
- 3) Open Streets - University of Minnesota/West Bank
- 4) Zero Waste Stakeholder Meetings
- 5) Dakota Access Pipeline Resolution.
- 6) Kids Voting Mpls
- 7) Early Voting
- 8) Voters' Guide
- 9) Election Judges
- 10) West River Parkway and the Franklin Avenue Bridge
- 11) Openings on Boards and Commissions

1) After enjoying months of meeting at Espresso Expose at 600 Washington for regular "office hours" in the ward, I was sorry to see it close in September as part of the sale and future redevelopment at the property. Starting in October I will hold my "Prospect Park Office Hours" at Hub City Cafe & T Rex Cookie at 3338 University Ave SE. Provided there are not unavoidable scheduling conflicts, I will be there every 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday from 9:30 – 11:00am.

2) I was disappointed to learn that city staff failed to report back to the City's Historic Preservation Commission with the historic designation study on the Electric steel elevators within the legal 12 month timeframe. Since the study was first ordered, the University of Minnesota purchased the elevators, but it was my expectation that the matter would still continue through the City process. This included the study that was never finished, and, because it wasn't, the interim protections that prevented demolition expired September 12. Without the study being completed, without an extension, and without the opportunity for the city Council to consider historic designation, I believe that the University can now re-apply for a demolition permit and it will be considered administratively, without needing Council approval or any further historic review. The "official" city explanation for this is that "there was not enough resources to do so." I am also concerned that there was lack of staff oversight due, in part, to staff changes and to the fact that the matter was not a higher priority for the department. It is the University's position (not necessarily shared by the City Attorney's office) that the University does not need to apply for land use approvals for this project because they, not the city, have authority over construction on university property. So, they have taken the matter to the Board of Regents and on September 8, the University administration presented their recommendation to demolish the Electric Steel Elevators building to them. The University's historic review that was shared with the State Historic Preservation Office can be found at <http://z.umn.edu/ese2016>. It is my understanding that the University wants to tear down the elevators to relocate a sports bubble and field to serve Twin Cities campus students in intramural athletics. The University is accepting comments on the proposed demolition via email to [cppm@umn.edu](mailto:cppm@umn.edu). Approval of the demolition will be on the agenda for Board action at the meeting October 13 – 14. You can see what the Regents reviewed in September here:

[https://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/docket/fac\\_-\\_sep\\_2016\\_1.pdf](https://regents.umn.edu/sites/regents.umn.edu/files/docket/fac_-_sep_2016_1.pdf)

3) The Open Streets community celebration that will include the West Bank, Dinkytown and both sides of the U of MN Minneapolis campus will be held this **Saturday, October 1**, from 11 am – 5 pm. This is a great opportunity to promote healthy living, local businesses, sustainable transportation and our great local communities. For a map and more info visit

[http://www.openstreetsmpls.org/u\\_of\\_mn](http://www.openstreetsmpls.org/u_of_mn).

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People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

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- 4) The City has contracted with Environmental Initiatives to facilitate three initial community meetings to help inform our Zero Waste Plan that will be drafted later this year and early in 2017. I expect there to be more meetings as we identify the specific goals, strategies and implementation in plan in the months ahead. The meetings, focused on three distinct areas will allow community members, businesses, and interested organizations to share input, ideas, and help influence the City's plan to eliminate waste. Meetings are open to the public, but an RSVP is requested. The first, focused on the Multi-Family / apartment building sector was **September 22**. The second meeting, focused on the commercial / business sector will be on **Wednesday, September 28**, from 8:30am – 12:00pm at the Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall. The 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting, for the lower density residential sector will be on **Tuesday, October 18**, 2016 from 6:00 – 8:00pm at the Minneapolis Urban League 2100 Plymouth Avenue N. For more information and to RSVP visit <http://environmental-initiative.org/our-work/environmental-policy/city-of-minneapolis-zero-waste-plan>
- 5) The Council, with my strong support, passed a resolution on Friday September 2, in support of the indigenous opposition to the Dakota Access pipeline. The proposed pipeline, that would be constructed and owned by Dakota Access, LLC, a subsidiary of Energy Transfer Crude Oil Company, LLC, to transport crude oil from the Bakken/Three Forks oilfield in North Dakota. It would run for 1,172 miles and would travel through lands sacred to the Lakota people, and cross under the Missouri, Mississippi, and Big Sioux rivers, eventually reaching to Patoka, Illinois. Hundreds of protesters, primarily Lakota and Dakota from Native American reservations within a several-hundred-mile radius as well as farmers and scientists, with support from over 30 environmental organizations, have gathered at the edge of the Standing Rock reservation in North Dakota to voice their opposition. You can find more information here <http://www.dapipelinefacts.com/> and here <http://www.motherjones.com/environment/2016/08/new-american-mega-pipeline-youve-never-heard-dakota-access-bakken>
- 6) Kids Voting Minneapolis is a community-based, nonpartisan, nonprofit organization working to prepare Minneapolis' 50,000 K-12 students to be educated, informed voters. It is part of a national network of that combines civic learning in the classroom, and an authentic voting experience to prepare the next generation of citizens. To do that, they rely on volunteers to sign up at: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf0aawZVRRi6yueiZsKXB5\\_Prm\\_LsvMXXYOpvH7xEBlmrHWog/viewform?c=0&w=1](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSf0aawZVRRi6yueiZsKXB5_Prm_LsvMXXYOpvH7xEBlmrHWog/viewform?c=0&w=1)
- 7) While Election Day is **November 8th**, Minneapolis voters can cast early ballots in the 2016 Presidential General Election, both by mail and in person, starting Friday September 23rd and ending Monday, November 7th. Early Vote Centers will be operating at 217 S. Third Street (downtown); 2100 Plymouth Ave N, 55411 (in the Minneapolis Urban League); 2516 Central Ave NE, 55418 (in the Water Bar); and, 1860 E 28th St, 55407 (in the Roof Depot). Voters must complete a request form to receive an absentee ballot. This form is available from the City's elections website, so voters should download and complete the form and bring it to one of the City's four Early Vote Centers. You can access the request form at [www.vote.minneapolismn.gov/voters/absentee](http://www.vote.minneapolismn.gov/voters/absentee). Visit [www.vote.minneapolismn.gov](http://www.vote.minneapolismn.gov), [www.facebook.com/votempls](https://www.facebook.com/votempls), [www.twitter.com/votempls](https://www.twitter.com/votempls), #WhereIVote, [www.facebook.com/events/1072432446185951/](https://www.facebook.com/events/1072432446185951/) for more resources.
- 8) The city will be distributing an improved and expanded 2016 Election Voter Guide all households this year. This is something I have talked about since my first campaign for city council and builds on the success of the first voter guide we did in the 2013 municipal election. This year the guide will include a sample ballot that is an exact match of the specific ward-and-precinct of the voter's household. People can pre-mark selections on the sample ballot as a guide to reduce time spent in the polls marking the official ballot. Those voter guides are in production right now, and we have planned a target release date of October 31/November 1 to hit all households—exactly one week before Election Day.
- 9) West River Parkway and the Franklin Avenue Bridge have both reopened as of September 1. I know that both of these necessary projects have meant inconvenient detours for my constituents for months or years. It will be a relief to have these important routes back, safer and better than before. That's especially true for the Franklin Bridge, where the new bridge will offer pedestrians a much better, safe and more aesthetically appealing fence and observation areas and bicyclists a fully protected bikeway in each direction, physically separated from cars. I want to thank the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and Hennepin County for bringing these projects to fruition, and City of Minneapolis staff for all of their work in partnership on these projects.
- 10) Applications are now being accepted for a number of open board and commission positions that the City Council and mayor will appoint this fall. Board and commission members in the City of Minneapolis provide valuable insights, help shape key policy decisions and provide community-based input into administration of services. The City is seeking applicants with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences to strengthen the work of the City. Applications will be reviewed beginning Oct. 21. There are 151 open positions on 17 City boards and commissions. Please visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/index.htm> for a list of appointment opportunities, position descriptions and the applications.