



Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Longfellow, 4-26-16

Cam's Next Longfellow/Cooper Office Hours:
Thursday, April 28th, 9:30-11:00am
Blue Moon Coffee Café, 3822 E Lake St

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Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612- 673-3737;

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Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612- 673-3737.

Items:

- 1) Park Funding
- 2) Clean Energy Partnership wins EPA Award
- 3) Bring Your Own Bag
- 4) Pollution Control Billing
- 5) Cart Delivery Map
- 6) Election 2016
- 7) Police Body Worn Camera Policy
- 8) Intentional Community Ordinance
- 9) 29th Ave S Bike/Walk Street
- 10) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The Minneapolis Park Board, City Council and Mayor appear to be close to reaching a resolution that would provide new funds for neighborhood parks. The plan, if approved, will provide an additional \$8 million in annual capital funds for neighborhood parks and a \$3 million increase in the park's operating levy, as well as \$21.2 million annually for street capital improvements and an increase of \$800,000 per year for ongoing street maintenance. Most of it (82%) would be paid for through increases in the property tax levy, 7% from sales taxes and an increase in storm water fees, 5% from some clearly identified cash reserves in the first few years, and 5% from reductions in the special pension and tree levies. The proposal also stipulates that a large portion of the Consolidated Tax Increment Financing district, which currently supports the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department and helps fund neighborhood organization work, would be decertified in 2020 to provide more property taxes to be used to support streets and parks. Given this, and the commitment to also use sales taxes in excess of what is already obligated to pay for the downtown professional football and basketball facilities, means we will need to be especially thoughtful in developing alternative funding sources to support critical neighborhood and community engagement and revitalization work in our city. If you wish to learn more, many more details can be accessed at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-176478>. I do regret that we are grappling with these kinds of decisions outside our normal budget process, but know that these decisions will now be a part of this year's and future budget deliberations. Still, I am hopeful that a final compromise has now been reached that the Council will approve and that will provide needed funding, in a responsible way, over the next 20 years to maintain and improve our neighborhood parks, as well as our streets. Both are worthwhile public investments that are sure to benefit the residents of Minneapolis for years to come.
- 2) The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has named the Minneapolis Clean Energy Partnership a 2016 Climate Leadership Award winner in the Innovative Partnerships category for addressing climate change.

- 3) Early this month the City Council approved the Bring Your Own Bag ordinance that I co-authored with Council Member Warsame. The ordinance is intended to help us reduce litter, waste, and environmental degradation through the thoughtful regulation of the distribution of carryout bags in retail establishments. It is based on similar ordinances already in a variety of cities throughout the United State included Seattle, Washington and Cambridge Massachusetts and will not take effect until June 1, 2017. This will provide time for stores and customers to adapt to the change, if needed, and for city staff will to develop recommendations for implementing, enforcing, and studying the effects of, the ordinance. When it goes in to effect, it will mean that retail establishments may not provide plastic carryout bags to any customer; retail establishments providing bags to customers may only use recyclable paper bags, compostable plastic bags or bags designed to be reusable multiple times and establishments providing bags must charge customers at least 5 cents per bag. (Customers who receive food assistance are exempted from paying for a bag) or they may choose to pay a \$0.05 fee to a litter cleanup nonprofit in lieu of charging this fee. Certain types of plastic bags will be exempt from the prohibition, including produce bags that come into direct contact with food and takeout food bags.
- 4) Early this month, the Council passed a major reform to our program that allows the city to charge fees to offset impacts from polluting businesses (aka Pollution Control Annual Billing system). Now, for the first time, we will charge polluters based on their actual emissions, rather than by the air pollution remediation efforts taken.
- 5) If you've already signed up for a new organics cart and expect it in the spring rollout, you can check here <http://minneapolismn.gov/solid-waste/organics/WCMS1P-140615> to see which week your cart will arrive. Find more information at www.minneapolismn.gov/organics.
- 6) In April the Council approved adding polling places and expanding our in person absentee (or early) voting options in preparations for the 2016 primary and general election on August and November 8th. This includes one new polling place in Ward 2 in the greater Longfellow area at Longfellow School at 3017 E 31st St for voters living in Ward 2 Precinct 11. For more see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcmsp-176555.pdf>
- 7) I participated in some of the community meetings on this and have concluded that the policy should improve to include the provisions that police should record interactions with all people who have not requested to be kept anonymous; should notify subjects that, in certain instances, they have the option to remain anonymous and stop recording if they choose this option; that we should allow civilians to review footage of themselves or their relatives and to request this be released to the public and stored for at least two years; and, that officers should not review footage of an incident before completing an initial report, statement or interview about the incident. I will be working with Police Department administration to make these part of the policy if possible. I expect the final policy governing police worn camera's to be completed late in May and to come before the Public Safety Committee.
- 8) I am working in conjunction with the Minneapolis Coalition for Intentional Communities on an ordinance amendment that would allow Intentional Communities to share housing up to the maximum safe occupancy of the dwelling they are sharing. Intentional communities will be defined as self-identified groups of two or more people living together, who share in the management and governance of their household, and who share in the work to maintain their residence. Some intentional communities are cooperatives, others have a less-formal set of agreements. There will be significant safeguards in place to ensure that unscrupulous landlords and problematic tenants will not be able to take advantage of this ordinance. I have long believed that the way we regulate maximum occupancy in the Zoning Code is problematic, and should change. We need to open our minds – and our laws – to a more flexible definition of 'family' that better matches the way many people want to live together in the 21st Century. I view this change as a small, cautious step in that direction, and hope to see it become law in the next few months. My office will be organizing a large community meeting this summer to discuss this idea, and I am also open to attending any neighborhood group that would like to receive a presentation on this concept.
- 9) The City and parents who are active with Seward Montessori recently learned that we will be receiving a \$300,000 grant to transform 29th Ave S into a "Bike/Walk Street," sometimes also known as a bicycle boulevard, from at least Franklin Avenue to Lake Street. Public Works staff are currently working on plans, which may include some traffic diverters that will allow people on bikes and on foot to continue, but prevent cars from using 29th as a through street. There will be additional conversation about the test closure of 29th at the Greenway, and whether to keep that closure or replace it with some other solution that will work well for both the Greenway and 29th. I am also interested in trying to find a way for the facility to reach all the way down to Minnehaha Avenue.
- 10) 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.