

## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Prospect Park, 4-25-16

Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:  
Espresso Expose, 600 Washington Ave SE  
Thursday, May 19th, 9:30-11am

### 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](mailto:cam.gordon@minneapolismn.gov)

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2>  
<http://secondward.blogspot.com/>  
[www.facebook.com/camgordonward2](http://www.facebook.com/camgordonward2)

If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact [NCR@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:NCR@minneapolismn.gov) or 612- 673-3737 (673-2157 TTY/VOICE)

If you want help translating this please contact [NCR@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:NCR@minneapolismn.gov) or 612- 673-3737

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

Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612- 673-3737

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

### Items:

- 1) Park Funding
- 2) Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance
- 3) Pollution Control Annual Billing ([PCAB](#))
- 4) Emergency Shelters Ordinance Public Hearing
- 5) Intentional Community Ordinance
- 6) Great Streets Business District Support Grants
- 7) Transit Oriented Development Funding
- 8) Blueprint for Equitable Engagement
- 9) Franklin Ave Bridge
- 10) Prospect Park Trail Update
- 11) 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 over \$10 million for parks every year for the next 20 years to invest in neighborhood parks. I am supportive of spending more to close the unmet needs in our parks, as well as our streets, and have been looking carefully at various (sometimes competing) proposals to find one that addresses all the needs with acceptable revenue sources. I am hopeful that a well-crafted compromise that I can support will be presented this week that the Council will approve later this month or early next month. More details can be accessed at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-176478>
- 2) The Council approved the Bring Your Own Bag ordinance that I co-authored with Council Member Warsame. Its effective date is 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 a studying, implementing and enforcing 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, takeout food bags, bags newspapers and dry cleaning bags. This ordinance helps us take one more step towards being a more sustainable and "zero waste" city.
- 3) The Council has 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.
- 4) The ordinance finishing the work on the Overnight and Emergency Shelters ordinance amendments my colleague Lisa Bender and I passed to our Zoning code last year will be coming forward for a public hearing on **May 16**. This ordinance amendment would add a new chapter to our Health and Sanitation section to provide for the licensing and regulation of Emergency Shelters. I expect and hope that this ordinance will pass.
- 5) 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. The ordinance will create a registration process that will be run by the Regulatory Services department. 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. A landlord will only be allowed to have an ownership interest in one dwelling occupied as an Intentional Community (though cooperatives whose members live in the dwellings they own will not be subject to this limitation). No landlords with any problem properties (defined as Tier II or Tier III) may have an Intentional Community register in one of their properties. If a household registered as an Intentional Community does not meet the City's standards at any point, that household may lose its Intentional Community status and revert to the zoning code's maximum occupancy. Additionally, if registered Intentional Communities violate other laws – hosting noisy and unruly assemblies, breaking the “social hosting” ordinance by having underage drinking on the premises, etc. – that household may lose its Intentional Community status. 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.

- 6) If approved by the Council at the end of the month, funding will be contracted with Prospect Park 2020, Inc. for \$10,000 as part of our Great Streets program to support work already underway by the University Avenue Innovation District to develop a marketing and branding plan for the Innovation District.
- 7) One Friday April 29th, the Council is likely to vote to authorize submission of 2016 Hennepin County Transit Oriented Development Grant applications to Hennepin County. Two of these are in Prospect Park. The Aeon project, at 3001 4th Street SE, is requesting a loan of \$450,000 to assist with the construction of 75 new apartment homes that include 30 units for unaccompanied youth with dependent children, 38 affordable apartments for families under 60% of area median income, and seven unrestricted apartments. The Green Fourth Street proposal includes a grant request of \$1,400,000 from the University of Minnesota Foundation, Real Estate Advisors for use on 4th Street SE between Malcolm Avenue and 25th Avenue SE for utilities, wayfinding, lighting, bicycle infrastructure, site work, landscaping, sidewalks/trails, stormwater, streetscaping, street furnishings, plaza, transit shelters and more. The street directly links the Prospect Park and Stadium Village LRT stations.
- 8) The Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee discussed the Neighborhood and Community Relations plan for equitable engagement in April. At that meeting we determined to hold it in committee in order to allow committee members to be briefed more fully, consider amendments and bring it back on **May 16** for possible amendments and then considering it for adoption by the Council. I believe the approval of the full Council of this plan, developed over the course of more than a year with input from community and neighborhood groups, offers great potential to improve our community engagement efforts in the city, to strengthen the capacity of neighborhood organizations, and the city's our partnership with them, and also to improve the functioning and effectiveness of our boards and commissions. To learn more visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-176586>
- 9) Construction activity on the Franklin Avenue Bridge will be continuing this spring and summer. In April, crews began work on the bridge deck itself and motorists should expect some shifting of traffic lanes and concrete barriers to create the proper work areas. Additional orange traffic drums and delineators will also be used to help guide traffic. Please be aware of crews working on site and allow for extra time to travel across the Franklin Avenue Bridge. If you have any questions or concerns, contact [franklinbridge@hennepin.us](mailto:franklinbridge@hennepin.us) or 888-474-8929. More information is available at [www.hennepin.us/franklinbridge](http://www.hennepin.us/franklinbridge). The closing of the Franklin Avenue bridge this year is going to impact businesses in the Seward neighborhood that have customers from the Prospect Park and University neighborhoods. For some businesses, these customers represent 25% or more of their sales. A significant drop in sales would be difficult. Please let me know if I can help in any way with getting the word out.
- 10) In April the City Council voted to authorize City staff to negotiate with CP Rail for the possible acquisition of property needed to construct the Prospect Park Trail. This could then allow us to use the segment of the Soo Line railroad right-of-way so that a trail connection can be made between 27th Avenue and Franklin Avenue Southeast, and then to Essex as part of future private development projects. The City Council would need to approve the purchase if an agreeable price can be established.
- 11) Visit the City's website, <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/index.htm>, 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.