

## Second Ward April/May 2017 E-newsletter

News from Cam Gordon

Council Member, Second Ward

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

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**Green Zones.** In April, the Council adopted our first-ever Green Zones policy and established two Green Zones, one northern and one southern, with a pilot area in each of them. Green Zones are a way to make targeted environmental and health investments in areas that have historically faced environmental injustice and racism. This work started with a recommendation in the Climate Action Plan, and has been brought forward by a large stakeholder group led by Kelly Muellman in the Sustainability Office. The northern pilot area includes the McKinley and Hawthorne neighborhoods and both sides of the river in north/northeast. The Southern Pilot includes Ventura Village, East Phillips and Little Earth. This summer we will begin the work to establish exactly what the interventions will be in each of these zones. A huge thank you goes to all the volunteers and staff who served on the Greens Zones work group who analyzed the data, debated, discussed and drafted the policy. I am glad to have reached this milestone, and proud to have helped shepherd this complex and important policy through the Council. It's both a win for the environment and for equity, and I hope that it will lead us to do significantly more work to improve the environment and people's health in some of the most overburdened communities in Minneapolis and serve as a model for others to follow in the future.

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-197530.pdf>

**City Comprehensive Plan Goals.** The Council has approved 14 goals to guide the new comprehensive plan that will be drafted and approved over the next year. After hearing from a number of concerned residents I worked with the authors of the resolution, Council Members Bender and Reich, to add the following goal statement: "...in 2040, Minneapolis will have an equitable civic participation system that enfranchises everyone, recognizes the core and vital service neighborhood organizations provide to the City of Minneapolis, and builds people's long term capacity to organize to improve their lives and neighborhoods." You can find the full amended and approved resolution, that contains all 14 goals, here

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-195454>.

**Waste Tires Resolutions.** Both the City Council and the Park and Recreation Board passed resolutions related to the use of waste tires on playgrounds and athletic fields in April. The Park Board's resolution was drafted in response to the City's resolution that highlights health and environmental concerns raised by Play It Safe Minneapolis and others last year. I was glad to see that the Park Board has committed to at least consider alternative materials in new and rehabilitated synthetic turf fields. Additionally they will report to the Council's Health, Environment, and Community Engagement Committee during athletic field project scoping, research alternatives to poured-in-place playground surfacing; and install health and safety information signs at all their synthetic athletic fields. The Council resolution that I authored

prohibits the use of City funds for the installation or replacement of any facilities using waste tires and encourages others to discontinue the use of the waste materials in Minneapolis. In Minneapolis, the School and Park Boards are considered independent boards and the city resolution falls short of prohibiting the use of waste tire mulch and crumb by them as well as private and other public entities. The Park Board resolution is here <http://minneapolisparksmn.igmp2.com/Citizens/FileOpen.aspx?Type=1&ID=1685&Inline=True>, and the City action here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-194284>. I view these as important steps in the direction of protecting our environment, ourselves and especially our children from this dangerous material. In the months ahead I will be evaluating the possibility of drafting an ordinance prohibiting waste tires from being used as ground cover or infill on any property in the city.

**I-94 Open House Meetings.** The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) is seeking community input as they begin planning for major reconstruction of I-94 between Broadway Ave in Minneapolis and Highway 61 in St Paul. MnDOT is doing this work under the project name “Rethinking I-94” and appears open to different ways of thinking about how to leverage the highway improvements to bring real community benefits. There will be 2 meetings in Minneapolis and 3 in St. Paul. The Minneapolis meetings will be held on **June 6 – 5:00-7:00pm** at the Hope Community Center 611 E Franklin Ave, and **June 28 – 2:00-4:00 and 6:00-8:00pm** at the Bryan Coyle Center 420 15th Ave S. You can learn more here <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/I-94minneapolis-stpaul/>. This process offers a rare opportunity for us to reclaim some of the land and repair some of the damage done to Ward 2 and the Twin Cities by the construction of the interstate highway system. To spark your imagination about what this could mean please check out <http://minnesota.uli.org/advisory-services/technical-assistance-panel-tap/mndot-technical-assistance-panel-healthy-communities-initiative/> from the Urban Land Institute and the Metropolitan Design Center.

**Neighborhoods 2020.** I was glad to see that neighborhood organizations and the Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) hosted meetings to discuss the role and future of neighborhood organizations in Minneapolis. I participated in two of these meetings that are intended to help us prepare for changes in funding after 2020, when the taxing district that is the current funding source for not only the city support for neighborhood organizations, but also for the Commission and the Neighborhood and Community Relations Department. This is a next step in developing recommendations for the Minneapolis City Council on the future work of neighborhood organizations. For more information see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/boards/ncec/WCMS1P-152025>

**Emergency Shelter Grants.** The City of Minneapolis is seeking funding proposals for the 2017 Emergency Solutions Grant (ESG) program. ESG program funds may be used to renovate, rehabilitate and convert buildings for use as emergency shelters for people who are homeless. There is approximately \$400,000 available and proposals are due no later than 4:00pm on Friday, June 9, 2017. For more information regarding this please visit the City’s web site: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/rfp/index.htm>; and look under Housing Development. Questions can be directed to Tiffany Glasper at [Tiffany.Glasper@minneapolismn.gov](mailto:Tiffany.Glasper@minneapolismn.gov).

**Preserve Affordable Housing.** In April the City Council approved \$1.5 million for a new Minneapolis Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing (NOAH) Preservation Fund to assist non-profit housing providers to acquire and preserve rental property in Minneapolis. NOAH generally refers to unsubsidized multifamily rental housing affordable to households with incomes at or below 60 percent of the area median income (\$51,480 for a family of four.) Rents in NOAH units average between \$550 and \$1,200 per month. Minneapolis has about 23 percent of the NOAH units in the seven-county metropolitan area, or about 38,000 units. The strong real estate market and low rental vacancy rate (2.7% regionally) has made these properties more attractive to investors, leading to increased sales, higher rents and displaced tenants who cannot afford these increased rents. You can learn more here [http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcms\\_p-191816.pdf](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcms_p-191816.pdf)

**Short Term Food License.** The Council has approved the ordinance amendment to the Food Code that I coauthored with Council Member Palmisano streamlining our short-term and seasonal short-term food permits by eliminating Farmers Market specific licenses and reclassifying them to only need one seasonal food permit. You can learn more here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-194568>.

**Co-responder Pilot Project.** In April the Council authorized a contract with Hennepin County for Psychiatric Emergency (COPE) mental health professionals who will participate in our Co-Responder pilot program for mental health crisis response. In our pilot program, a specially trained patrol officer will be paired with a mental health professional to respond to 911 calls involving people who may be emotionally disturbed or suffering a mental health crisis of some kind. There will be three officers and two mental health professionals assigned to these teams who will work Monday – Friday, from 10:00am-6:00pm throughout the service areas of the Fifth and Third Precincts, with offices at the Fifth Precinct headquarters at 3101 Nicollet Ave.

**American Indian Memorandum of Understanding.** The Council has approved an updated memorandum with the Metropolitan Urban Indian Directors (MUID) group. The update is intended to better reflect the current structure and a restored commitment from the both the City and MUID. The Council also approved the following city team to serve on the MOU's workgroup: Alondra Cano, Council Member; David Rubedor, Director, Neighborhood and Community Relations Department; Craig Taylor, Director, Community Planning and Economic Development; Gretchen Musicant, Commissioner, Minneapolis Health Department; Gene Ranieri, Director, Intergovernmental Relations Department; and Janee Harteau, Police Chief. For more visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-197779>

**American Indian Month.** May 1st, the American Indian community came together to kick-off the celebration of Indian Month in MN. May also marks the month when in 1863 the Dakota were officially exiled from Minnesota and more than 1,000 Dakota people were forced onto steamboats just outside Minneapolis and exiled to the South Dakota Crow Creek reservation. Many died on the voyage. (<http://usdakotawar.org/history/aftermath/exile>). You can find information on American Indian Month events at

[https://indigenousties.com/msp/calendar/2017-05/?utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_name=&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term](https://indigenousties.com/msp/calendar/2017-05/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term)

**Police Chief in the News.** There has been a good deal of news about the Police Chief's recent Fourth Precinct Inspector appointment that the Mayor overruled. I believe that we would be better off if even more stakeholders within City government had authority over the police department. I think we should amend the Minneapolis Charter provision that puts the supervision of the police department solely in the mayor's hands, distancing it from the City Council and thus the electorate. Unlike any other City department, according to the Charter, the mayor is "vested with all the powers of said city connected with and incident to the establishment, maintenance, appointment, removal, discipline, control and supervision of its police force..." It is this arrangement that has made it particularly difficult for Council Members to fully engage and influence how we manage and assist our police officers. The Council cannot direct staff, set policy about police behavior or institute promising management practices, when the Charter gives the Council no authority over the department, except to approve the appointment of the police chief and the department's budget. It is time to put the police chief and police department on equal footing with other department heads and departments.

**Summer Safety Plans.** On May 4<sup>th</sup> the Police Department released summer safety plans for each precinct. I appreciate these efforts to proactively prepare for increased activity, and often increased crime, during the summer months. You can review the full plans for the First Precinct (that includes downtown and Cedar Riverside), the Second Precinct (including Southeast Como, Prospect Park and the University area) and the Third Precinct (including Seward, Longfellow and Cooper) here [http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2/CONVERT\\_246884](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2/CONVERT_246884).

**Council Concerned About Federal Budget.** I was glad to support sending a formal letter from the City to the Minnesota Congressional Delegation expressing the City's serious concerns about the proposed federal budget that included some \$54 million in cuts to domestic programs and large increases to defense and national security spending. This includes devastating cuts to Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, Transportation, Environmental Protection, Justice, Economic Development and the Arts. You can find the letter and more details about these cuts here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-197953>

**Federal Arts Funding Cuts.** The Council has passed a resolution specifically opposing the President's proposed budget eliminating the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA), the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). Sixty-five percent of NEA grants go to small and medium sized organizations that reach underserved populations, including immigrants, communities of color, people with disabilities and veterans, among others. More than half of NEA-funded arts events take place in areas where the median household income is less than \$50,000. Many Minneapolis arts organizations and business associations with strong arts programming have received or are seeking NEA, NEH and IMLS funding for community revitalization, family literacy, education, and economic development through internet access, job training, access to information and skills development.

**Capital Improvement Projects.** The City and its Capital Long-Range Improvement Committee (CLIC) has hosted two information sessions regarding the upcoming capital improvement projects for next year. The CLIC report is an annual report that recommends to the Mayor and City Council a portion of the capital improvement projects requested by departments, boards and commissions for the upcoming five-year period. Capital Budget Requests totaling over \$988 million have been requested related to bridges, roads, sidewalks, streets, streetlights, traffic control, bike and pedestrian projects, sewers, water, parks, and more. You can find more information here <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/finance/reports/WCMS1Q-068780>.

**Property Tax Assessment Report.** On May 3 the City Council formally approved the final City assessment rolls by approving our Local Board of Appeal and Equalization report. The total value of the property in Minneapolis has been assessed to be over 47 billion dollars and increased 3.7 billion from last year. A total of 755 individuals appealed their assessment this year, including 38 from Ward 2. Each year the assessor's office visits, door knocks and offers to do indoor assessments of roughly 1/5<sup>th</sup> of the city. Last year they completed the Seward area in Ward 2 and will be covering the Cedar Riverside, Cooper and Longfellow areas this year. For more information visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/assessor/>

**2016 Fire Depart Annual Report.** The Fire department 2016 report that you can find at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@fire/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-197805.pdf> has been released. The total number of fires is down from 619 in 2015 to 557 and the number of fire deaths and injuries is also down from 8 and 24 last year to 3 deaths and 16 injuries this year. Even though the number of fires was down, the number of calls for service has gone up significantly from 41,348 in 2015 to 49,899 in 2016. A large majority (34,826) of those were for emergency medical service and rescue.

**Super Bowl Host Committee Agreement.** The City has authorized entering into a funding agreement with the Minnesota Super Bowl LII Host Committee for additional City services for 2018 Super Bowl events. The Host Committee will be reimbursing the City for services above and beyond what's normally included in department budgets. The estimated City costs to be reimbursed by the Host Committee will be approximately \$4.89 million. The City also authorized the Minneapolis Police Department to enter into a joint powers agreement with other law enforcement agencies to provide for security needs during the 10 days of Super Bowl related activities. The agreement also requires the Host Committee to pay for police liability insurance for law enforcement officers utilized under the joint powers agreement.

**International Compost Awareness week.** The Council has passed a resolution recognizing and celebrating **May 7 – 13** as International Compost Awareness Week. This year's theme, Compost! Healthy Soil, Healthy Food, highlights the importance of compost to clean, plentiful water, healthy soil and growing nutritious, abundant food. You can find more here <http://compostfoundation.org/icaw>

**Drinking Water Week.** May 7-13 is also Drinking Water Week, according to the American Water Works Association and this year marks the 150th anniversary of the Water Treatment and

Distribution division of Public Works. As it celebrates its humble beginnings as a single pump station along the Mississippi River to a utility providing water to more than a half million people in the city, six suburbs and the international airport, the division is reminding everyone that we are all stewards of our water.

**Interactive Farmers Markets Map.** The City now has an online interactive map to find farmers markets in Minneapolis. Click on the map pins at [www.minneapolismn.gov/farmersmarkets](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/farmersmarkets) to find addresses, season dates and opening times for each market. Visit the Homegrown Minneapolis Farmers Market webpage here [http://www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/homegrown/farmersmarkets?utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_name=&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/homegrown/farmersmarkets?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term) or follow the Farmers Markets of Minneapolis on Facebook page here <https://www.facebook.com/farmersmarketsofmpls> for updates, recipes and event information. Nearly 30 farmers markets, mini markets and farm stands are expected to operate in Minneapolis this year.

**2017 Yard Waste Collection.** The season has begun for 2017 City of Minneapolis collection of leaves, brush and other yard trimmings. Yard trimmings and leaves must be in compostable bags – paper or compostable plastic – or unbagged in a reusable container at least 26 inches high with sturdy handles. Yard waste is not allowed in City-provided carts or bins. Set prepared yard waste at your alley or curb next to your garbage cart by 6 a.m. on garbage day if you want it picked up. Bundles should weigh less than 40 pounds, be less than three feet long with branched less than three inches in diameter and must be bundled with string or twine.

**Transgender Equity Council.** On April 28, the City Council voted to appoint 8 people to serve on the recently established Transgender Equity Council. This new group will advise the City and Park Board on matters of importance to transgender and gender-nonconforming residents, study issues that affect the quality of life for transgender and gender-nonconforming residents and make recommendations to the City and Park Board for improvements related to these issues. To see the founding members visit [http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms\\_p-198011.pdf](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms_p-198011.pdf)

**All-gender Restrooms.** The City will start installing all-gender restrooms in 44 City facilities this month. These will help further transgender equity by making sure City policies and services include our transgender community and staff. All-gender restrooms are an additional facility option for anyone, including caregivers who care for someone of a different gender from them. The restrooms will be added to department offices, fire stations, police precincts, Public Works facilities and City-owned parking ramps.

**Self-Insurance Medical Plan.** After studying self-insurance, examining how Hennepin County has made it work and learning of a likely 7-8% increase in insurance costs next year, the Council has voted to authorize the implementation of a single-employer, self-insured medical plan effective January 1, 2018. There will continue to be a separate administrator of the plan, but

the city will be its own insurer. Our hope is that the self-insured medical plan will allow for more flexibility, greater access to claims data and cost savings.

**Kresge Foundation Public Health Grant.** Our City Health Commissioner, Gretchen Musicant, and senior public health researcher/epidemiologist, Mageen Caines, have won a Kresge Foundation grant to help Minneapolis transform its public health work as part of the Foundation's Emerging Leaders in Public Health initiative (<http://kresge.org/ELPH>). Musicant and Caines will participate in a national educational program, and receive coaching, technical assistance and grants funds of up to \$125,000, to help build the capacity of the department to improve the health of our residents.

**News Assistant Chief.** Following the retirement and departures of Kris Arneson, as of May 1, Medaria Arradondo has taken over as Assistant Chief of Police. The Assistant Chief is "second in command" in the department, reports directly to the Police Chief, oversees the Bureau Chiefs, manages the day to day operations, provides the Chief with information on Department strategies and operations and assists the Chief with maintaining the core missions of the Department. I am happy to see him in this new leadership position. Arradondo joined the MPD in 1989 as a patrol officer in the 3rd Precinct, is a graduate of Minneapolis Roosevelt High School and has held a variety of different positions including work as a School Resource Officer, Northside Beat Officer and 1st precinct Inspector. He was most recently Deputy Chief and Chief of Staff. I have especially appreciated his work moving the work of the National Initiative and procedural justice forward. I support this appointment and expect him to do an outstanding job.

**Bike Month.** Minneapolis is one of many communities across the country that celebrates biking the month of May. Some upcoming events related to this month of celebrating and promoting biking are Wednesday, May 10: Bike to School Day, Thursday, May 11: Nice Ride Day, Friday, May 19: Twin Cities Bike to Work Day and Saturday, May 27: Family Bike to Parks Day. To learn about ways to encourage biking during the month and more visit [www.mpls bikemonth.org](http://www.mpls bikemonth.org). For more information about bicycling in the city, go to [www.minneapolismn.gov/bicycles](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/bicycles).

**Great Street Grants.** The City has voted authorized the next round of business support grants to the following organizations that serve Second Ward businesses: Dinkytown Business Alliance for \$18,800, Lake Street Council for \$50,000, Latino Economic Development Center for \$8,000, Longfellow Business Association for \$7,000, Seward Civic and Commerce Association for \$12,000, Seward Redesign for \$50,000, Towerside Business Alliance for \$13,000, and the West Bank Business Association for \$47,300. For more about the initiatives that will be funded see [http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms\\_p-197351.pdf](http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms_p-197351.pdf)

**Regulations for Fraternities and Sororities.** The Council, with my guarded support, has approved amendments to the zoning code that cautiously opens up more potential locations for fraternities and sororities close to campus and on high density zoning lots and districts. I only supported this ordinance when the language was amended to make it clear that the area where they would be allowed was restricted to within one-half (1/2) mile of the educational

facility served and that for the purposes of the University of Minnesota campus, one-half (1/2) mile will be measured from the center of the intersection of 15th and University Avenues Southeast. You can find the revised ordinance here <http://www.minneapolis.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-181505>

**Glendale Historic Designation.** I sent a letter to all Glendale residents this week seeking input about an upcoming decision I am considering to nominate the area for local historic designation. I have been asked by both the Prospect Park Association and the Defend Glendale Campaign to do this. I support fixing up and repairing the Townhomes and believe that there is a likelihood that the area qualifies for local historic designation and I would like to move forward with the nomination so that a study could be completed to find out. Before making the nomination I want to give each resident a chance to learn more and share their opinion with me. On Saturday morning May 13 from 9:30-11:00am and Monday evening May 15 from 6:30 to 7:30, I will be available to meet (unfortunately without my own translators) at Luxton Park to answer questions and get advice.

**Prospect Park Senior Housing Project.** The Council has voted to accept a grant from the Department of Employment and Economic Development in the amount of \$224,982 for the Prospect Park Senior Housing project. The funds will be used for site demolition, removal and rerouting of public and private utilities, and the construction of transit/street amenities. The developer, Oppidan, plans to build a 6-story building and a 12-story building with 142 independent living “senior” units, 104 assisted living units, and 39 memory care units.

**1721 Como.** The Planning Commission has approved the construction of a new three-story mixed use building at 18th and Como with one or two commercial/office tenants on the first floor and three apartments on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> floors. There would be one four-bedroom units, one three-bedroom unit, and one two bedroom unit, each of the dwellings will be two-story units. The approved design included a cut to the corner of the building at 18th and Como Ave SE. They also made some minor changes to the windows and as a condition of approval, staff required a more robust landscape plan and taller screening for the parking lot. The drainage and bicycle racks for the office/commercial space will be reviewed by Public Works and are under their jurisdiction.

**Blue Door Outdoor Seating.** James Brown of Brownsmith Restoration application for variances to allow for an outdoor café at the Blue Door restaurant located at 1514 Como Avenue SE. came up at the May 4 Zoning Board of Adjustment City and was continued to the May 18 meeting. Staff is recommending that the board deny all the variances. There was some indication that the applicant wanted to provide additional information or update their site plan in an attempt to either eliminate the need for one or more variances, or to sway staff to recommend approval instead of denial. So far, however, no new information has been forthcoming since their request to delay the public hearing back in March.

**Malcolm Yards.** The proposal to change the comprehensive plan for the area bounded by Malcolm, the University Transitway, the 29th Ave SE corridor and a line roughly parallel to the United Crushers silos has been approved by the Minneapolis Planning Commission. The

proposal is to remove this 9.4 acre piece of land from the Industrial Employment District and change it from Industrial to Transitional Industrial on the long-term land use map. This would allow housing to be built on the area. I know that the development team has come together with the Prospect Park community in a Memorandum of Understanding that has achieved neighborhood support for this plan in light of a host of improvements that the developer plans to make, including a new greenspace to connect to the planned greenspace across the Transitway, preservation and reuse of the historic Harris building, and more.

**Chin Dian.** It was fun to see this Second Ward small business, and owners Nina Wong and Thomas Gnananpragasam, featured in a recent city publication <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/index.htm> Nina and Thomas opened their restaurant in 2005 and have been serving customers at 15<sup>th</sup> and Hennepin Avenue in Southeast Como ever since with an interesting mix of Chinese, Vietnamese, Indian and Malaysian dishes. Please check out the article and their restaurant if you get a chance. <http://www.chindiancafe.com/>

**10th Ave Storm Tunnel Repair.** In April the Council authorized an amendment to a contract with Engineering & Construction Innovations (ECI) in the amount of \$991,743, for a revised contract total of \$4,961,517, for work on the (never-ending) 10th Ave Storm Tunnel Repairs project and construction at 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue Southeast at Hennepin. There, crews have been working to replace over 800 feet of pipe, repair or rehab another 3200 feet of pipe over the past 5 years. This project has suffered significant delays due primarily to groundwater that washed away sandstone created massive void around the tunnel and caused it to fracture. City staff expect to see the completion of the work at 12<sup>th</sup> Ave SE this. That would allow them to restore the alley and the Public Works shaft site. They are hoping to work with the adjacent resident on a plan enhance the appearance, yet allow for necessary access to the shaft in order to do routine yearly inspections, or minor repair work or maintenance in future years if the need arises. They will continue to work the tunnel this coming winter, but will be accessing it using the outlet at the Mississippi River. They hope complete with the entire tunnel project by summer of 2018.

**Openings on Boards and Commissions.** A number of board and commission positions are open for City Council and mayor appointments this spring. The City is seeking applicants with a diversity of backgrounds and experiences to strengthen the work of the City. Visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/index.htm> for more information and to apply.

**Open Office Hours in the Ward.** I usually hold open "Office Hours" in the ward every Thursday morning from 9:30 to 11:00 am. Please feel free to call the office at 673-2202 to reserve some time when I will be there or just stop by.

First Thursdays at the Oren Gateway Center, Nabo Café, 2211 Riverside Avenue;

Second Thursdays at Black: Coffee and Waffles, 1500 Como Ave SE;

Third Thursdays at T Rex Cookie Café, 3338 University Ave SE;

Fourth Thursdays at Blue Moon Coffee Café, 3822 E Lake St.

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