

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Prospect Park, 1-30-17

Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:
T Rex Cookie Café 3338 University Ave SE
Thursday, February 15, 9:30-11am

Cam Gordon

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Items:

- 1) Responding to Low Heat Complaints at Glendale
- 2) Green Fourth
- 3) Sick and Safe Time Lawsuit
- 4) Minimum Wage Listening Sessions
- 5) Changes to Fraternity and Sorority Regulation
- 6) Malcolm Yards
- 7) Green On Fourth - 2901 4th St SE.
- 8) Public Health Advisory Committee Appointee
- 9) World Expo
- 10) Afro Deli opens location in Prospect Park
- 11) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) After hearing a number of complaints about low heat conditions in Glendale, I have taken a number of actions to improve the situation there. I have repeatedly reached out to MPHA leadership, and have helped clarify the City's 311 protocols to make sure we have good information to share with residents who call and report low heat. Additionally, if people want to know that the heat in their units complies with City rules they can now get a city inspector to check the temperature by calling 311. And I brought together Sustainable Resources Center (SRC) and MPHA staff this past fall to move forward with a plan that would allow SRC to use federal funding to weatherize the Glendale townhomes. I expect SRC and MPHA to make an official announcement about this by the end of the month. I am very hopeful that the work will begin in late January or early February.
- 2) The Transportation and Public Works committee has recommended the final plans for 4th St SE, or Green Fourth, from 25th Ave SE to 29th Ave SE. This includes adopting assessments of \$450,161.25 and bonding of \$450,160 for the reconstruction project, and \$113,030 in assessments for streetlights.
- 3) I was heartened to see the courts side with the City in the Earned Sick and Safe Time ordinance lawsuit that was brought by the Minnesota Chamber of Commerce, and others. The judge's ruling makes clear that the City does have the legal authority to adopt ordinances that bear on topics the state has also regulated, when we are not explicitly preempted. This is great news for the workers who will now get the sort of workplace protections that many of us take for granted. It is also good news for the City as we consider adopting a local minimum wage.
- 4) The City is holding a series of nine listening sessions across the city on the proposed raise in the minimum wage. You can find the full list of all of the listening sessions here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/minimumwage/MINIMUM-HOME>. All meetings are open to the public, though each will have a specific focus. Questions and feedback about the minimum wage can also be sent to MinWage@minneapolismn.gov.
- 5) The ordinance amendment making changes to Fraternity and Sorority regulation, introduced by Council Member Frey in June, is slowly moving forward. It was discussed at the Planning Commission Committee of the Whole this month. It would loosen regulations of fraternities and sororities in response the growing "Greek" community at

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the University of Minnesota to allow more flexibility and opportunities for existing and new fraternities and sororities. Currently Fraternities and Sororities are a conditional use in the OR2, OR3, R4, R5, and R6 districts. They have a minimum lot area of 10,000 square feet and a minimum lot width of 80 feet. They are limited to 2.5 stories in height and an FAR of 1.5. Geographically, fraternities and sororities must be located within ½ mile of the college/university campus being served. Specific changes that are being sought include allowing for the use to be established on zoning lots that were not previously used as a fraternity or sorority, removing the limit of thirty-two (32) maximum persons served, and allowing on-site services to be used by all members or guests. You can learn more about this proposal here:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmSP-192027.pdf>

- 6) I recently met with land owners and developers John Wall and Steve Minn recently about future development they are considering north of the University Transitway at the old Harris site along Malcolm Ave. They are calling it Malcolm Yards and so far it includes a proposed climbing wall building and business, a “Food Hall” in part or all of a rehabilitated Harris building, and two potential mixed use apartment buildings with commercial and residential uses. The city’s comprehensive plan prohibits residential development on the site which sites within the SEMI Employment District. So, the developers intend to apply for a comprehensive plan amendment to take a portion of the area, where the mixed use apartment buildings will go, out of the employment district, so that it could potentially be rezoned to allow for a mixed use apartment buildings. The City Council and the Met Council would both have to approve the amendment before it would go into effect.
- 7) The redevelopment of at the old Boeser site into an apartment building took a step forward this month when the development team filed the land use applications for the property this month. They are applying for a rezoning from I1 (Light Industrial) to C3A (Commercial Activity Center), a conditional use permit to increase the maximum building height, variances to reduce the minimum north rear yard setback and to increase the south front yard setback along 4th St SE to allow for construction of a new 243 unit residential building. The City Planning Commission will meet on Monday, February 6, 2017 at 4:30 p.m., in Room 317 City Hall, 350 S. 5th St., to hold a public hearing and vote on the applications. Minneapolis Prospect Park Properties is co-developing the property with Timberland Partners. For more information visit www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/planning for the agenda with staff reports that will be updated by the end of the day Wednesday prior to the meeting date. If you have questions about the project, or would like to submit comments in writing contact Peter Crandall, City Planner – 250 South 4th Street Room 300, Minneapolis, MN 55415, (612) 673-2247, (612) 673-2526, Peter.Crandall@minneapolismn.gov
- 8) This month I learned that my outstanding appointee to the City’s Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC), Laurel Nightingale, had to resign. I thank Laurel for her commitment and service to the City. Now, I am looking for someone who lives or works in Ward 2 with experience, expertise and/or a strong interest in public health to serve on this committee. The committee has a long track record of providing valuable advice on health policy to the City Council, and Minneapolis Health Department. The advisory group reports to the Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee, which I chair. It also serves as a link between the City and the community in addressing health concerns. I am hoping to get some applications in for review by February 15, 2017. The group meets the fourth Tuesday of the month from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in City Hall. For information on the application process visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards/openings/WCMSP-190346>) For more information about the committee feel free to contact me or visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/health/phac/index.htm> or contact Margaret Schuster, Sr. Public Health Specialist, at 612-673-2643.
- 9) With full city support, an application has been submitted to have Minneapolis be a host city for a 3-month World Expo in 2023. Large, six-month Expos are organized every five years with one smaller, three-month version held in-between. The location that has been identified includes the University of Minnesota and area known as Prospect North, or Towerside, north of University Avenue in Prospect Park. To learn more about the proposal see <http://expo2023.info/> and <http://www.startribune.com/a-day-of-big-events-and-one-on-which-to-ponder-big-goals/391460041/>
- 10) The Afro Deli restaurant, which began on the West Bank, is opening a new location in Prospect Park, at 720 Washington Avenue SE. I’m excited to see them succeed, and come to a new neighborhood.
- 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.