

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Prospect Park, 5-22-17

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

Cam Gordon

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*Working for a Minneapolis
where each of us has the
freedom and opportunity to
reach our individual potentials
while caring for one another,
improving our environment
and promoting social well-
being.*

*Focused not only on our
immediate needs, but also on
the future we want for
ourselves, our children and for
generations to come.*

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Para asistencia 612-673-2700

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612-673-3500.

Items:

- 1) Malcolm Yards Comprehensive Plan Change
 - 2) Liquor Statute Change for Malcolm Yards
 - 3) Glendale Historic Designation
 - 4) Naturally Occurring Affordable Housing Preservation Fund
 - 5) Yard Waste Pickup Begins
 - 6) Green Zones Policy
 - 7) Mental Health Co-responders
 - 8) Seasonal Short Term Food Permit
 - 9) Commercial Waste Study
 - 10) Openings on Boards and Commissions
- 1) 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 passed the Planning Commission and the Council's Zoning and Planning committee. I expect it to pass the full Council this Friday, which will move the proposal to the next step of the process, which is for the City's Long Range Planning staff to present the requested comprehensive plan change to the Metropolitan Council. 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, to allow a mixed-use commercial and residential redevelopment, including the adaptive reuse of the Harris building and expanding the planned park to the north side of the University Transitway.
 - 2) Representative Ilhan Omar worked with the Malcolm Yards project team on an amendment to the State's liquor statute omnibus that would allow a food hall and Du Nord distillery to co-locate in the Harris Building. I submitted a letter of support for this amendment, which I believe will help the adaptive reuse of this historic building.
 - 3) I have sent letters to all residents of Glendale Townhomes explaining my intention to nominate the area for local historic designation and asking for residents' opinion on whether to move forward with this or not. I have already received some responses back and expect to see more. I have also met with residents on two occasions, and with MPHA staff and leadership. I would also find it helpful to this process to have an updated formal recommendation from the Prospect Park Association about whether to move forward with this nomination or not.
 - 4) The Council has 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 NOAH rental property in Minneapolis. NOAH refers to rental housing affordable to households with incomes at or below 60 percent of the area median income (\$51,480 for a family of four) with rents usually between \$550 and \$1,200 per month. Minneapolis has about 38,000 units in this range. 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 increased rents. You can learn more here <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-191816.pdf>

- 5) 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. 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.
- 6) In April, the Council adopted our first-ever Green Zones policy and established two Green Zones (one northern and one southern) and two pilot areas within them. Green Zones are a way to make targeted environmental and health investments in areas that have historically faced environmental injustice and racism. The northern pilot includes the McKinley and Hawthorne neighborhoods and both sides of the river in north/northeast. The Southern Pilot includes Ventura Village and East Phillips and Little Earth. 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/wcmSP-197530.pdf>
- 7) The City is contracting 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 this program that I pushed for last year 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.
- 8) 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 in order to operate at various locations. You can learn more here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/legislation/WCMSP-194568>.
- 9) A Council committee has received the final report of a Commercial Waste Collection Evaluation Study. The purpose of this study is to identify ways the City can increase diversion from the commercial, industrial and multifamily (or CIM) sectors. We currently have almost no information about the CIM waste stream. We don't know how much of what kinds of waste are generated, how much of that waste is diverted and in what ways, where what isn't diverted ends up, what sorts of rates people are paying for what kinds of services, and more. This contrasts with the City's work on waste from small residential sources, where we are making great strides in reducing waste and increasing diversion through robust recycling and composting programs. This study lays out best practices from a number of other cities that have taken steps to address CIM waste. The ideas range all the way from tweaking and better enforcing our existing ordinances to completely taking over service to the CIM sector and providing it as a City utility, as we do for 1-4 unit residential buildings, and a whole range of options between those two extremes. I am very interested in using this study as a jumping-off point to further explore the options it lays out, and move forward with implementing something in the next year or so. Whatever we do I want to see it result in:
 - a. A very high diversion rate, where most, if not all, of the waste is recycled or composted and diverted away from the garbage burner and landfills,
 - b. A much more transparent system with a higher rate of reporting on what is collected, what happens to it and what it costs ratepayers; and,
 - c. A system with higher transportation benefits, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and fewer truck trips on our streets.To that end, I passed a staff direction that moves this work forward as part of the Zero Waste plan, and will result in another touch-point for policymakers in September. I am glad that my office has been a part of this work since its inception. I know that Robin put in a great deal of work writing the original grant for Minnesota Pollution Control Agency resources for the study itself, and we have been following it closely ever since. Please check out the study and let me know what you think if you have time.
- 10) 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.