

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Prospect Park, 11-27-17

Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:
T Rex Cookie Café 3338 University Ave SE
Thursday, December 28rd, 9:30-11am

Cam Gordon

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Second Ward

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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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3737 (673-2157 TTY/VOICE)

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612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-673-
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612-673-3500.

Items:

- 1) 2018 Elections
- 2) 2018 Budget
- 3) Zero Waste Plan
- 4) Short Term Rental Ordinance
- 5) Aeon Prospect Park Zoning
- 6) Green on Fourth Apartments
- 7) Low-Income Community Solar
- 8) 100% Renewable Electricity for City Operations
- 9) Electric Vehicle Study
- 10) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) On November 15 the City Council met as the City's official election Canvassing Board, certified the election results and officially declared the winners in each race. You can find the election results at <http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/results/2017/index.htm>. I am honored to have been reelected to another term on the City Council and I am grateful to the voters of Ward 2 for their confidence and willingness to give me this opportunity to serve the people of Minneapolis for another 4 years. By the end of election day there were 249,512 registered voters and 105,928 of them had voted, giving us a 42.45% turnout. This is 10% more than the last municipal election in 2013, when 80,099 people voted, and is the highest turnout since 1997 when it was 46% with 96,772 people voting. The 39.74% Ward 2 turnout was higher than it has been in any City election since at least 1993 when it was 30%. (Note: redistricting occurred in 2002 and 2012). My congratulations go to the new Mayor, Jacob Frey, and all of the Council Members and Park Board Commissioners who were elected. I look forward to getting to know the new Council Members and working with all of my colleagues on the Council, as well as on the Park Board, School Board, County and State legislature, to make Minneapolis a more just, more sustainable, more democratic and more peaceful city for everyone. I am also grateful for the service of all the outgoing Council members, Park Board Commissioners and to Mayor Hodges for their years of service to our city.
- 2) The public hearings on the proposed budget are set for 6:05pm on November 29th and December 6th. The Council has reserved December 1st as budget "markup" day when Council Member amendments will be presented and considered. Amendments may be made on the 6th as well before its final passage. A new website at <http://budget.minneapolismn.gov/> includes the full budget document, the Mayor's budget address, past budgets, the calendar of upcoming budget meetings and more.
- 3) The draft Zero Waste plan will be considered by the Transportation and Public Works Committee on November 28 and then to the full Council on December 8th. I think this is an important next step towards reducing our solid waste and protecting our air and future health of our region. You can download the draft plan and get more information at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/mayor/ZWM/index.htm>

- 4) The Council has approved new short-term rental ordinances. Under the rules a short-term rental property registration or rental license is not required for an owner who lives at the property, rents a room and stays at the property during the rental period. A short-term rental property registration (and fee of \$46) is required for an owner who lives at the property, rents out an entire unit and leaves the property during the rental period. Only Tier 1 or Tier 2 rental licenses are eligible for this designation. A rental is considered short term if the unit is rented for fewer than 30 consecutive days. Additionally, short-term rental hosting platforms, which collect a fee for booking, will be licensed. The annual license fee for a platform with fewer than 150 active dwelling unit listings will be \$630, and for a platform with 150 or more active listings will be \$5,000. For more information, go to <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/inspections/rental/shorttermrentals>.
- 5) The Council has approved the rezoning for the proposed new 5-story 70 unit Aeon apartment building at 3001 4th Street SE. The zoning will go from Light Industrial (I1) to Commercial (C3A). A Conditional Use Permit to increase the maximum building height and variances to reduce requirement and allow for a building placement greater than 8 feet from the property line were also approved. Visit www.minneapolismn.gov/meetings/planning for more.
- 6) The Council has approved the Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Plan and Housing Development Plan for Green on Fourth Apartments at 2901 4th St SE and authorized loaning \$3,965,000 to the project that will be paid back over 18 years from future property taxes. The proposed development will be six stories made up of 243 apartment units, and three stories of underground parking with 191 stalls. Of the 243 apartment units, 66 will be restricted to households with incomes at and below 60% of the Area Median Income (AMI). Of the 66 income restricted units, 49 will be available at 50% of the Area Median Income (AMI).
- 7) The City Council has approved two more community solar garden subscription agreements to provide electricity for municipal operations. With these agreements, the City is also using our status as a customer that solar developers really want (we have great credit and purchase a lot of electricity) to ensure that low-income residents also get access to community solar. In addition to buying some of each of these projects' electricity directly, the City is will serve as a "backstop" to low-income customers who might choose to stop purchasing from the community solar garden in the future. And we are requiring that a certain percentage of each garden - 20% - must be set aside for low-income customers. The two developers propose gardens that could assist up to 800 low-income households each, with each household saving \$300-\$400 each year in electricity costs.
- 8) In October the Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee received a promising report, called, "Blueprint for Powering Minneapolis Municipal Operations with 100% Renewable Electricity by 2022." This report details a method and timeline for the City government to get 100% of our electricity from renewable, clean sources through 3 basic paths. First, continue to increase the purchase of Renewable*Connect Electricity or secure energy from a clean source where we can be assigned the Renewable Energy Credits. Second, maximize the amount of solar generation on City-owned facilities such as the Water Treatment reservoirs and large City-owned buildings. And third, increase the number of Community Solar Garden subscriptions. Read more here: <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/RCA/2357/Blueprint%20for%20renewable%20by%202022%20final.pdf>
- 9) In October the Transportation and Public Works Committee received a very exciting study of the costs and benefits of replacing our City-wide fleet of internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles with electric vehicle (EV) fleet technology. The study found that there are a number of options that would allow us to both save money and reduce greenhouse gas emission. Some scenarios outlined approaches that can lead to up to a 47% replacement of ICE vehicles with EVs while saving us money and reducing 10,800 MTC of CO2 in the next few years. <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/RCA/1379>
- 10) A number of board and commission positions are open for City Council and mayor appointments this fall. Visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/index.htm> for more information and to apply.