

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Prospect Park, 2-26-18

Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:
T Rex Cookie Café 3338 University Ave SE
Monday, March 19th, 9:30-11am

Cam Gordon

City Council Member
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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) New Community Office Hours
- 2) Department Head Appointments
- 3) Malcolm Yards Project
- 4) Aeon Project
- 5) Judy Farmer
- 6) Gun Control Protests and Action by Council
- 7) New Council Structure
- 8) Formalizing the City's Racial Equity Work
- 9) Franklin/Bedford Intersection
- 10) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Given the changes to the Council meeting cycle, I have changed my community office hours in the ward to Mondays. The Longfellow office hours will still be on the fourth week of the month, but will now occur on the Monday of that week and at a new location, the East Lake Library. My community office hours are now **Mondays** from 9:30-11am following this pattern: first Mondays at the Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St; Second Mondays at Black: Coffee and Waffles, 1500 Como Ave SE; Third Mondays at T-Rex Cookie Café, 3338 University Ave SE; and Fourth Mondays at the East Lake Library, 2727 E Lake St.
- 2) In the next few months the Council will be considering appointments or reappointments of the directors for our 9 major departments: City Assessor, City Coordinator, Civil Rights, Community Planning and Economic Development, the Fire Department, Health Department, Police Department, Public Works, and Regulatory Services. So far the Mayor has not formally indicated that he will be seeking a new appointee for any department, although Spencer Cronk has left his position as City Coordinator so that position is currently vacant. Additionally, David Frank is currently serving as interim CPED Director. At the last Executive Committee meeting he brought forward three names for reappointment, Patrick Todd for City Assessor, Robin Hutcheson for Director of Public Works and Susan Segal for City Attorney. I supported the first two in the Committee and abstained from voting on the City Attorney. On March 9th, following public hearings held at the appropriate committees, the Council will vote to approve or disapprove of these appointments. I have also heard that the mayor plans to make David Frank and Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde the official department heads of CPED and the Coordinator's Office, respectively.
- 3) The Malcolm Yards project has been awarded \$45,700 from the Met Council to assist in Wall Development Company's redevelopment almost 17 acres in Towerside. The funds will be used to investigate soil conditions. The eventual project will consist of mixed-use commercial/industrial and residential development, generating several hundred thousand square feet of space and up to 600 residential units. The projected total development cost is \$200 million.

- 4) The Council has accepted a Metropolitan Council Livable Communities Local Housing Incentive Account (LHIA) grant award for Aeon Prospect Park at 3001 4th St SE in the amount of \$382,000.
- 5) I was sorry to learn that longtime Prospect Park resident and former School Board member Judy Farmer has died. Her family is planning a celebration of her life from 2 to 4 p.m. April 7 at the Minneapolis Woman's Club." <http://m.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/0000244555/?fullname=judith-lehman-farmer>
- 6) In response to the Parkland shootings in Florida and ongoing concerns about gun violence in Minneapolis and beyond, hundreds of students from a variety of Minneapolis middle and high schools marched to City Hall on February 21st to call for better regulation of firearms. Some students addressed our Intergovernmental Relations Committee before a vote was taken to add the following to our legislative agenda: "to support legislation that bans the sale statewide of assault weapons, bump stocks, silencers, and extended magazines." To see a run-down of the City's formal position on gun legislation at the state level look here: <https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/Download/File/881/Gun%20Violence%20Prevention.pdf>.
- 7) The new City Council has been inaugurated, and has elected a new set of leaders and adopted a new structure. Council Member Lisa Bender was elected Council President, Council Member Andrea Jenkins was elected Vice President, Council Member Andrew Johnson was elected Majority Leader and I as Minority Leader. A new set of committees was created, including a new Housing Policy and Development committee which I will chair. The committee will oversee of all policy related to the health, safety and affordability of housing and oversee all matters related to homelessness prevention, fair housing, housing opportunities, housing finance, as well as residential real estate development, redevelopment and land sales. I will vice chair the Health, Environment, Civil Rights and Engagement committee (which is very similar to the Health, Environment and Community Engagement committee I chaired last term), and serve on the Transportation and Public Works, Economic Development and Regulatory Services, Zoning and Planning, and Executive committees. I am excited about this new leadership and Council structure and believe that it will help broaden power and decision-making to all members of the Council, and help us better reflect and represent the will of the people of Minneapolis.
- 8) Late last year the Council approved three separate and significant actions that will formalize, embed and strengthen the City's ongoing work on racial equity into the next term and beyond. The first is an ordinance that CM Glidden authored that establishes a Division of Race and Equity in the Coordinator's Office and obligates the City to continue this work racial equity indefinitely. The second and third were both resolutions lead on. The first of these establishes a Racial Equity Steering Committee and charges them with creating a Racial Equity Action Plan to be completed and presented to the Council for approval in June of 2018. The last action creates a new Racial Equity Community Advisory Committee to help drive this work and provide guidance on these issues on an ongoing basis. This group of up to 19 community members will be open to all Minneapolis residents and will be central role in shaping and advancing our racial equity work in the future.
- 9) The City's Public Works staff have presented a new design for a traffic calming intervention at the intersection of Franklin Ave SE and Bedford St SE. It significantly squares up the intersection by "bumping out" the northeast corner to the west, and taking a bit of the space from the east end of the existing oval in the middle of Franklin. This will shorten crossing distances for pedestrians, improve sightlines, and provide flexibility for a potential future change to the stop sign at this location (likely in conjunction with a change to the stop sign at Emerald). I am very supportive of this overall move, and would like to hear any ideas residents might have to improve it.
- 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.