

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Longfellow, 4-24-17

**Cam's Next Longfellow/Cooper Office Hours:
Monday, April 23, 9:30-11:00am
East Lake Library, 2727 E Lake St**

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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.

If you need this material translated or in an alternative format, please contact NCR@minneapolismn.gov or 612- 673-3737 (673-2157 TTY/VOICE)

Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-3737;

Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612- 673-3737

Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612- 673-3737.

Items:

- 1) Minnehaha Academy
 - 2) Ward 2 Comprehensive Plan Meeting
 - 3) Minneapolis 2040 Open Houses
 - 4) Tobacco 21
 - 5) State Legislators Aim to Void Local Environmental Laws
 - 6) River Gorge Considered Endangered
 - 7) Housing Valuation Concerns.
 - 8) Openings on Boards and Commissions
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- 1) I have been very involved in the community engagement efforts regarding the plans for construction on the North Campus of Minnehaha Academy. I was glad to see that the school agreed to delay consideration of their applications from the original April 9th meeting to allow two large community meetings and more meetings with a smaller community task force, to hear and attempt to address community concerns. On **April 23rd** for a public hearing and potential approval of their site plan, conditional use permits and one variance. You can find the staff report here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-210240.pdf>. It outlines the school's applications for conditional use permits to operate a school and to increase height and for a variance to allow parking in the front area of the property. They are hoping to begin construction in late spring so that it can be completed this summer and the new campus will be ready for the first day of school September 2019.
 - 2) A detailed electronic draft of the City's Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan was released in March. You can review it and comment about it here <https://www.minneapolis2040.com/>. To help me better share the plan, gather feedback and understand your viewpoints, I will be convening a Ward 2 community meeting on the draft plan on **Thursday 7-9pm, April 26** at St. Francis Cabrini Church at 1500 E Franklin Ave. Please join us <https://www.facebook.com/events/211830769401694/>
 - 3) You may also wish to attend one of the upcoming open houses to learn more about the draft of the City's comprehensive plan. The plan, Minneapolis 2040, covers topics such as housing, job access, new building designs and street use. Meetings will be held from 10 a.m.-12:30pm Saturday, **May 12** at the Northeast Recreation Center, 1530 Johnson St. NE; from 5:30-8pm Monday, **May 14** at Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Recreation Center, 4055 Nicollet Ave. S.; from 5:30-8pm Wednesday, **May 16** at North Commons Recreation Center, 1801 James Ave. N; from 5:30- 8pm Thursday, **May 17** at Dayton Gaviidae YMCA, 651 Nicollet Mall #300; and from 5:30-8pm Thursday, **May 31** at the Powderhorn Recreation Center, 3400 15th Ave. S.

- 4) In March the Council voted to take up an ordinance amendment that would to ban the sale of tobacco products (including nicotine vaporizing devices) sales to anyone under 21. We also set the public hearing for **May 14 at 1:30pm** at City Hall. Five other Minnesota cities have already passed similar legislation. I support this proposal and commend Council Member Johnson and Ellison for bringing it forward. <http://www.startribune.com/council-members-want-to-raise-tobacco-buying-age-to-21-in-minneapolis/477672063/>
- 5) The state legislature is poised to pass a law that would preempt and undo waste reduction ordinances that have already passed in city governments like Minneapolis and St. Louis Park and preempt all Minnesota cities from passing their own ordinances on any single-use bag fee and recyclable or compostable to go food containers. This would nullify our popular and successful “green to go” food container ordinance that has already done so much to reduce the amount toxic polystyrene being burned at the downtown garbage burner. The bill is [HF 3606](#). If it passes the legislature I hope the Governor will veto it. Governor Dayton can be reached at 651-201-3400, and 800-657-3717.
- 6) A national organization, American Rivers, dedicated to protecting rivers in the United States, released a report in April that identifies the Mississippi River Gorge that flows through Ward 2 as of the nations most endangered Rivers. The report, America’s Most Endangered Rivers® of 2018, identifies a number of threats to clean water and rivers nationwide. The list of endangered Rivers includes the Mississippi River Gorge, in Minneapolis and St. Paul as being threatened by “obsolete locks and dams” that are preventing “revitalization of river health and recreation in downtown Minneapolis.” A second, of 7, threatened waterways was also in Minnesota. The Boundary Waters is threatened by mining that would pollute pristine waters and harm a thriving recreation economy. You can learn more at: <https://www.americanrivers.org/endangered-rivers/mississippi-river-gorge-mn/>
- 7) In March most Ward 2 property owners received their property valuation statements for 2018. Many, especially those in the Seward and Longfellow areas, saw significant increases and have shared their concerns about this with me. Since hearing concerns I learned that the real estate market right now has very little inventory for sale and that buyers are offering full list price or more than list price for properties entering the market. The marketing time in Ward 2 in 2015 was 32 days, today the average days on market is 13 and it’s not uncommon to see properties sell in 3-4 days. At my request the Assessor’s Office provided me with the following details that may be of interest to some of you. Como’s 976 parcels in Ward 2 saw an average estimated market value (EMV) increase of 11.1% where 46 properties were sold last year with a median sales price of 243,802. Cedar Riverside Ward 2 properties saw a 7.1% average increase with no sales. Prospect Park properties saw an average increase of 9.4% with 12 properties sold with a median sales price of \$343,641. Seward’s 1032 parcels saw an average increase of 18.8% with 37 sales and a median price of \$ 276,075. Longfellow’s 1212 properties saw an average increase in EMV of 15.7%, 47 sales and a median sales price of \$244,707. Cooper’s 1278 parcels saw a 9.8% average increase, 52 sales and a median sales price of \$273,071. In total, for all Ward 2’s 5136 parcels we experienced an average increase of 13.2% in estimated market value and the median sales prices for the 194 of them that were sold was \$268,820. It is also worth noting that, while important to it, the valuation does not determine the property taxes and it is possible for your value to go up and for your property taxes to go down. For more information on the assessment process, how it relates to property taxes and how to appeal your value see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/assessor/index.htm> .
- 8) 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.