

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Longfellow, 3-15-17

Cam's Next Longfellow/Cooper Office Hours:
Monday, March 26, 9:30-11:00am
East Lake Library, 2727 E Lake St

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.

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) Future of Neighborhood Organizations
- 2) Department Head Appointments
- 3) Block Leader Training
- 4) Open Streets
- 5) Minnehaha Commons
- 6) Midtown Corner Senior Housing
- 7) Corridors of Commerce Program
- 8) Minnehaha Academy
- 9) Comprehensive Plan Draft.
- 10) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The City is seeking feedback on a draft plan, called the Neighborhoods 2020 Roadmap, through April 30th. The Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) will hold an open forum on this at their next full commission meeting on **Tuesday, March 27th** from 5:00-7:00pm at the Minneapolis Central Library, Doty Board Room, 300 Nicollet Mall. The plan presents three different approaches to neighborhood funding, programming and support services in preparation for an end to the City's current funding scheme that has been supporting community engagement and neighborhood organization work for decades. This scheme, which used revenues from a special Consolidated Taxing District created by the city and authorized by the state legislature, will continue to provide funds for this work through December 31, 2020 subject to annual City Council budget approval. New funding is proposed to start January 1, 2021. After a community engagement process that concludes in April, recommendations to the city council will be developed and potentially considered by the Council in November 2018. You can find the report at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@ncr/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-208855.pdf>. You can sign up for updates at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/2020>. Comments can be submitted to NCR@minneapolismn.gov.
- 2) The Council is in the process of considering appointments or reappointments of the directors for our 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 nominated the Executive Committee has recommended 5 people for appointment of reappointment, David Frank for Community Planning and Economic Development, Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde for City Coordinator, Patrick Todd for City Assessor, Robin Hutcheson for Director of Public Works and Susan Segal for City Attorney. The Assessor and Public Works appointments were approved with my support by the Council on March 9th. At the Executive Committee I supported all reappointments except for the City Attorney. I have voted against the City Attorney's reappointment in the past and may do so again.

- 3) The 3rd precinct police are offering Block Leader Trainings on **Tuesday April 4** and **Monday June 11** from 6:30 – 8pm. The training will help you learn what block clubs do, how to organize your neighbors so you can have a direct impact on preventing crime and be prepared to work with neighbors and the police if there is a problem on your block. For more contact Karen.notsch@minneapolismn.gov.
- 4) The Council has approved all but one of the routes for the 2018 Minneapolis Open Streets events to be held this summer. The routes approved that include the East Lake/Minnehaha route on Lake Street from Elliot Ave to Minnehaha Ave, then on Minnehaha Ave to Minnehaha Pkwy/Godfrey Pkwy for a total of 3.8 miles. The dates will be finalized later this year.
- 5) The council has approved accepting a Metropolitan Council Livable Communities Local Housing Incentive Account (LHIA) grant award for Minnehaha Commons at 3001 East Lake St in the amount of \$250,000. Alliance Housing, Inc. is partnering with the Touchstone Mental Health to create Minnehaha Commons, a supportive service project for extremely low income seniors who have experienced homelessness. The proposed development project consists of a 31,500 sq. ft. three-story building with 43 studio apartments. The property will have a community room, service provider space/office, property management office, laundry room and front desk on the first floor. There will be a tenant lounge area on the second and third floors and an outdoor patio for informal gatherings. The building also includes adequate storage space to hold property for required time periods when tenants leave without notice.
- 6) The City has accepted grant funds for a proposed project at the old Rainbow Grocery Store parking lot in Longfellow at 2901 26th Ave S. The Metropolitan Council grant award of \$85,600; and State Department of Employment and Economic Development Award of \$98,800 will assist with Wellington Management's plans to construct a mixed-use affordable housing project with 90 senior apartments and 15,000 square feet of retail space on a portion of the parking lot. The projected total development cost is \$19,990,238. The awarded grant funds will be used primarily for soil remediation.
- 7) On March 9th the Council passed a resolution expressing the City's supporting projects submitted to the Minnesota Department of Transportation Corridors of Commerce program that includes funding for the Hi-Lake Interchange Reconfiguration project that would make significant improvements to the area on East Lake Street under the Highway 55 bridge near the Light Rail station. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MN DOT) has decided to fund/approve \$400 million of projects statewide in 2018 through a competitive selection of projects on the trunk highway system, targeting transportation routes identified as important links for regional and statewide economic growth. I am very glad that the Hi-Lake project is on the list and hope that is awarded funding.
- 8) Plans for construction on the North Campus of Minnehaha campus are moving forward and currently include significant reconfiguration of the campus with 4 new 1 – 3 story structures. A formalized proposal will be coming forward for preliminary review by city staff and the Planning Commissioner Committee of the Whole this month. They will also be setting a community meeting to share the plans with the neighborhood soon and they plan seek formal Planning Commission approvals at the commission meeting on April 9th. 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.
- 9) A detailed draft of the City's Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan will be released on March 22. That will kick off another phase of community engagement leading to possible changes in the fall and final approval in December. Please look for this and take the time to review and share your feedback with me and others. For more information go to <https://www.minneapolis2040.com/>.
- 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.