

Second Ward October 2018 E-newsletter

News from Cam Gordon

Council Member, Second Ward

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2>

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Street Sweeping. The annual fall street sweeping and leaf collection service started October 23rd. “No Parking” signs will be posted at least 24 hours in advance of the sweeping. People need to follow posted parking rules or their cars may be ticketed and towed. You can find out when the sweepers are coming through your neighborhoods at www.minneapolismn.gov/streetsweeping. The website shows which week a street is scheduled to be swept and on the weekend before each of the four weeks, the schedule will show which day of the week streets are scheduled to be swept. Please help remind family, friends and neighbors so that we can all do a better job of preventing anyone from getting a ticket or a tow.

2040 Comprehensive Plan. The second draft of the new Minneapolis 2040 Comprehensive Plan is now published. I believe that it offers a promising path forward to help us prepare thoughtfully for the upcoming population growth while reducing racial and economic disparities, addressing climate change, and preserving the neighborhoods, natural spaces and amenities that make our city great. To review the plan and get more information visit <https://minneapolis2040.com/>. Paper copies of the plan are also available for review at the desk of the East Lake Library, at Ward 2 neighborhood organization offices and at some local parks. There will be Public Hearing before the City Council on **Wednesday, November 14** at 4:30pm in Room 317 in City Hall. I expect the Planning Commission and the Council to make amendments to the plan before the Council approve it in December (probably the 7th). I thank everyone who has shared feedback so far, and who attended the 2nd Ward 2040 Comp Plan Community Meeting on October 15.

Comp Plan Amendments. In the weeks ahead, I will be reviewing the draft, gathering input and drafting potential amendments to it. If you have particular land use or built form amendments you would like to see near your home or in your neighborhood, I would appreciate you sharing them with me. I also ask that you bring them forward for consideration to your neighborhood organization and, if it includes commercial or industrial property, your local business association. I will be more likely to consider amendments that have been vetted with nearby residents and property owners as well as the local neighborhood and/or business organization. I will also be looking at how the proposed new comprehensive plan matches up to approved small area plans, the University District overlay and the Towerside district in Prospect Park. General amendments I intend to bring forward so far include policy amendments on establishing Innovation Districts, repairing damages of the Interstate Highway System, supporting the work of locally designated Neighborhood Organizations and recognizing the uniqueness of the University Area similar to how downtown gets a designation in the plan. I may also plan to propose smaller changes to strategies within in other policy areas related to increasing affordable housing options (including Single Room Occupancy, Accessory Dwelling Units and Smaller “tiny” Home Clusters); district and clean

energy options (including geo-thermal energy, anaerobic digesters and capturing heat from waste water); and on preserving and increasing habitat and other natural spaces (including pervious surfaces and trees).

2019 Proposed Budget. The Council is deliberating on the Mayor's proposed 2019 budget of \$1.6 billion, which is \$139.1 million (or 9.8%) more than this year's budget. This includes an increase of 5.63% in the property tax levy, raising the total amount levied by \$18.7 million, to \$349.9 million in 2019. This levy increase will not mean a tax increase for everyone because the total tax base increased by more than 10%. The budget is available online at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/budget/>. You can see the full calendar at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/budget/budget-calendar> and make comments online at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/budget/budget-comments>. The times for public comment before the City Council will be on **November 1** at 9:00 am, **November 28** at 6:05 pm; and, the final Public Hearing before the Council on **December 5** at 6:05 pm. All the budget meetings and hearings will take place in the City Council Chambers, room 317, in City Hall, 350 So 5th Street.

Budget Amendments. I am working on budget amendments. First, I am concerned that the Mayor is not proposing to make permanent the two health inspectors added with one-time funding last year. I believe that this year proves that the health inspectors are needed and that they should be funded in an ongoing way. Second, I want to expand funding for co-responders in the Police Budget so that teams can be deployed in more precincts, including the 4th Precinct. Third, I am convinced that we need an additional civilian investigator to investigate Police misconduct complaints in the Civil Rights Department. Most complainants are requesting civilian investigators and we do not have adequate staff to investigate them fully in a timely manner. I am also concerned that there is no funding set aside for neighborhood organizations in any of the 5-year projections. While funding will be stable for 2019, as the Tax Increment District is set to end in 2021 I think it is important for ongoing funding to be noted in our 5-year projections and plan to make that amendment. Additionally, I am exploring possible funding to support 3 other initiatives: implementation of Children's Saving Account, a feasible study of a Public Bank and ongoing support for Green Zone initiatives.

General Election. The 2018 General Election will be held **Tuesday, November 6**, and Early Voting has already begun. People can vote early in-person at the City's Downtown Early Vote Center located at 217 S. Third Street, one block northwest of City Hall. There, voters can receive their ballot as well as assistance in accessing and marking their ballot from election judges. From **Tuesday, October 30** to **Monday, November 5** we will be opening 3 additional Early Vote Centers. They will be at at the Urban League at 2100 Plymouth Avenue North, at the **University of Minnesota – Fieldhouse in Ward 2 at 1800 University Avenue SE** and at Regents Assembly Church at 810 W. 31st Street. Find sample ballots for all 132 Minneapolis precincts here: <http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/voters/BALLOT>. For more information visit <http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/>, www.facebook.com/votempls and www.twitter.com/votempls.

Proposed Liquor License Charter Amendment. There will be a proposal on the November general election ballot to amend the City Charter to “Remove Area and Spacing Requirement for Liquor Licenses: Shall the Minneapolis City Charter be amended to remove from the City Charter the area and spacing requirements pertaining to liquor licenses?” Currently, if an establishment is in a commercial district of less than seven acres they are not allowed to apply for a liquor license with the City but they can go to the MN State Legislature to get a special exemption. Over the years all these exemptions are routinely given after demanding time and effort from businesses and the legislature. The intent of the change is to give the Council the authority to regulate liquor licenses within the City and to remove all off-sale liquor language from the Charter. I am comfortable with the change and with doing away with the 7-acre rule but, if the charter amendment passes, I believe we need to incorporate already existing off-sale language into ordinance. Council Members Palmisano, Cunningham and Council Member Ellison, working with Business Licensing staff, the City Attorney’s office, and other stakeholders are already leading this effort. The Council will vote on this on November 2 so that if the Charter amendment passes on November 6th regulations will still be in place. For more about the proposed ordinance amendment see <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-01201>. A group called Citizens for a Modern Minneapolis (www.yeson1mpls.com) has formed that supports the ballot measure. You can also learn more at <http://www.startribune.com/minneapolis-neighborhood-restaurants-fight-for-the-right-to-serve-cocktails/493008511/> and <http://www.southwestjournal.com/news/2018/09/referendum-may-expand-restaurant-liquor-licensing/>

New Polling Place for Residents of Ward 2 - Precinct 9. Remember that the voters on the West Bank and Seward in the precinct closest to the River (2-9) who used to vote at the Oren Gateway Center will now be voting at Matthews Park. Visit <https://pollfinder.sos.state.mn.us/> to find your polling place.

Climate and Health. The Health Department has endorsed the Global Climate and Health Forum’s Call to Action on Climate and Health. The forum’s call outlines 10 priority actions that will significantly protect lives and improve people’s health in the era of climate change. This includes meeting commitments under the Paris Agreement, transitioning from the use of coal, oil and natural gas to clean, safe and renewable energy, and to zero-carbon transportation systems with an emphasis on active transportation, as well as building local, healthy and sustainable food and agricultural systems. Find more information at www.globalclimateandhealthforum.org.

LED Streetlights. Xcel Energy will be upgrading all 24,000 of its Xcel Energy-owned wooden poles streetlights in Minneapolis to light-emitting diode (LED) light bulbs by the end of the year. I support this because LED lights use about half the electricity of the existing lights and have a longer life, which means less maintenance, lower costs and fewer replacements. Additionally, the new lights are a softer, warmer 3000 Kelvin as recommended by the American Medical Association for outdoor LED lights to prevent harsh glare and harmful human and

environmental effects. There are no costs to Minneapolis for the streetlight replacements and our electric bill is expecting to be significantly lower as a result of the switch. For more information or if you have concerns about the new lighting call Xcel at 1-800-895-4999.

Lighting Retrofit and City Ramps. The City is moving forward with a plan to retrofit all the lighting at two of our largest parking ramps downtown, the Leamington and Haaf Ramps. The existing lights in both ramps are high-pressure sodium lamps that are 25 years old. They will be replaced with a LED lighting system which is much more energy efficient and will better illuminate the parking areas.

More City Solar Coming Soon. In major moves towards reaching our goal of getting 100% of all electricity in Minneapolis from renewable sources, the City Council has authorized putting out a Request for Proposal for low income household community solar gardens at the East Side Public Works Facility and for City-owned solar arrays at the Water Treatment reservoirs, the Currie Maintenance Facility and any other City buildings. Find more details at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/RCA/3318>.

“Green” Bonds for City Buildings. This month the City will use its first-ever green bonds, worth \$96.22 million, to finance portions of two public Leadership in Energy Environment and Design (LEED) Gold facilities soon to be under construction. “Green bonds” mean the proceeds are used for environmental, social and sustainable objectives under [guidelines](#) determined by the International Capital Markets Association. Green buildings, also known as low-carbon buildings, are an eligible project type under the Green Bond Principles. Both the new consolidated Public Service Building (<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/officebuilding>) and the East Side Storage and Maintenance Facility (a state-of-the-art recycling and waste facility), will save energy and create less greenhouse gases than most standard buildings. Green bond designation will help us reach the goals and strategies in our Climate Action Plan while achieving a lower interest rates and saving taxpayer dollars. To learn more about LEED see <https://new.usgbc.org/leed> and more about “Green” bonds visit <https://www.icmagroup.org/green-social-and-sustainability-bonds/>

Energy Disclosure Ordinance Community Meetings. Council Member Schroeder and I are working on a set of ordinances that will ensure that all residents have information about the energy use of any new home they move into, whether a house or an apartment, and whether they are new homeowners or renters. The goals of this work are to reduce carbon emissions and reduce overall housing costs. A northside community meeting about these ordinances will be on Monday, October 29th from 6:30pm - 8:00pm at the Minneapolis Public Schools Davis Center, in Conference Room S1-435, 1250 Broadway Ave. A southside meeting will be on Wednesday, November 7th from 6:30pm - 8:00pm at East Phillips Park Cultural and Community Center, in the Multi-purpose Room, 2315 S 17th Ave. You can learn more at: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/buildings-energy/index.htm>

Small and Underutilized Business Ordinance. An ordinance amendment I authored in response to a 2017 Disparity Study that found evidence of continued disparities for women and minority-owned businesses in the City's contracting marketplace is set to pass the Council in November. The

study demonstrated the need to extend and update the Small & Underutilized Business Enterprise Program ordinance that is set to expire on December 1, 2018. The Study provides the legal foundations and statistical evidence showing a continued need to proactively address these disparities through the program that requires city assisted contracts of \$100,000 or more have goals for subcontracting will small businesses owned by woman and people who are not white. This includes construction and development contracts, contracts for professional and technical services, and contracts for commodities and supplies. There amended ordinance adds some penalties, updates procedures and extends the sunset date of the ordinance to December 31, 2025.

Know Your Rights Cards. I am very supportive of the "Know Your ICE Rights" informational card that will now be displayed in all Minneapolis Police Department squad cars. This will help ensure that people arrested who are in danger of being detained by federal immigration officials who the current Hennepin County Sheriff is cooperating with have access to information on how to defend themselves against deportation.

Police Department Charter Amendment. The Charter Commission has decided to take the full 90 days it is permitted to take, to review the Council approved measure that would give the Council more oversight of the Police Department on the City Ballot. This means that it will not be on the ballot this year. The Commission will provide a report about it on January. As part of their review that are taking public comment on **Wednesday, November 7**, at 4:00pm during their regular Charter Commission Meeting at the Sabathani Community Center, 310 East 38th Street Minneapolis. For more details about the proposal that would give the City Council more authority to set policy and manage the department please contact me or visit https://www.facebook.com/camgordonward2/posts/988501591312200?_tn_ =K-R.

County Jail. In October the Council's Public Safety committee received a report from our City Attorney, Police Department and the Director of our new Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs, Michelle C. Rivero, about the City's contract with the Hennepin County Jail. This report made clear that current County Sheriff, Rich Stanek, has instituted a set of practices that are *not* required by law or state rules that lead to the deportation of Minneapolis residents. He asks people who have been arrested for their country of origin, but does not inform them that they are not required by law to answer that question. He has created a seamless system for Sheriff's deputies to hand people over to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officials, which is not something that he is required to do. Other county jails, including Ramsey County, have significantly less ICE-friendly policies and practices. As I said in committee, I believe that by continuing to bring people to the Hennepin County Jail under the current Sheriff essentially violates our own separation ordinance. Unfortunately, we have few options but to use the Hennepin County Jail. The City no longer runs a jail. The Ramsey County Jail likely does not have the space for all people arrested in Minneapolis. And the amount of time that it would take not just to transport people who have been arrested to the Ramsey County Jail, but to transport them to and from court appearances, would be prohibitively expensive. Amendments to our contract are possible, but that it would take the City and County Sheriff agreeing on those changes but the Sheriff appears not to be interested in entertaining any amendments to the contract that would better align his procedures with the City's separation ordinance and

better protect our residents from detention and deportation by agents of the federal government. Given all of this, I plan to put our expectations for the Hennepin County Sheriff into a formal resolution of the City Council. I hope to have this resolution complete soon, for passage at the November 2 Council meeting.

Gun Violence. In October the Health and Police Departments provided detailed and disturbing reports about gun violence in Minneapolis. As of September 24 there have been 24 homicides (down from 32 as of that date in 2017) 185 gunshot victims (down from 203) and 418 guns recovered (down from 714) so far this year. There have been 12 gunshot victims in Ward 2 so far this year, but other parts of the City have not been so fortunate. In fact, one of the most disturbing parts of the report, is how focused the victims are in terms of geography and demographics: 75% of shooting victims this year were identified and being black; over 50% occurred in Wards 4 and 5; and, over the last 25 years, 89% of shootings have occurred on only 18% of city blocks. For the full report see:

<https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/File/1584/Gun%20Violence%20Status%2009.25.18.pdf>. This, and the tragic news of gun violence we hear about on the national level, once again remind us that we need to do more to regulate guns and prevent gun violence in our City and nation.

4d Pilot Initiative. The Council will be considering a resolution I have authorized that would continue and expand our 4d Affordable Housing Incentive Program to preserve affordability, reduce energy use and enhance healthy homes to support tenants and save money for property owners. The new program will build on the success of the City's 4d pilot program that has helped preserve 207 units of affordable housing. Under the pilot, qualified building owners who agreed to keep a minimum of 20% of units per building affordable to households making 60% of Area Median Income (AMI), for ten years, received 40% property tax reduction on qualifying units (Low Income Rental Classification, also known as "4d property tax classification"). The program guidelines are available at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-01253> In the new program the minimum building size has been lowered from 10 to of 2 units and the new 4d Affordable Housing Incentive Program has the potential to preserve affordability of 700-1,500 units in 2019.

Advance Notice of Sales. The Council will consider passing the Advance Notice of Sale ordinance authored by Council Members Schroeder and Goodman on November 2. This ordinance seeks to give protections to tenants of affordable rental buildings that are sold from one owner to another. Owners of properties with 5 or more units where at least 20% are affordable to households with incomes at or below 60% of the regions medium income (\$56,880 for a 4 person household) must give the City and tenants 60 days' notice prior to making the property available for sale. Additionally, after a sale tenants will have 90 days or protections where they will be eligible for relocations system (up to 3 month of rent) if the new owner terminates or does not renew a lease without cause, increase rents or initiates re-screening. There would be 3 exceptions to these requirements: the building is already subject to federal, state or local rent or income restrictions that remain in effect after the sale; the sale or transfer is to a new owner who commits to participate in the City's 4d program; and, the sale

or transfer is through a 1031 exchange. For more details see <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-00159>. I am very supportive of this ordinance. I am also very supportive of going further, by adopting an Opportunity to Purchase and Right of First Refusal ordinance in Minneapolis. These kinds of ordinances, which have been adopted in other cities in the US, ensure that tenants and/or the City can purchase existing affordable housing when it is proposed to be sold, and preserve it as affordable in the long term. These policies are also critical to increasing cooperatives and other forms of homeownership in multifamily buildings.

Conduct on Premises. Following complaints from some landlords and a disturbing report on evictions from the City's Innovation Team, I started working with Councilmembers Ellison and Cunningham on Conduct on Licensed Premises Ordinance amendments I expect the Council to pass on November 2. Our goal is to provide clarity and consistency to both landlords and tenants, and to provide support and oversight to prevent unnecessary evictions while helping make sure rental properties are well managed. To learn more visit <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-00247>.

Unified Housing Policy. The City is seeking public comment on proposed changes to its Unified Housing Policy that would add sections on Inclusionary Zoning, Anti-displacement and City-relocation.

(http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cped/housing/cped_affordable_housing_resolution)

Comments are due by November 5, 2018. This was prompted by a staff directions I moved in response to the affordable housing crisis and in conjunction with a proposed Inclusionary Zoning ordinance

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-214382.pdf>). Additionally, the policy has been reorganized and includes updates or revisions to other sections based on the proposed Minneapolis 2040 Plan. Please submit all comments to Katie Topinka at katie.topinka@minneapolismn.gov.

Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG). The Housing Policy and Development Committee has approved awarding this year's Federally ESG funds of \$299,212 to the Salvation Army for capital improvements at the Harbor Lights facility; and of \$99,438 to the Bridge for Youth for capital improvements at the Bridge for Youth facility to support the expansion of services to pregnant and parenting youth. The Committee and then the City Council also approved initiating an amendment to the Consolidated Plan to allow future ESG funds to be used for both capital improvements and essential services, with prioritization for necessary capital improvements. Specific language for the amendment will be drafted in the next months and a hearing will be held later this year prior to a final vote on this change to the Consolidated Plan.

Homeless Encampment. The encampment near Hiawatha and Franklin continues to have people living there and city staff and others continue to work to try to help insure that they are safe, and get the healthcare, emergency shelter and other supportive services they need. The Council has approved establishing a "navigation center" at the future site of the Mino-Bimaadiziwin housing project located at 2105, 2109, and 2113 Cedar Ave. S. that will provide

heated shelter in a safe and service-rich environment for people at the encampment to find more stable housing. The site includes parcels owned by the Red Lake Nation and the City. Hennepin County, nonprofit partners and community will take the lead on developing and implementing services at the Navigation Center with support from the City. The goal is to have the Navigation Center open early December. In October the Council approved spending up to 1.5 million for the center and the City Coordinator hired a project manager, to help develop plans for operations and costs. The project manager, Margaret King, has experience managing similar centers on the West Coast. For more information and ideas about how to help see <https://www.franklinhiawathacamp.org/>

Lot Combinations in Low Density Districts. Council member Jeremy Schroeder has initiated, and the Council has approved taking up, a new ordinance amendment that would regulate lot combinations in lower-density zoning districts.

Ethics Code Amended. The Council has approved amendments to the Ethics code that would align, and eliminate some of the, required disclosures on our conflict of interest forms with those required at the state level. The amendment eliminates the need to disclose a spouse's place of employment and also personal loans. I did not favor the changes to the form and question why the state eliminated them, but ended up voting for the full amendments which were supported by the Ethical Practices Board and included some other minor changes I supported. Additionally, despite the form not requiring it, disclosure should still be made if a decision is pending that might create an appearance of interest related to a spouse's employment or a personal loan.

Parental Leave Policy. I was glad to support the policy change that will double the timeframe for parental leave for eligible employees to use up to 3 weeks of paid parental leave from 3 to 6 months following the birth or adoption of a child. This will greater flexibility for parents to stagger their leave time. Hopefully in the future we can increase this to 12 months and also increase the amount of paid time off as well.

Tobacco Shop Moratorium. The Council has approved a moratorium on the establishment and licensing of new tobaccos shops.

Sidewalk Plowing Report. In October I was disappointed to see that Public Works staff recommended no new options for how the City might do more to keep sidewalks plowed in the winter in response to a staff direction given after the results of recent study suggested the need for improvement. Many cities in Canada and Minnesota, including Bloomington, provide some level of public sidewalk snow plowing. Bloomington clears 250 miles of sidewalk at a cost of under \$11.00 per household. The park board does it now for all of their trails along parkways and I would like to see the City explore some more options to help keep our sidewalks accessible for walkers and rollers all year long.

Entertainment License Changes. In November I expect the Council to approve changing our six-tier system of classifying entertainment levels for alcohol establishments to a more condensed

three-tier system. The new tiers would be “General Entertainment” that includes all forms of legal entertainment and patron dancing; “Limited Entertainment” that includes readings, storytelling, solo comedians, karaoke, amplified or nonamplified music by a disc jockey or any number of musicians, and group singing, but with no patron dancing and “No Live Entertainment” that includes no entertainment other than the use of radio, television, electronically reproduced music and a jukebox. Businesses would still be subject to the noise ordinance and all other laws, regulations and conditions legally imposed on them. I am supportive of this change and see it has an appropriate simplification and clarification.

Staple Food Ordinance. Based on feedback from some stores, as well as research from City staff and the University of Minnesota, I am drafting amendments to our staple foods ordinance that would simplify the requirements and no longer require grocery stores to carry cheese. I expect the public hearing to be held on November 26 at 1:30. To learn more visit <https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-01217>.

Disposal of Fats, Oil, and Grease Ordinance. The Council has approved amending our Sewage Waste ordinance to better regulate disposal of fats, oil, and grease that can cause serious and persistent blockages in our sewer system. Depositing fats and grease down the drain often result in costly sewer backups and sometimes even rat infestations. Hopefully by increasing education, consolidating sanitary sewer regulations and adding new regulations for the disposal of fats, oil, and grease, future problems can be prevented. To learn more about this and how you can help keep fats, oil and grease (FOG) out of pipes see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/sewers/fats-oils-grease>

U.S. Census Jobs. The U.S. Census Bureau is currently hiring. If you or someone you know is looking for a job and wants to make a positive impact on Minneapolis, please encourage them to apply at the Census Bureau's online job portal: <https://2020census.gov/jobs>. An accurate count of the state's population is crucial for all of us in Minneapolis. U.S. census information determines the political and financial resources available to our communities.

Artists Needed. The City is seeking three artists/designers or teams (maximum of two artists/designers per team) to participate in the Creative CityMaking program that partners staff in City of Minneapolis departments with experienced community artists/designers to advance the City's goal of eliminating economic and racial disparities. Applications are being taken for the Midtown Greenway Wayfinding project with Public Works; the 2020 Census Complete Count project with Department of Neighborhood and Community Relations and the Green Zones project with the Office of Sustainability. You can find more details at http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@citycoordinator/documents/webcontent/wcmsp-214818.pdf?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=

East of the River Park Planning. The last meeting of the East of the River Park Master Plan Community Advisory Committee (CAC) was held on October 2nd. Special thanks goes to Del

Hampton, our Ward 2 committee member, and all of the 18 NE/SE Minneapolis residents that met 12 times over the last year to help plan for the future of neighborhood parks east of the Mississippi. Now MPRB staff and its design consultants will consider all the feedback received to date and publish another iteration of design concepts for a 45-day public comment period in November. Then the design team will again consider comments from all stakeholders and potentially make more adjustments before sending a to the Board of Commissioners for a final public hearing and vote on its final approval. Master plans are available in all NE and SE recreation centers, at MPRB Headquarters and online for public comment. You can find more at https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/park_care_improvements/park_projects/current_projects/east_of_the_river_park_master_plan/

Mississippi Gorge Regional Park Master Planning. The Work on the Mississippi Gorge Regional Park Mater Plan Community Advisory Committee is continuing. Their next meeting will be on Monday, **November 5**, 5:30-7:30 pm at MPRB Headquarters. To learn more about this plan visit:

https://www.minneapolisparcs.org/park_care_improvements/park_projects/current_projects/mississippi_gorge_regional_park_master_plan/

Hiawatha and Lake Intersection. The Longfellow Community Council (LCC) with representatives from Hennepin County, Lake Street Council and Holy Trinity Lutheran Church are hosting a community meeting to discuss possible road and intersection improvements at Hiawatha and Lake Street. All residents and businesses are invited to attend the meeting on Tuesday, **November 13**, at 6:00 – 8pm at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, in the Bartsch Room, <https://www.facebook.com/events/271213196837751/>

Seward Community Co-op Workers Contract. I was happy to see that 14 months after first voting to unionize, the Seward Community Co-op workers voted at the end of August to ratify a first union contract. The Co-ops contract with United Food and Commercial Workers Local 663 covers more than 250 workers at 3 locations.

Bessemer at Seward Commons. The Council has voted to waive the affordable housing guideline and support the requests from Seward Redesign to the State Department of Employment and Economic Development of \$389,513 and to the Met Council of \$302,871 to help construct an apartment building at the Seward Commons site at 2200-2218 Snelling Ave. This project, which will be Phase III of the overall redevelopment plan, will include 121 units of housing, along with a large green space that will also be a bike connection for the neighborhood. The funds, if awarded, will be used primarily for soil remediation and the installation of a vapor barrier.

Malcolm Yards Market (501 30th Ave SE). The City Council has voted to support the Malcolm Yards Met Council grant request for \$99,574 to help them convert the old Harris Machinery Building into a 16,500 square foot food hall with multiple small food vendors and a communal dining space. The funds, if awarded, will be used primarily for the abatement of asbestos-containing materials.

University Child Care Center. I was relieved to learn that plans to close the University Child Care facility are no longer being considered and that the University has taken the recommendations of a Twin Cities campus-wide advisory committee on child care options for faculty, staff, and students. The report can be found at https://provost.umn.edu/sites/provost.umn.edu/files/provosts_child_care_advisory_committee_final_report_2018.pdf I agree with its assessment that access to high-quality child care is critically important to success of the institution and the wellbeing of its faculty, staff and students

U of M Conservation Improvement Program. The University of Minnesota has filed an application with the state to withdraw from paying into the Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) for natural gas, which helps pay for energy efficiency programs and rebates to all Minnesota gas customers. I oppose this, as do most of the environmental advocates I've heard from. The City is working on comments strongly opposing this attempt, and I expect us to file them with the state next week. The City is currently working with our energy utility partners through the Clean Energy Partnership to significantly scale up the use of CIP energy efficiency programs like Home Energy Squad, and helping buy down the cost of CIP improvements in people's homes like air sealing and insulation. The U recently benefitted from a major CIP investment in their Combined Heat and Power plant, which undercuts the idea that they do not benefit from CIP. As a research institution, they also receive hundreds of thousands of dollars from CIP each year to research sustainable building design and other energy efficiency interventions. And they are a member of a broader community of people who could benefit from CIP, including their students, faculty and staff. In my view this is a shortsighted move that will make it harder to make the kind of broad-scale, urgent progress needed on climate change, do significant damage to the CIP program, and damage the University's reputation. I hope that they will choose to withdraw this application.

Maya Commons. The Council has voted to support the application to the Metropolitan Council for the Maya Commons apartment building proposed to be built in the Southeast Como near Van Cleve Park at 937 13th Ave SE. Project for Pride in Living is proposing to build a 50-unit apartment building that will reuse of the Bunge Elevator head house for common area community and have 8 units for individuals experiencing long term homelessness. The Metropolitan Council will make a final funding decision in November or December.

Como Ave. Ped Improvements. The City is using federal highway safety improvement project (HSIP) funds to make pedestrian ramp improvements along Como Avenue at 12th, 13th, 14th, and 15th. Curb extensions are planned at the corners to shorten pedestrian crossing distances. Traffic signal improvements are included on the south side of Como/15th. The sidewalk on the south side of Como will be completed this fall, and the north side on the spring of 2019. I apologize for not doing a better job of informing and engaging with the neighborhood about these traffic signal/ADA/pedestrian intersection improvements earlier and also for the poor timing of this related to at least one recent utility box improvement. Public works usually reaches out to key stakeholders when construction is about to start but missed that step on this

project and I apologize for them as well. Still, I do believe that the design is consistent with our Complete Streets policies for intersection layout and am hopeful that they will lead to safer and more accessible intersections for the future. You can learn more at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/cip/currentprojects/WCMSP-209894>

Northbay Project at 934 15th Ave SE. Northbay Companies is moving forward with a project that would demolish the buildings at 934 and 938 15th Ave., SE and replace them with 2 3-story apartment buildings in a 12-unit cluster development. Each unit would have 4 bedrooms and 4 bathrooms and the two buildings would share a central courtyard. In order to construct the building Northbay would need the properties to be rezoned from R2B to R3, get a conditional use to increase the height from 2.5 or 3 stories and a variance to reduce the parking requirement from 24 to 17 off-street parking spaces.

Prospect Park Tower Historic Views. As a follow-up to a formal request that I moved (and the Council approved) during review of the Art and Architecture project, the Historic Preservation Commission discussed potential future options for preserving of views to and from the historic Witch's Hat Tower in October. It appears that there may be legal regulatory tools that could be utilized to help us guide future development near the Tower in a way that could preserve views. You can find the staff report here <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@cped/documents/webcontent/wcmSP-214514.pdf>. The HPC expressed interest in having the city to complete a context plan or a "scenic resources protection plan" that would likely highlight specific historic landmarks worthy of visual protection. That policy plan might then inform the creation of an overlay district that would regulate development around landmarks with critical views.

Vermilion Art and Architecture Project EAW Petition. The Council did not approve ordering an Environmental Assessment Worksheet for this project in response the citizen petition in October. While, I appreciated the familiar concerns highlighted in the petition which seemed to focus mostly on potential harm done to the historic resource of the Tower and the embankment south of the proposed buildings, I did not support ordering them to complete a worksheet. The proposed development did not meet any of the mandatory EAW categories so the worksheet was not required and the City Council is only to order a discretionary EAW if it might inform future decisions regarding the development project. I did not believe that there were environmental effects that we could do something to mitigate through any upcoming approval process that wouldn't be addressed otherwise, so I could not support it.

Street Lighting District 4th St SE. The Council has approved the establishment of a new Street Lighting District to maintain the special lighting on 4th Street SE between Malcolm and 25th Ave. <http://lms.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-01203>

Riverside Homes Refinance. At the end of September, the Council gave final approval to issue and sell Tax Exempt Multifamily Housing Revenue Entitlement Bonds in an amount not to exceed \$21,000,000 to refinance two old Riverside Homes West Bank Community Housing Corporation's loans. This will allow them to proceed with plans to renovate their 191 units of

affordable housing in 74 buildings throughout the West Bank. Work will include window and roof replacements as well as interior improvements and creating 6 additional wheelchair accessible units and four brought up to standards for the hearing impaired. Not resident displacement is anticipated and work is likely to begin yet this fall. To learn more visit <http://wbcdc.org/meeting-review-riverside-homes-preservation-project/>

Liquor License Renewals. Liquor licenses have been renewed for several Ward 2 businesses including East Lake Liquor, Pepper and Fries, the Schooner Tavern, Sonora Grill, Sally's Saloon, Surly Brewing and the Eagles.

2019 Street Resurfacing Plan. Public Works staff have identified the street resurfacing projects they recommend completing next year. This includes Evergreen Drive in Seward, segments of 19th and 20th Avenues and 4th Street S on the edge of campus on the West Bank, a portion of Rollins and Elm St in Southeast Como and portions of 28th Street, 31st Ave, and the stretch of 36th Ave from 25th to 38th Streets in Seward and Longfellow.

Jobs with the City. The City has several job openings among and more than 900 different job types. To learn more and view current openings see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/jobs>

Openings on Boards and Commissions. Several board and commission positions are open for City Council and Mayor appointments this spring. People can apply and stay up to date on vacancies, position descriptions and timelines by visiting minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings. Potential applicants can find more information at 612-673-2216 or OpenAppointments@minneapolismn.gov.

Open Office Hours in the Ward. I usually hold open Community "Office Hours" in the ward every Monday morning from 9:30 to 11:00 am. Please feel free to call the office at 673-2202 to reserve some time when I will be there or just stop by.
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.

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