

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Prospect Park, 10-22-18

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.*

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People who are deaf or hard of hearing
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612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-673-
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Para asistencia 612-673-2700

Rau kev pab 612-673-2800

Hadii aad Caawimaad u baahantahay
612-673-3500.

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

Items:

- 1) Street Sweeping
 - 2) 2040 Comp Plan
 - 3) Comp Plan Amendments
 - 4) 2019 Proposed Budget
 - 5) Budget Amendments
 - 6) General Election
 - 7) Tower Hill Historic Views
 - 8) Vermillion Art and Architecture Project EAW Petition
 - 9) Malcolm Yards Market
 - 10) Openings on Boards and Commissions
- 1) The fall street sweeping begins on Tuesday, October 23. "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 find out when the sweepers are coming through their 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 for the upcoming week will be broken down to show which day of the week streets are scheduled to be swept.
 - 2) 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 plan prepare thoughtfully for the upcoming population growth while reducing racial and economic disparities, and addressing climate change. To review the plan and get more information visit <https://minneapolis2040.com/>. In the will also be making hard copies of the plan available for review. One is already available at the desk of the East Lake Library and at Ward 2 neighborhood organization offices and local parks soon. There will be Public Hearings at the Planning Commission on **October 29** at 4:00pm and before the City Council on **November 14** at 4:30pm, both in Room 317 in City Hall. I expect both the Planning Commission and the Council to make numerous amendments to the plan before the Council approve it in December (probably the 7th).
 - 3) If you have comp plan 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. For example, I know that there is a proposed amendment dealing with the residential neighborhood of 4th St SE, and will be taking that into consideration. I will also be looking at how the proposed new comprehensive plan matches up to approved small area plans as well as efforts over the last few years to create 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 special designation in the plan. I also may propose smaller changes to strategies within in other policy areas related to increasing affordable housing, energy and natural green space.

- 4) The Council is now 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.
- 5) 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 funding 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. Third, I am convinced that we need an additional civilian investigator in 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 in 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.
- 6) The 2018 General Election will be held **Tuesday, November 6**. People can vote early in-person at the City's Downtown Early Vote Center located at **217 S. Third Street**. 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 at the Urban League at 2100 Plymouth Avenue North, 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: www.vote.minneapolismn.gov/voters/ballot and more info at www.vote.minneapolismn.gov. There will be a proposal on the 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 support moving existing off-sale language into ordinance.
- 7) 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/wcmssp-214514.pdf>. The HPC expressed interest in this issue and for 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 a overlay district that would regulate development around landmarks with critical views.
- 8) The Council did not approve ordering an Environmental Assessment Worksheet for the Vermillion Art and Architecture project in response to a citizen petition. 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.
- 9) The City Council has voted to support the Malcolm Yards Met Council grant request for \$99,574 from the Wall Development Company to help them convert the old Harris Machinery Building at 501 30th Ave SE 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.
- 10) Several board and commission positions are open for City Council and mayor appointments. Visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/index.htm> for more information and to apply.