

---

---

# 12<sup>TH</sup> WARD UPDATE

Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy

December 2004

---

---

Sign up for the monthly Update by sending an e-mail to: [Sandra.Colvin.Roy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:Sandra.Colvin.Roy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)

## A Plan for our Historic Theaters

Thirteen months ago the City Council decided to plan for the long-term public use and economic viability of the historic State, Orpheum, and Pantages Theaters. We entered this process knowing that we were making an important decision and we adopted goals to guide that decision. Maximizing the positive economic impact of the theaters on the city and preserving the theaters as a long-term legacy for future generations were primary. Timely, diverse, and frequent programming in Minneapolis with opportunities for local artists were also important.

I voted, along with a majority of my colleagues, to begin negotiations with the current management team: Hennepin Theatre Group, Hennepin Theatre Trust (a local non-profit), and Clear Channel Entertainment (they currently work with the operators to present Broadway shows at the theaters.) Two teams submitted proposals that were finalists in consideration: the current team and the Alliance, led by the Ordway. Both proposals would result in the eventual repayment of all bonds with no further city obligation but the HTT/HTG proposal takes on all risk for capital expenditures right now, saving the city millions right away and eliminating risk for taxpayers. If the negotiations are successful, HTT/HTG will manage the theaters for 30 years. After the bonds are paid, ownership of the theaters will transfer to the Historic Theater Trust. **We are not selling the theaters to Clear Channel**, as you may have heard via a widely circulated, inaccurate e-mail.

We have a local company with a proven track record of successful management, booking a wide variety of performances, and leading a renaissance of the Hennepin Theatre District ... an economic boon to downtown.

## Wenonah/Keewaydin Win Reprieve

It has been a tough year for schools and the people who care about them. After thousands of parent hours put into the River Schools process, Longfellow area schools were put into limbo yet again and Nokomis schools had their futures questioned. The School Board is dealing with dramatic drops in enrollment, partly from a declining birth rate that is projected to continue into the future, so school closings must be a part of the plan for education.

I talked with School Board Members and Superintendent Peebles before the facilities decisions, specifically about 12<sup>th</sup> Ward schools. My first message was that parents need certainty, so they can plan for their children's future. We have lost students during the last few years due to the uncertainty. We need decisions, but they must lead to schools that will serve families well.

I urged the Board to accept the Howe/Hiawatha parent proposal to merge those schools and it was accepted early on. I also made my best case for taking a second look at the Nokomis schools. It was clear to me after talking with parents that this part of the city does not have satisfactory options. I was heartened to find that the School Board listened to me, along with the many parents and Sen. Skoglund and Rep. Wagenius, and so ordered a short process for staff and parents to work on the idea of a K-8 shared campus. MPS Board Member Joe Erickson explained that the decision must be data driven, and I know that parents are searching for data to make their case.

## New Recycling Contract Delivers

Thanks to the *Minneapolis Observer* for the "Department of Good News" report on the City's recycling contract. The *Observer* reporter, a diligent follower of our Public Works activity, heard staff giving the TPW Committee good news about additional revenue received with the new contract. His research revealed that it would take a hypothetical 75-cent/household/month fee hike to equal the additional revenue from the new recycling contract.

The *Observer* rightly points out that this was a wrenching debate. It was one of the most heavily lobbied decisions of the past year. My concern during the long debate was how the contract would perform financially for our rate payers, primarily homeowners. The excellent performance of the new contract will help insulate us from future rate increases.

## More Off-street Parking for LRT Users

Parking spots have been added at the Fort Snelling Station (400 spaces) and the Lake Street/Midtown Station (239 spaces) to serve LRT riders. Spaces at Lake Street are in two places: the Anishable Academy parking lot and the SE corner of the Lake and Hiawatha intersection. A 600 car park-and-ride opened at the 28<sup>th</sup> Ave Station in Bloomington along with the rest of the line on Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>.

## EVENTS & SPECIAL MEETINGS

### 46<sup>th</sup> Street LRT Parking Meeting

Tuesday, December 14, 6:30 p.m.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

### Nokomis East Night Before New Year's Eve Party

Thursday, December 30, 5-8 p.m.

Nokomis Community Center, 2401 East Minnehaha Parkway.

## MONTHLY NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

### NENA Town Meeting – Zoning Overlay

Minnehaha United Methodist – 3701 E 50<sup>th</sup> St.

November 9<sup>th</sup>, 7 – 9 p.m.

### SENA Board Meeting

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 4000 28<sup>th</sup> Ave. S  
December 13, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.standish-ericsson.org](http://www.standish-ericsson.org)

### LCC Board Meeting

Longfellow Park

December 16, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.longfellow.org](http://www.longfellow.org)

### NENA Board Meeting

3000 East 50<sup>th</sup> Street

December 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit [www.nokomiseast.org](http://www.nokomiseast.org)

## Air Pollution Reduced: More Work Needed

Minneapolis is a nationwide leader in the reduction of greenhouse gases. Over the past 10 years, greenhouse gas emissions have dropped by 2.6 million tons, or 15 percent in the city. This exceeds an internationally recognized goal of a 7 percent reduction in the United States.

The area for concern is vehicle emissions. It is difficult to quantify local vehicle emissions at a city level, but all indications point to an increase in vehicle emissions.

Air pollution is one of the many reasons the city will continue to carry the message of dedicated transit funding to the State Capitol. I found it encouraging to see key anti-transit legislators lose their elections this year. The message many areas sent to their representatives is that transit is part of transportation and both are priorities to keep our region working.

## 12<sup>th</sup> Ward Developments

Developer interest in the 12<sup>th</sup> Ward may turn this into a regular *Update* article. Here is a brief description of new and ongoing projects in the Ward.

***For Pet's Sake*** – The owner of the business is exploring a move from the Hiawatha Plaza to the building just north of Walgreens. Applications have been filed to rezone the property.

***Norm's Market Building (3347 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave. S)*** – A new owner has purchased the building and will lease space to small storefront businesses.

***Oaks Hiawatha (46<sup>th</sup> and Snelling)*** – The 61 unit rental complex with first floor retail is expected to be ready for occupancy in late summer or early fall of 2005.

***Master Engineering Condos at 46<sup>th</sup> and 46<sup>th</sup>*** – The Planning Commission granted a rezoning for this three story, 20 unit condo building but denied the set-back variances. I spoke against the variances at the Zoning and Planning Committee and City Council Meeting. Final action was postponed until December 10 at the Council meeting because of a tie vote.

***Minnehaha Condos*** – The building is coming out of the ground at 53<sup>rd</sup> Street and Minnehaha Avenue. Originally proposed as a 90 unit senior only building, the developers dropped the age restriction before construction began.

***42<sup>nd</sup> Street Lofts*** – Construction continues on these 3 level loft units at 42<sup>nd</sup> Street and Dight Avenue. The city is working with the contractor to clean-up the site and contain erosion.

## Latest Update on Hiawatha Traffic

As Chair of the Transportation and Public Works Committee, I asked staff for a report last week about the most recent efforts to improve the traffic flow along Hiawatha. A Federal peer review team came to the city and made these recommendations for improving traffic flow:

- ◆ Revise LRT related timing parameters for the Hiawatha Avenue traffic signals to reflect slower LRT travel speeds and longer than anticipated station loading/dwell times.
- ◆ Reduce delay time in raising gates after LRT vehicle passes the cross street (which requires an equipment change).
- ◆ Features to enable cancellation of signal preemptions remotely from the rail control center and at stations lacking that ability.
- ◆ Alarm system notifying the rail control center when intersections are in an extended preempt condition.
- ◆ Emergency vehicle features allowing enhanced information and priority service for our emergency vehicles.

Work was being done in these areas prior to the formal recommendations coming from the Federal Officials. Residents can expect to see further improvement on Hiawatha Avenue and the cross-streets in the coming months.