



City of Minneapolis — Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy

12th Ward Update

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AIRPORT NOISE LAWSUITS

The Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) is facing two separate lawsuits over its failure to meet its obligation to provide sound mitigation to its neighbors. The first lawsuit was filed by Minneapolis, Richfield, Eagan and the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority. A class action lawsuit was also filed by seven Minneapolis residents.

The cities' lawsuit won a key court victory in January of 2007 when Judge Aldrich ruled in favor of the cities, finding the MAC violated the Minnesota Environmental Rights Act. Judge Aldrich said that the MAC had reneged on its obligation to limit noise pollution and violated the standards it set in exchange for approval of airport expansion. The Judge asked the cities to come up with a counter proposal, reflecting what we believe to be fair.

Recently the city was notified that the attorneys for the class action lawsuit had negotiated a deal. From the summary provided to the city, it appears that 46 percent of the affected homes would get no protection. Of the remaining homes, about 1760 could receive air conditioning and up to \$1750 for certain limited noise insulation options and about 2,640 who already have air conditioning could get half the cost of the a.c. plus the \$1750 for limited noise insulation options (part of that \$1750 would go to the class action attorneys in addition to a specified payment for their services.) This is dramatically less than MAC agreed to when they approved recommendations from the 1996 Community Stabilization Committee in their EIS.

Residents are invited to a city sponsored open house on June 27th to discuss what they believe to be a fair counter proposal for sound relief and to hear more about the proposed settlement for the class action lawsuit. See details in the community calendar.

GOV'S VETO LEAVES MN TAXPAYERS OWING \$32 MILLION MORE TO FEDS

The Governor's veto of the tax bill was disappointing for a number of reasons. Most prominent was the loss of \$13 million in additional Local Government Aid (LGA) for Mpls. that would've started to fill the \$34 million hole caused by LGA cuts since 2003. I believe there was serious momentum to put much of that money into property tax relief in our city.

A second disappointment was revealed in a League of Minnesota Cities recap. According to LMC, the tax bill also included "modifications that will maintain conformity with federal income tax code. Without these federal conformity changes, Minnesota taxpayers will pay an additional \$32 million in income taxes over the upcoming biennium."

I believe that this veto was very shortsighted and the property tax relief offered, combined with some of the other proposals, could have brought much needed positive momentum to our city and state.

HIAWATHA MEDIAN

The native plant median on Hiawatha, south of 46th Street to the city limit, has presented both maintenance and public perception and challenges. Along with spending much of its time in a jurisdictional morass, it has also been unclear to most residents if it is an un-kept weed bed or a beautiful wild floor and native grass haven.

I've been working with our Public Works Department and the Park Board to make sure the median stays healthy and attractive. Native plants do need maintenance, just not as much as traditional turf grass.

Last fall Public Works met with a Park Board horticulturist to create a maintenance plan for the median. It was the horticulturist's advice to mow the median this spring and then monitor the growth throughout the summer. The goal is to make sure the wild flowers and native grasses are not being crowded out by unintended plants (aka weeds). The mowing was done on May 22nd and monitoring will continue throughout the summer. It has grown back very nicely in the last month. I expect the final result to be a clear plan that can be easily followed by our maintenance crews.

EVENTS & SPECIAL MEETINGS

Airport Noise Lawsuit

Open House About Proposed Settlement

Wednesday, June 27 6 - 7:30 p.m.

Richfield Lutheran Church, 8 W. 60th St.

Put a Living, Growing Roof on Your Garage

Saturday, July 28, 10 a.m. to Noon

East Lake Library, 2727 East Lake Street

Reservations Required: Contact Chris Wegscheid at cwagscheid@cermakrhoades.com

Runway Construction Open House

July 30, 2007 6:30 pm

[Nokomis Recreation Center](#)

NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

LCC Board Meeting

Thursday, June 21, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Hiawatha Park, 4305 42nd St. East

For more information, visit www.longfellow.org

NENA Board Meeting

Thursday, June 28, 7:00 p.m.

3000 East 50th Street

For more information, visit

www.nokomiseast.org

WiFi INFORMATIONAL MEETINGS SCHEDULED

While the citywide wireless network gradually gets up and running, the City is hosting a series of community meetings to keep you and other residents updated on the progress. Folks will also learn more about the process for developing community and neighborhood portal pages that will be hosted on the wireless network.

Through portal pages, the City can offer neighborhood and community organizations a powerful communication and community-building tool. Initially, six portal pages will be created (Central, Downtown, North, Northeast, South, and Southwest), and the public is invited to the community meetings to give their ideas and feedback about the content of those pages.

The meeting for our part of the city will be held on Thursday, November 1 at the Nokomis Community Center (2401 E. Minnehaha Ave.)

As part of the contract, the City negotiated a comprehensive set of community benefits that go far beyond what any other city in the country has negotiated. One important and exciting component of this is the creation of neighborhood and community portal pages.

You can learn more about a "wireless Minneapolis" at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/wirelessminneapolis/

START PLANNING FOR NNO

Summer may just be getting started, but now is the time to be thinking about National Night Out.

The Minneapolis Police Department has set aside June 17 to 24 as the week for block clubs to plan activities and divide up tasks.

Block party applications and planning tips are located at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno. Block party organizers can also call 311 or 673-3000 for assistance. People who register their party before July 24 can get their street closure permit for free. (After this date, a street closure permit costs \$100.)

Blocks that held parties within the last two years and newly organized block clubs will receive a mailing from the Police Department in early June. If your block doesn't have a block club and you'd like to organize a National Night Out block party, call the MPD's John Baumann at (612) 673-3447.