



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Prospect Park East River Road Neighborhood, 7-26-10

**Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:
Pratt School, August 17th, 9:30-11am**

Items:

- 1) Historic Designation
- 2) Congratulations to Tasha Holtman
- 3) Temporary Parking Ordinance
- 4) Street Lights on University and Washington
- 5) Unisys Contract
- 6) Interjurisdictional Construction Meeting
- 7) Buffalo Wild Wings
- 8) "We Want You Back"
- 9) New Solar on Public Buildings
- 10) Park Participation Survey
- 11) Central Corridor Business Support
- 12) Be a Voice of the University District
- 13) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) On July 13, City staff recommended that the Historic Preservation Commission not designate Prospect Park as a local Historic District. The Commission unanimously concurred with staff and the matter now moves forward to the City council Zoning and Planning Committee and then to the full Council. I expect the Council to agree with Commission. I now considering helping drat a new Conservation District ordinance and hope to work closely with others on this in the months ahead.
- 2) Congratulations to Prospect Park resident Tasha Holtman for her Silver medal in the Junior Paper category at the National History Day competition this June. This impressive achievement speaks well of Tasha, her parents, and the Minneapolis Public Schools that she has attended, including Pratt Elementary and Sanford Middle School.
- 3) I have been working since last winter on a possible solution for parking issues raised last year by businesses related to the new football stadium. Last Friday I gave notice to the Council of my plan to introduce an new ordinance that would create a new Temporary Event Parking Permit. Property/business owners with a parking lot could apply for up to 15 dates/events per year. The permit would only be available to existing parking lots and would not allow for tailgating. Property/business owners could advertise and charge for parking and there would be an application fee of about \$100 but up to 15 dates/events could be listed on one application. Conditions could be placed on and they could be denied or revoked for cause. Specific language will be drafted soon and I am hopeful that there is time to get this done before the end of August. I welcome your feedback and continued collaboration.
- 4) City Public Works staff have scheduled several meetings to discuss the assessment process for street lighting on University Ave and Washington Ave as part of the Central Corridor project. These meetings are primarily for affected property owners to hear about and give input on the potential assessment. The City's ordinances state that for a complete reconstruction, such as will occur as part of the Central Corridor, pedestrian level streetlighting will be installed unless 75% of affected property owners opt out. The meetings for University Ave from 29th Ave SE to Emerald will occur on Wednesday, August 11, 6:30-7:30PM and Monday, August 23, 6:30-7:30PM, at the Textile Center at 3000 University Ave SE. The meetings for Washington Ave from Huron to Oak will occur on Thursday, August 12, 4:00-5:00 PM and Tuesday, August 24, 4:00-5:00PM, both at Dinnaken House, 900 Washington Ave SE.

If you need this material in an alternative format, please contact Matt Bower at (612) 673-2188 or Matthew.Bower@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

If you want help translating this call – Hmong– Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2188;

Spanish – Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llama 612-673-2188;

Somali – Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' an wac 612-673-2188.

- 5) The City's Business Information Services department is recommending a renegotiation of the City's contract for information/technology services with Unisys Corporation. The contract is set to expire in January 2013 and costs roughly \$11 million a year. Under the proposed terms it would be extended for four years through 2016 in exchange for some changes in service and a \$280,000 savings in 2010 (and additional savings in future years) for a total cost to the City of over \$45 million. I have had concerns about this contract for some time and do not think we should move forward with this extension without conducting an analysis of alternatives, including potentially going out for open bids on this contract, exploring moving some or all of this work back in-house, and investigating whether open-source software can better meet the City's needs. I was able to get my colleagues to agree to a two-week delay on this action, and I hope this will lead us to do more due diligence work before extending this costly contract.
- 6) My office is working to set up a meeting with the Prospect Park neighborhood and representatives of the City, the County, the Met Council and MnDOT, to present information to the community on all of the construction projects that we expect over the next few years.
- 7) My office is working with representatives from Buffalo Wild Wings and PPERRIA on a set of conditions on the liquor license that will meet the needs of the neighborhood and the applicant.
- 8) As a member of the Youth Coordinating Board I am excited about a new joint effort the Board is embarking on this fall with the Public School to enroll youth who have dropped out of school and get them on the path to graduation. The program's goal is to attract back 200 youth and put them on a path where they can be successful. Up to 1,900 young people dropped out of school between 2008 and 2010. The campaign is looking for volunteers to help reach young people who did not finish school this summer at various events and on Saturday, September 11 to join hundreds of people walking together, dropping information fliers, and talking to neighbors around the city. For info and to sign up to volunteer visit www.wewantyoubackmpls.org.
- 9) The City is poised to make significant investments in solar energy thanks in large part to a \$1.35 million grant from the Minnesota Department of Commerce Office of Energy Security (OES) for solar power installations on public buildings from along and near the Central LRT line Corridor within what is being called "the Energy Innovation Corridor." The locations for the Solar installations include: Fire Station #1 (240 sq. ft. thermal), Fire Station #19 (15.5 kW and 160 sq. ft. thermal with Battery Storage), the Haaf Parking Ramp (40 kW), Royalston Maintenance Facility (100 kW) 2 Solar Electric Vehicle Charging Stations on the Parking Ramp across from the Guthrie, and the Brian Coyle Center (28 kW/400 sq. ft. thermal). Once the projects are completed in the fall of 2011 the City will get 63.5 kW of solar electric power for just \$108,000. At our current electricity cost, this is a payback of less than 8 years.
- 10) During the month of July the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board is asking the public how you would prefer they engage you when they make changes in the parks. The survey is on our homepage at <http://www.minneapolisparcs.org> just click on the box in the lower left hand corner marked "2010 Public Participation Survey." If you do take the survey please make sure to include your zip code.
- 11) A coalition of public, private and nonprofit groups, called the Central Corridor Business Resources Collaborative, have joined together to provide new tools to help businesses survive during the construction of the Central Corridor LRT line. The "Ready for Rail" initiative (www.ReadyforRail.net) initiative it has started will support small businesses currently operating along the Central Corridor route. It identifies existing resources and services available to help businesses and property owners and has created a Small Business Loan Fund with contributions of \$1 million from the Metropolitan Council and \$500,000 from the Central Corridor Funders Collaborative that will offer loans to help qualifying small businesses during and after construction.
- 12) Voices of the University District is a project to collect stories from the people who "live, work, learn, and play" in the University District (the neighborhoods of Marcy-Holmes, Prospect Park, Southeast Como, West Bank/Cedar-Riverside, and the Minneapolis campus of the University of Minnesota). This is an opportunity to voice your community pride: what you like about living here, why you choose to work here, how you play and learn here. If you have a story or thought you'd like to share, visit <http://udistrictvoices.com> and submit online, send it in an email to submit@udistrictvoices.com, or leave it in a voicemail at 612-259-8424. Be sure to let us know if we may identify your quote by name. For more information, visit <https://www.myu.umn.edu/public/VoicesoftheDistrict.pdf>.
- 13) There are openings on the Latino Advisory Committee (open until filled), Pedestrian Advisory Committee, (Open until filled), Public Health Advisory Committee (open until filled) and Senior Citizens Advisory Committee (open until filled). To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.