
12TH WARD UPDATE

Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy

July 2003

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Library Board Facing Tough Choices: 12th Ward Service Vulnerable

The Minneapolis Library Board is currently taking comments on proposed solutions to the \$4.5 million dollar budget shortfall facing our library system for 2004. Library staff has presented three different options that are meant to illustrate the trade-offs inherent in the tough decisions facing the Library Board. It is important to note that the Central Library Project is not responsible for this shortfall and it will actually help reduce operating costs in the future, therefore freeing up operating money for neighborhood libraries in the future.

The disturbing news for the 12th Ward is that two of the three scenarios propose closing Roosevelt Library and reducing hours at Nokomis. I have repeatedly stated that every effort must be made to keep library service in all neighborhoods. That is the message I will take to the Library Board as they deliberate on how to solve their budget shortfall and I encourage you to do the same.

The Library budget options can be viewed at <http://www.mplib.org/>. Your comments can also be submitted by:

1. Filling out a comment form available at any Minneapolis Public Library
2. Leave a message on the Library comment line at 612-630-6263 (or 630-6003 TTY)
3. Send an e-mail to askus@mplib.org
4. Write to: Minneapolis Public Library, 250 Marquette, Suite 400, Mpls., MN 55401

2 a.m. Bar Closing Adopted Citywide

Minneapolis lobbied the state legislature for a later bar close because it is an aspect of competition for convention business, which is important to the economic life of the city. With the change of the state law came a debate within the city about where a later closing time would be appropriate. I was concerned first about the impacts on the 12th ward, then about the fairness of the city action and the safety of citizens citywide.

Both the small number of bars and the surprisingly few calls to my office illustrated the small impact a later bar close will have on the 12th ward. It is likely most of the neighborhood bars in the 12th Ward will not see a benefit to staying open later and will keep their current hours, but I feel business decisions should be left to businesses and that is what a citywide option allows for business owners.

Fairness was also a concern of mine. Deciding where to draw the line for allowing 2 a.m. bar close would have been very difficult and could have potentially caused legal problems for the city. I was not interested in "penalizing" good businesses by setting up a patchwork of 2 a.m. and 1 a.m. closing times around the city.

Finally, I was persuaded by the concern expressed by the Police Department about bar patrons moving from bars with 1 a.m. closing times to areas with later hours. Part of the motivation for changing the law at the state level was to fight the phenomenon of Minnesota residents crossing the border into Wisconsin. Any policy that encourages late-night bar hopping should be avoided and we have done that with the citywide application of a 2 a.m. bar close.

New Water Monitoring Taskforce Proposed

Water quality is a passion of mine and I have worked on various water quality initiatives during my time in office. My latest effort is a Water Monitoring Taskforce. Although the Park Board, Public Works, and the Minnehaha Watershed District all do some water monitoring, communication between the bodies and with policy makers is sometimes lacking. My goal in authoring the resolution to create this taskforce is to get policy makers from the three bodies at the table with staff so that comprehensive goals and strategies can be worked out without duplication. Our lakes, rivers, and creeks are a valuable resource in the city and every effort needs to be made to not only maintain their health but improve the quality of water for aquatic life and human use.

Special Joint Committee Hearing on NRP Ordinance

A special joint meeting of the Ways and Means/Budget and Community Development Committees has been called for a public hearing to consider the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP) Ordinance. The public hearing is an important opportunity for the public to comment on the ordinance that establishes funding priorities for NRP, Phase II, and related amendments. Decisions made on this ordinance will determine the future of NRP.

The meeting will be held at 1:30 p.m. on July 21 in room 317 of City Hall (the regularly scheduled Ways & Means Committee meeting will follow the public hearing).

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Midtown Public Market Grand Opening

Edison/PPL School, Lake Street and Hiawatha Ave.
July 12th, 8 a.m. - Noon

Greater Longfellow Streetfest

Lake Street and Minnehaha Avenue
July 13th, Noon – 5 p.m.

Library Budget Scenarios Community Meeting

East Lake Community Library, 2727 East Lake Street
July 16th, 7-9 p.m.

Minneapolis Mosaic - Gathering Voices: A Celebration of Minneapolis' Indigenous History and Artistic Culture

Minnehaha Park
Saturday, July 19th, 11:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Aquatennial Festival of Neighborhoods

Bossen Field
July 24th, 6 – 8 p.m.

Aquatennial Festival of Neighborhoods

Lake Nokomis Community Center, 2401 East Minnehaha Parkway
July 25th, 6-8 p.m.

Lake Street Reconstruction Open House

East Lake Library, 2727 East Lake Street
June 26th, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

38th Street Station Area Master Plan Kick-Off Workshop

Bethany Lutheran Church, 3901 36th Avenue South
July 31st
6:30 – 7:00 p.m. – Open House & Exhibits
7:00 – 8:30 p.m. – Presentations & Workshop Activities

MONTHLY NEIGHBORHOOD MEETINGS

SENA Board Meeting

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 4000 28th Avenue S
July 14, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit www.standish-ericsson.org

LCC Board Meeting

Longfellow Park, 3435 36th Avenue S
July 17, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit www.longfellow.org

NENA Board Meeting

3000 East 50th Street
July 24, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit www.nokomiseast.org

Your Suggestions Please!

The “12th Ward Update” is a work in progress. Please let me know what topics interest you or how this publication can be more useful.

National Airport News

For the past four and a half years, I have served as Legislative co-chair for the National Organization to Insure a Noise-Controlled Environment (NOISE), a group that works for federal change to reduce the effects of noise from airports. Last year NOISE testified twice before the House Transportation and Infrastructure committee to defeat the first Environmental Streamlining bill, which would have allowed airports to expand without taking the surrounding communities into account. This year the FAA has asked NOISE to serve on a panel regarding Environmental Streamlining reform and the U.S. Department of Transportation has asked NOISE to act as an advisor on an international conference to establish new standards for airplane engine noise. NOISE helped to pass Congressman Sabo's bill to secure \$20 million for NASA/FAA research of quiet aircraft technology, also known as “green engine” technology.

National Night Out Changes

National Night Out (NNO) has been an important event in Minneapolis for many years. Partly because of its popularity, NNO application procedures were changed (along with all block event applications) to make them easier for residents and city staff. Due to a tight budget, street closure methods were re-examined and most blocks will not be using the wooden barricades. The major changes applicants will see include:

1. Affidavit stating 75% of the block supports block event. This replaces the need to gather signatures.
2. Applicant will be told where to pick up a street closure kit of tape and signs unless Public Works staff believe that a wooden barricade is needed due to volume of traffic.
3. Online applications can be submitted by going to:
<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/nno/streetclosure.asp#TopOfPage>

Midtown Public Market to Open July 12th

After countless hours of volunteer work, neighbors from Longfellow, Standish-Ericsson, East Philips, Corcoran, Powderhorn, Seward, and Bancroft will celebrate the grand-opening of the Midtown Public Market on July 12th in the parking lot of the Edison/PPL Building on Lake Street at Hiawatha Avenue.

The Midtown Public Market will feature fresh produce from the Central Minnesota Vegetable Growers Associations and items from local businesses and artists. It will be open for business on Tuesday afternoons (4:30 – 8 p.m.) and Saturday mornings (8 a.m. – Noon) during the summer and fall.

Thank you to all the volunteers for all their great work. I look forward to buying fresh Minnesota produce in our part of the city.

Greater Longfellow Streetfest

Sunday, July 13th – Noon to 5 p.m.

Corner of Lake St. & Minnehaha Ave.

Art
Food
Resource Tables
Street Performers
Live Music and Dance
Art Activities for All Ages
And More . . .