

12TH WARD UPDATE

Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy

December 2002

Sign up for the monthly Update by sending an e-mail with "Update" in the subject line to: sandra.colvin.roy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us Happy Holidays!

Wanted: Your Input on City Goals

The Mayor and City Council have written a draft of city goals for the next four years. These goals are used as a guideline for the operation of the city. Citizen input is an essential part of the goal-setting process and I would like to hear from you. A complete copy of the City's draft goals as well as a summary are available at <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/results-oriented-minneapolis/goals/index.asp>. Comments can be sent to me, or:

- Comments via e-mail can be sent to goals@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.
- Your input will be used to write a final version of the City goals.
- Comments will be accepted through Tues., Dec. 31, 2002.

City Goals

Office of the City Coordinator
350 So. 5th Street, Room 301M
Minneapolis, MN 55415-1330

Keewaydin Ice Rink Win!

Thank you to everyone who contacted me about the Park Board's proposal to close the skating rink at Keewaydin Park. I was not aware of their proposal until reading about it in the StarTribune, but the Park Board members I spoke with said that they did have some community notification before the decision was made. I was, of course, aware that they must make cuts to their budget to meet the spending targets set by the city. Our purpose in setting a cap on budgets is to restrain the increase of taxes.

In any event, many residents were taken by surprise by this proposal and contacted my office. One neighbor correctly pointed out that the map produced by the Park Board for ice rink service in winter of 2002-03 showed a big hole without service in our community. I called several commissioners who were sympathetic to the argument that we are being left without service while many areas of the city have over-lapping areas of service – meaning that their citizens have close access to more than one rink while we have none. I suggested that they could cut the warming house from one of the remaining parks where there was a huge over-lap of service, leave a rink without a warming house at Keewaydin, and make their necessary cuts while leaving some service in our corner of the city.

Commissioner Annie Young moved this option and it failed on a tie vote at a Park Board meeting on November 20th. I continued to receive phone calls from concerned citizens and I kept urging the Park Board Commissioners to look for ways to keep the rink at Keewaydin Park.

All of our calls and conversations paid off as the Park Board reconsidered its earlier vote and adopted a compromise that will allow Keewaydin Park to have ice sheet this winter! Thank you to everyone who called my office and the Park Board. Your concern truly made a difference.

Highway 55

The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) recently began a discussion about raising the speed limit on Highway 55/Hiawatha Avenue. Both views of the issue are represented among 12th Ward residents and I want to make sure that everyone is aware this discussion is ongoing.

Supporters of raising the speed limit see the design of Hiawatha supporting higher speeds. They say it is dangerous to have people driving at such dramatically different speeds and that Hiawatha functions as a highway and not a city street.

Opponents of raising the speed-limit are concerned for pedestrian safety. They feel that Hiawatha must be pedestrian friendly if LRT is going to be successful. Pedestrians need to be able to safely walk across Hiawatha to access LRT stations and the pedestrian oriented business we expect to develop along the line. They also point out that the speed limit was an item of frequent discussion during the planning and design of the Highway 55 upgrade, and that MnDOT stated repeatedly the speed limit would be 35 MPH.

I agree that our first concern should be for pedestrians and their safety, not only for LRT but because residents of the area must cross the highway to get into Minnehaha Falls Park which has been their neighborhood park for more than a century. Yes, Hiawatha is a highway, but so is Hwy. 10 as it passes through Royalton and many other small cities and in each case the driver on the highway sees a sign that warns "Reduced Speed Ahead" and then a sign giving the local speed limit for the city (often 30MPH). I will not consider an increase in the speed limit until pedestrian safety has been adequately addressed,

Hwy 55 continued to page 2

COMMUNITY EVENTS

LCC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Holy Trinity Church, 2730 E 31st Street
Saturday, December 21st – 3 p.m. to 5 p.m.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
WWW.LONGFELLOW.ORG

NIGHT BEFORE NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

Lake Nokomis Community Center
Monday, December 30th, 5 to 8 p.m.
For more information, call the Nokomis Community Center (612-370-4923).

OPEN APPOINTMENT VACANCIES

Contact Minneapolis City Clerk's Office (612-673-2215)

<u>Committee/Board</u>	<u>Closing Date</u>
Planning Commission	12/27/02
Mpls Telecommunications Network	12/27/02

Hwy 55 continued from page 1

and I believe that the highway speed limit for travelling through our city should be approached the same as for other cities.

At a November 20th community meeting MnDOT suggested that raising the speed limit before LRT opens would not be advisable because it may have to change again when we see real driver behavior with LRT in place. At that same meeting a Task Force was begun with members of the Hiawatha Community Advisory Committee to work with MnDOT on a plan. I am encouraged by this local involvement and will push for pedestrian improvements to be implemented as soon as possible.

Minnehaha Park Road Access

My office has received many calls from residents who objected to the closing of Minnehaha Park Road during. My office has learned the in August 2001, the Park Board passed a resolution to close the road Monday through Friday. The goals of the closure were to increase pedestrian and driver safety and to decrease rush hour "cut-through" traffic. Unfortunately, the Park Boards decision has pushed the commuter traffic into Nokomis East neighborhoods, especially along 39th Avenue. After doing traffic counts over the summer to determine if the goals were being met, Park Board staff recommended that the gates be open Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and 9 a.m. Friday morning to 6 a.m. Monday morning.

2002-03 SNOW EMERGENCY RULES

- **All Snow Emergency parking rules begin at 9 p.m. on the day Emergency is called**
- DO NOT PARK on either side of Snow Emergency Routes until the lanes are fully plowed to the curb

Day 2

8 a.m.

- DO NOT PARK ON THE EVEN SIDE of regular streets until that side is fully plowed.
- DO NOT PARK ON EITHER SIDE OF PARKWAYS until they are fully plowed.

Day 3

8 a.m.

- DO NOT PARK ON THE ODD SIDE of regular streets until that side is fully plowed to the curb.
Snow Emergency ends at 8 p.m.

2003 Budget Adopted

The 2003 city budget passed on Monday, December 16 with an 8% property tax increase, including the levy for the Park Board and Library Board. This is the first time the city has set a ceiling on all three entities combined, recognizing the taxes are paid from the same pocket.

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 to you.

