

# **Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to the Prospect Park, East River Road Neighborhood, 7-24-06**

**Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:  
Pratt School, Tuesday August 8, 9:30-11am**

## **Items:**

- I. Community Engagement Forum 7-25-06
- II. University Area Advisory Group
- III. Neighborhood Impact Report
- IV. Light Rail and Central Corridor
- V. CRA Work Group
- VI. Openings on Boards and Commissions

**I.** I will be hosting a forum on civic participation and community engagement on **Tuesday, July 25<sup>th</sup> from 7-9 pm at Brackett Park, 2728 39th Ave S.** In the months ahead the City Council will consider ways to improve citizen participation. At the same time, many neighborhood organizations are struggling to survive and the future of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program is in question. We will be discussing these and other important questions:

- How can we involve more people in City decisions?
- How can the City better support neighborhood organizations in their important work?
- How will citizen participation efforts and neighborhood groups be funded in the future?
- How can neighborhoods better support the work of City Hall?
- How can we all be more inclusive of those who too often go underrepresented in our meetings?

**II.** The University Stadium Area Advisory Group (SAAG) has been reconstituted and met once since the passage of the Gopher Stadium legislation. The new SAAG will include the addition of a student representative. Its duties will include advising and helping to address ongoing issues with construction and operation of the stadium as well how to manage income from a \$1.5 million endowment fund starting July 1, 2007. The City has also increased its involvement. Steve Kotke, interim Director of Public Works, will be serving on the SAAG committee as the City's over all lead staff person on the project. His phone number is 612.673.2402. and the other preparing to report to the governor and legislature on the impact of the university on the neighborhoods by a January 15, 2007 deadline . Work has already begun to put surface parking on "Block 12" near the

Academic Health Center. Three university buildings on University Avenue SE, including the former University Press building, are scheduled to be demolished in September. Concerns and questions for the University can be directed to the Project Coordinator, Brian Swanson, [bswanson@umn.edu](mailto:bswanson@umn.edu), 612.625.6665.

- III. As part of the state legislation that funded the Gopher Stadium, the City, the University of Minnesota and the SAAG have also been directed to draft a report on the more general impact of the University. According to the legislation: “The report shall include consensus recommendations from the University of Minnesota, the city of Minneapolis, and the reconstituted stadium area advisory group for short- and long-term solutions to ongoing issues and concerns and shall include projected costs and benefits of the recommendations made.” This offers us a great opportunity to address issues of public safety, transportation, and housing quality, availability, and affordability, among other things.
- IV. In late June the Metropolitan Council voted to select rail as the “locally preferred alternative” for the Central Corridor. When it did so, it also indicated its approval of the designated route down University Ave and moved forward with its request for Federal Transit Administration (FTA) permission, and funding, to initiate “Preliminary Engineering.” The FTA evaluates proposed projects according to the following criteria: mobility improvements, environmental benefits, cost effectiveness, operating efficiencies, transit-supportive land use and future patterns, capital and operating finances, among others. This summer and fall the Met Council is expected to establish a project office and project management structure, and name a Corridor Management Committee, chaired by the Met Council Chair, to provide oversight. It also plans to establish a Community Advisory Committee to provide local input.
- V. The Civilian Police Review Authority (CRA) work group that I helped form has made several very important recommendations, including: removing the Internal Affairs Unit (or other) review or investigation of CRA sustained cases, establishing a process for administrative dismissal of complaints, formalizing the process for the CRA to recommend changes to the Minneapolis Police Department’s Policies and Procedures manual, initiating an audit of the Internal Affairs Unit, directing a staff group to work on an Early Intervention System, appointing Deputy Chief Lubinski as CRA liaison and changing the format for CRA output.

Written comments on any of the CRA work group’s recommendations may be sent to Natalie Collins at [natalie.collins@ci.minneapolis.mn.us](mailto:natalie.collins@ci.minneapolis.mn.us) or 350 S. 5<sup>th</sup> St., Room 307, Minneapolis, MN 55415. The City will hold at least one additional public hearing (date to be announced) associated with any recommended ordinance changes.

- VI. There are openings on the Civil Rights Commission and the Civilian Police Review Authority. The Civil Rights Commission was created to implement the City’s Civil Rights policies through public information and education; mediation and conciliation; and enforcement. The Civilian Police Review Authority was created to provide fair and impartial investigation of citizen allegations of misconduct on the part of officers of the Minneapolis Police Department and make conclusions based on findings of fact.

For more information on these two openings or for applications, call 612-673-3358 or visit <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/boards-and-commissions/open/>. Both of these openings will close on July 28.