



City of Minneapolis

Ward 8 – Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden

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January 2007

Neighborhood Meetings

Bancroft

Bancroft Neighborhood Assoc Council
www.bancroftneighborhood.org
 Meets 2nd Thursday, 7 pm
 4120 17th Avenue South

Bryant

Bryant Neighborhood Association
 Meets 2nd Tuesday, 8 pm
 Phelps Park, 3900 Chicago

Central

CANDO
 Meets 3rd Thursday, 6:30 pm
 Sabathani, 310 E. 38th Street

Central Weed & Seed
 Meets 2nd Wednesday, 5:30 pm
 Green Central School

Field-Regina-Northrop

www.frnng.org
 Meets 3rd Wednesday, 6:30 pm
 1620 E 46th Street

Kingfield

www.kfna.org
 Meets 2nd Wednesday, 7 pm
 ML King Park, 40th & Nicollet

Powderhorn

www.ppna.org
 Meets 2nd Thursday, 7 pm
 821 E 35th Street

Parkside West

Meets 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 pm
 Midtown Safety Center, 2949 Chicago

38th & Chicago

38th & Chicago Task Force
 Meets 3rd Monday, 7 pm
 Calvary Church, 39th and Chicago

A Note from Elizabeth

As my first year in office closes, I am so honored I am to work with you as your Councilmember for the 8th Ward. I am privileged to have Andrea Jenkins, Policy Aide, and Jennifer White, Associate, working with me in the 8th Ward office – they both put in long hours to serve you and help develop good policy for Minneapolis.

What is a day in the life of a Councilmember like? It combines individual problem solving on behalf of residents, with administering the daily work of city departments through our committees, working to develop and implement policy ideas, and seeking community connections.

We responded to 1,350 constituent requests for service in 2006, ranging from complaints about graffiti issues, to neighbor disputes, to road maintenance or traffic issues, to requests for policy information.

In seeking to make the 8th Ward office accessible to all, we set up weekly **community office hours** at Sabathani for anyone to meet with me, with or without an appointment. I, along with Andrea Jenkins, attended many of your monthly neighborhood organization meetings. We partnered with neighborhoods and Central Weed & Weed to host a series of **spring and summer community forums** on crime and safety, including a Prostitution Solution Summit. And, we began a morning meeting tradition with the monthly **Early Mornings with Elizabeth**, on fourth Fridays, 7:30 – 9 am at Turtle Bread, 48th & Chicago.

Many of my committee and board assignments allow me to impact important issues that 8th Ward residents care about: crime and safety (through my work on Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee – a city/county partnership, and the Metropolitan Emergency Services Board); youth issues (Youth Coordinating Board); transit and transportation (Vice Chair of Transportation & Public Works Committee, I-35W Solutions Alliance); and Instant Runoff Voting (Chair of Elections Committee). As well, I serve on the Ways & Means Committee of the City, which oversees all financial expenditures of Minneapolis.

I look forward to our continued partnership!

Elizabeth Glidden

Small Area Planning: 38th Street and Chicago Avenue

Many of you have visited the former Sears Building at Lake and Chicago, experiencing the Midtown Global Market and other new offerings of the Midtown Exchange. And even if you don't get your morning coffee at 48th and Chicago, there's no doubt you've noticed the active neighborhood businesses at that intersection. But the area between these wonderful community assets is poorly lit, has empty storefronts, and experiences juvenile and adult criminal activity.

Throughout 2006, the 8th Ward Office partnered with Bryant, Bancroft, Central, and Powderhorn Park Neighborhoods to jumpstart work on a Small Area Plan for 38th Street and Chicago Avenue. The boundaries of the Small Area Plan are 31st Street (North) to 40th Street (South) on Chicago Avenue and 38th Street from Bloomington Avenue (East) to I-35W (West). A Small Area Plan will guide future development in the project area and provide a tool for attracting economic investment that meets our community goals.

The first step in creating a Small Area Plan was a series of community meetings, held at Calvary Lutheran Church, 39th and Chicago, from September through November 2006. The Center for Neighborhoods, which selected the 38th Street and Chicago Avenue area to receive design and community engagement assistance through its Corridor Housing Initiative, helped facilitate the community meetings. Residents, business owners, faith leaders, city and county officials, and city staff attended the meetings to discuss a vision for 38th Street and Chicago Avenue.

What's next? The City of Minneapolis planning staff is working with consultant Antonio Rosell and the neighborhoods to develop an actual plan document, which will include recommendations for land use. Each neighborhood will then review the plan and public comment will be invited. Once the plan is finalized, it will be forwarded to the Planning Commission of the City of Minneapolis for further review, including a public hearing.

You can view the Small Area Plan as it is developed and revised, and post comments on a blog, at www.38thandchicago.org. Please check it out!

What's New: 38th & Chicago

- **Safety Cameras:** Cameras installed in 2006 at 38th and Chicago link directly to the 3rd Precinct Police Station, where they are monitored throughout the day. Other southside locations include Lake & Chicago and Blomington Avenue. The cameras have already resulted in multiple arrests and hard evidence of illegal activity.
- **Shotspotter:** Thanks to financial assistance from Central Weed & Seed, Minneapolis now has gunfire detection sensors that can pinpoint the location of shots fired and distinguish fireworks and car backfiring. Other cities with shotspotter claim gunfire has been reduced upwards of 50% in areas with the sensors.
- **Development opportunity at 3801 Park.** After many years as a vacant lot, this former gas station was purchased in 2006 by a developer who desires to build a Dunn Brothers coffee shop. City Staff has not yet reviewed the project, which also must be reviewed by surrounding neighbors.
- **Sculpture Garden, 37th and Chicago.** Don't forget to look at the new sculpture garden at 37th and Chicago, the B'Hai center. Central resident and metal artist Heather Doyle organized the project, in which over 40 youth participated in designing and fabricating the sculptures.
- **Small Area Planning.** To view the progress of the small area plan and get updates, go to www.38thandchicago.org or call the 8th Ward Office for more information at (612) 673-2208.

Uncovering the Arts on Chicago Ave

Did you know that there are hundreds of artists living and working in 8th Ward? Well, we didn't either until 8th Ward Summer Intern Paula Hanson uncovered the fact that approximately 13% of Minneapolis artists live in 8th Ward neighborhoods and created a map of artists and arts organizations. The 8th Ward's "Art Mapping" project confirms the need for us to nurture local artists and the creative spirit in residents of all ages.

The artistic spirit of Chicago Avenue, a center for arts institutions, projects, and activities, was highlighted in our Art Mapping project and by engaged neighbors, inspiring current conversations with residents and neighborhood organizations to identify and market Chicago Avenue as an *Artist Corridor*.

What will you see along Chicago Avenue? You can start at **Obsidian Arts Gallery**, above Roberts Shoes at Chicago & Lake, which focuses on developing African-American visual artists. Walking south on Chicago, you soon reach the **Artist Housing** developed by the Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association at 31st and Chicago. Just one block south, many bus riders waiting for the No. 5 are thankful for the colorful oasis at 32nd and Chicago's **Art Stop**, created and maintained by visual artist Florence Hill.

At 35th and Chicago, you will see the nationally acclaimed **Pillsbury House Theater**, home to the Breaking Ice theater group and the Chicago Avenue Project, which pairs theatre professions with neighborhood youth to create plays. The Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association, located one block east of the theater on 35th Street, organizes the annual **Powderhorn Art Fair**, produces many arts activities throughout the year, and provides budding musicians with recording studio space and equipment.

Don't stop now! **The SPEAK Project**, a sculpture garden at 37th and Chicago (the B'hai Center), is a must see. Organized by Metal Artist Heather Doyle, over forty neighborhood youth worked this past summer to design and fabricate the five beautiful metal sculptures. Not too far away, at 39th and Chicago, is **Urban Arts Academy**, located in Calvary Lutheran Church, teaching young neighborhood residents how to nurture their inner creativity through arts instruction.

As you approach 48th and Chicago, it is full of restaurants, book stores, retail shops, and services that get your creative juices flowing. www.48chicago.org. From the Minnesota Sword Club, to Amazon Books and more, 48th and Chicago caters to both the arts lover and the artist. Notable here is the recent purchase of the **Parkway Theater** by Pepito's Owner Joe Senkyr Menjares, who envisions redeveloping the site to

include live theater as well as movies, with potential focus as a venue for Latino actors to hone their craft. www.TheParkwayTheater.com.

The groundwork has been laid by 8th Ward artists and arts organizations. As part of Small Area planning efforts for 38th and Chicago, residents have expressed a strong desire for a neighborhood arts center and *more* arts activities, weaving these and other projects together with an exciting marketing strategy to celebrate the *Arts On Chicago Avenue*. The 8th Ward Office has sought resources and community connections with the Minneapolis Empowerment Zone and Minneapolis arts-focused developer Artspace to make progress on turning these visions into reality.

Supporting Youth During Out-of-School Time

Minneapolis has many public partners that work together to support our youth – including Minneapolis Libraries, Parks, and Schools, as well as Hennepin County and the City of Minneapolis. These public partners come together as the Youth Coordinating Board (YCB), on which Councilmember Glidden serves as an Executive Board member.

On January 4th, 2007, 8th Ward youth service providers met with YCB staff and elected officials to discuss how to better serve young people during the hours they are not in school. These "Ward Conversations" have been repeated across Minneapolis during December 2006 and January 2007 as part of the YCB's focus on "out of school time." Based on interviews with 700 Minneapolis youth, 34% have *never* participated in a youth program. One of the top barriers to participation for young people is home responsibilities (such as caring for younger siblings).

The 8th Ward meeting included over 20 youth service providers, who identified gaps and barriers to serving youth. Children under 19 make up 34% of the population of the 8th Ward, substantially higher than the City average of 26%. Central and Powderhorn Park Neighborhoods have some of the highest percentages of young people in the city, with 41% of all residents being youth under 19.

Asked how to make the Eighth Ward a great youth serving part of the city, the providers identified these priorities: 1) better collaboration among youth organizations; 2) more employment opportunities for youth; 3) transportation; 4) safety; 5) listening to youth; 6) better marketing of programs to youth, parents, and funders. It is now up to the YCB and its partners to move forward with solutions.

Committed to action, the providers agreed to participate in monthly meetings of 8th Ward Youth Serving Organizations. For more information contact Shonda Allen, of Powderhorn Park Neighborhood Association, at shonda@ppna.org.

Recommendations from a city-wide perspective on how to support young people during out-of-school time will be made by the YCB in the coming months. To find out more about the YCB's "out of school time" initiative and other information, go to www.ycb.org.

Crosstown Commons Construction

Finally, construction will start on the Crosstown Commons this Spring, 2007. The construction will be staged over multiple years (construction seasons), with work starting south at Diamond Lake Road Bridge. The Minneapolis Public Works Department is working with MnDOT to developed public information and a community meeting schedule.

- February 2, 2007** - MnDOT will advertise the plan
- Early February 2007** - General Project information and Construction schedule will be posted in local neighborhood newspapers
- March 30, 2007** - MnDOT will open bids
- Early April 2007** - Notices mailed to residents about community information meeting
- Early May 2007** - Community information meeting will be held (exact date to be set)
- May 30 (or later)** - Construction will start

Improving Transportation: A 10-Year Action Plan

Minneapolis is developing a Transportation Action Plan that will address needs for our streets to

support transit, bicycles, pedestrians, and cars. The Action Plan analyzes every area of the city, with special emphasis on the complicated transit needs of downtown.

In April of 2007, a citywide draft transportation plan will be presented at public meetings throughout Minneapolis. Items discussed will include a methodology for evaluating one-way streets such as Portland, Park, Blaisdell and 1st Avenue, which present concerns of safety, traffic speed, and air quality for nearby 8th Ward Residents. The 10-year Transportation Plan can be viewed at www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/public-works.

Minneapolis is a Streetcar City!

Many Minneapolitans still recall when we used to be a streetcar city, with reliable neighborhood transportation, housing density along routes, and vibrant local business intersections. As part of its Transportation Action Plan, Minneapolis is conducting a streetcar feasibility study, which will analyze potential streetcar routes. A city staff group is examining financial models for capital and operating expenses of streetcars. Southside routes which have made it to a third phase of analysis include Chicago south to 38th Street, Nicollet south to 38th Street, and the Midtown Greenway. If Minneapolis returns the streetcars, they could replace buses on key Minneapolis streets.

During a September 2006 trip to Portland, Councilmember Glidden viewed first hand that city's commitment to transit through many light rail lines and streetcars: "Portland has shown that people change their auto-focused habits when they have choices, such as light rail, busses, and streetcars crisscrossing the city," Glidden says. Streetcars cost around \$12-13 million per track mile, compared to light rail at \$20 million and upwards per track mile (The Hiawatha LRT cost \$62 million per mile). They make more frequent stops than LRT, are attractive to ride, and are *permanent* transit routes (unlike busses which can change street routes). Minneapolis still continues to study the feasibility of returning streetcars, so look for more to come!

Minneapolis Updates Its Comprehensive Plan

In 2007, Minneapolis will work with residents, neighborhood organizations, and City staff to update its Comprehensive Plan. The Minneapolis Plan is a policy document that reflects the image of the City community by community and incorporates our city goals. It guides development in our neighborhoods, how people move on our streets and sidewalks, and identifies entertainment, business, and industrial districts. Small area plans, such as the anticipated 38th Street and Chicago Avenue Small Area Plan, are incorporated as part of the Minneapolis Plan.

Review of the Minneapolis Plan should prompt discussion by neighborhoods about the availability of senior or life-cycle housing, public spaces in our communities, and how to encourage small business development in neighborhood commercial nodes among other topics. There will be many opportunities for public participation in 2007 as Minneapolis updates its city plan, so look for upcoming notices.

Fair Hiring Practices - Supporting Criminal Offender Rehabilitation

In December 2006, the City of Minneapolis joined San Francisco, Boston, Chicago, Alameda County, and St Paul in adopting policies to encourage rehabilitation and employment of individuals with criminal records. The new policy still requires background checks for most positions, but removes from the initial application the question, "Have you ever been convicted of a crime." This allows applicants the confidence they will be judged on their skills and qualifications for the job.

Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden, the chief author of the Fair Hiring Practices Resolution, says, "It's the right thing to do – allow people to apply for jobs and be judged on their skills. By encouraging rehabilitation of criminal offenders, we are, in a sense strengthening our own communities." The next step, according to Glidden, is to work with business community members to educate them on the city's policies and encourage them to adopt

similar practices encouraging criminal offender rehabilitation.

Public Safety Update

In 2006, Minneapolis saw crime increases that resulted in a citywide 4% increase in crime (Part I) and 16% increase in violent crime (homicides, robberies, rape, etc.). The 3rd Precinct had a decrease of 3% in overall Part I crime and an increase of 13% in violent crime. These statistics, however, don't tell the whole story – of neighbors in some areas living with and diligently reporting prostitution, drug dealing and other livability crimes and confronting graffiti vandalism on their houses, garages, fences, and businesses. Our office will continue to work with you and our public safety partners to increase resources, match appropriate penalties to the crimes at hand, and better respond to neighborhood crime issues.

What investments and changes have been made to address neighborhood crime?

- **Hiring more police.** The 2007 budget included 3.4 million to hire 43 police officers. Of the 66 new officers approved for hiring in 2006, 41 have graduated from the MPD academy with the remainder set to graduate throughout 2007. According to projections, MPD will graduate 80-100 new officers in 2007.
- **Cameras** at 38th and Chicago and Lake and Chicago are monitored 24 hours at the 3rd Precinct.
- **Shotspotter installed.** This gunfire detection system, thanks to the efforts of Central Weed & Seed and other community groups, is now installed on Minneapolis' southside. Arrests have already been made due to shotspotter.
- **Problem Property Officer.** The 3rd Precinct has assigned an officer to work on problem property issues throughout the precinct. His work will be of great support to the neighborhoods and to our Crime Prevention Specialists.
- **Juvenile Unit launched.** Since this unit has been reinstated, chargings of juvenile crime have risen 12%. This unit works closely with the Minneapolis Department of

Health, which recently formed a committee committed to work on Youth Violence as a Public Health Issue.

- **Graffiti Removal and Reporting Improvements.** While we still have a long ways to go, the city has greatly improved the process for reporting and quickly removing graffiti including investing more city dollars into this process.
- **County Probation Officers increased.** Thanks to the work of Commissioner Peter McLaughlin, the Southside will receive an additional 2-person (adult-juvenile) probation team plus a probation officer devoted to working with prostitution offenders.

We're excited to welcome the **new 3rd Precinct commander, Inspector Lucy Gerold**, who resides within the 3rd Precinct area. Lucy Gerold is a 28 year employee of the department, who has led four divisions in the MPD as Director or Deputy Chief. She replaces Scott Gerlicher, who was promoted to Deputy Chief. We wish DC Gerlicher well in his new position.

8th Ward Community Office Hours

Join Elizabeth for her community office hours every Monday, 9-11:00 am, at Sabathani Community Center, 310 E 38th Street, Room 129, or call to make a time certain appointment. And, you can always call the 8th Ward office with your questions at 612.673.2208.

Early Mornings with Elizabeth

Please join us for breakfast! **Early Mornings with Elizabeth** is a monthly meeting for 8th Ward Constituents hosted by Councilmember Elizabeth Glidden, from 7:30 – 9:00 am the fourth Friday of each month at Turtle Bread, 4762 Chicago Avenue South. **Free coffee** courtesy of Turtle Bread! Questions? Call the 8th Ward office at (612) 673-2208.