
12TH WARD UPDATE

Council Member Sandy Colvin Roy

May 2003

Sign up for the monthly Update by sending an e-mail to: Sandra.Colvin.Roy@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

Sound Insulation Status Report

On April 9th, the progress of the Part 150 sound was halted. The MAC will revisit the question of funding the rest of the 1996 program at the May 19th Commission meeting. A request from Council Member Benson and myself to move the May 19th meeting to a time and location that was more friendly to citizens has been denied, but on May 7th at the MAC Planning and Environment Committee there will be a discussion about planning a community meeting for Commissioners to receive comments on the sound insulation program. I have received dozens of phone calls from residents who will be impacted by the final decision. For now, the best way for residents to help me convince the MAC to complete the sound insulation program as promised is to write the MAC Commissioners directly. Explain why the program is important to you and I also encourage people to focus on the impact the airport has on your quality of life. Address your letters to: **Metropolitan Airports Commission - 6040 28th Avenue South - Minneapolis, MN 55450**

Central Library Project Moves Forward

At the April 18th City Council meeting, I voted with the rest of my colleagues to move forward with the new Central Library. I think this is a great moment in our city's history, but I also believe the mood of the Council was aptly described by the Pioneer Press as "enthusiastic trepidation."

The enthusiasm comes from the chance to continue providing free, universal access to information in our city.

Trepidation enters the equation as I look forward with my colleagues and the Library Board at the future of the library system. There is a shortfall in operating funds in the future that is caused by LGA reductions by the Governor and the 2001 property tax reforms. I do not want this gap closed at the expense of neighborhood libraries.

I was comfortable with my vote for a number of reasons. First, our bond counsel made it very clear that funds from the library referendum bonds could only be used to build the library promised to residents on the ballot, *they cannot be transferred to any other purpose.*

Second, the Library Board did a thorough study of the possibility of remaining in the site of the interim library, an idea raised as an economical alternative. Members of the business community, including major facility managers, reviewed the analysis and agreed that building a new library will be less expensive to construct and will cost 15% less to operate than renovating the building they're in (or the old building.) What is less clear, and what I will continue seek, is how to close the funding gap for operating the library system without closing neighborhood libraries.

I will continue to approach the central library project with the entire library system in mind. Without a doubt, the central library will be a grand addition to our city – we just cannot let that vision overshadow other essential library services.

Help for People Interested in Attending a MAC Meeting at the Airport

Unfortunately, the Airport is probably the most inconvenient place in the state to hold a public meeting. To make the experience a little less intimidating, I have some tips for people who are interested attending the MAC Commission meeting.

1. Meetings are at the Lindbergh Terminal. There is parking in the short-term parking lot next to the terminal.
2. As you leave the short-term parking, go down the escalators and go to the information desk and ask for a pass to the MAC Commission meeting. **A picture ID is required** to get a form that allows you to go through the employee security gate.
3. Security continues to be tight. To expedite the process, leave any unnecessary bags and metallic items at home.
4. There will be signs to guide you to the Commission meeting room. The Commission boardroom is on the second level, right under Chili's Restaurant.

New Senior Housing Project in the 12th Ward!

One of my top goals is to increase the number of senior housing options in the 12th Ward. That is why I am happy to announce the Planning Commission's approval of a 90-unit senior condominium complex at 53rd and Minnehaha (old Holiday site and vacant land behind it). The building is a combination of 2 bedroom, 1 bedroom, and studio condos with underground resident and visitor parking. The exterior has brick, stucco, and stone exterior of high quality materials. The developers have worked with my office, the neighborhood association, and community to reflect the desires and concerns of residents. A community meeting was held by NENA at Morris Park on April 22nd where residents were able to give their input directly to the developers. While near-neighbors expressed concerns about increased on-street parking and the height of the building, overall the community comment has been very support of the project. Areas of specific praise include the exterior design and aesthetics, the ownership of the units, and that the building is for seniors. Two-bedroom condos are expected to be priced in the \$157,000-175,000 range.

Community Events

Howe Community School Spring Fling

Howe School, 3733 43rd Avenue South
May 15th, 5 – 7:30 p.m.

MAC Commission Meeting

Lindbergh Terminal, Minneapolis/St. Paul Airport
May 19th, 1 p.m.

Monthly Neighborhood Meetings

SENA Board Meeting

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, 4000 28th Avenue S
May 12th, 7:00 p.m.

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

LCC Board Meeting

Longfellow Park, 3435 36th Avenue S
May 15th, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit www.longfellow.org

NENA Board Meeting

3000 East 50th Street
May 22nd, 7:00 p.m.

For more information, visit www.nokomiseast.org

Open Appointments

Application Deadline, Friday, May 23rd

- 1 position - Minneapolis Public Housing Authority (MPHA family resident, non-highrise)

For more information:

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/citywork/clerk/boards/open/index.asp>

Inaugural “Golden Plunger Award” Given to Nokomis Healthy Seniors Volunteer

Nokomis Healthy Seniors, an organization that helps seniors in the greater Nokomis area to stay in their homes, awarded me the “Golden Plunger Award” to Jaci Sauer. Nokomis Healthy Seniors invited me to present the award as part of their first annual Clean-a-thon fundraiser. Volunteers cleaned senior’s homes, focusing on tasks that seniors have a hard time doing. With sponsors for their work, thirteen volunteers exceeded the goal, raising over \$1,800 in a morning. Thank you to everyone who participated!

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.

Cleaning up the Mississippi River

A significant step toward protecting the river was taken on May 2nd when the City Council approved ordinance changes related to rain leaders and combined sewer overflows (CSO). I authored the ordinance changes because of the significant problems we could face as a city if we don’t take our storm water management problem seriously. By simply working with businesses and residents to disconnect rain leaders from the sanitary system, we can drastically reduce the likelihood of raw sewage overflowing into the Mississippi River. After estimates for the first solution came in at \$100 million, I pushed for another approach. A creative and dedicated staff came up with this program that will include significant public education. Overall, I think this ordinance does a good job of balancing costs to the city and residents with the need to act on an important environmental problem.

Household Hazardous Waste Collection

As families work on spring cleaning, I want to remind people of how to properly dispose of household hazardous waste. Items such as household and vehicle batteries, pesticides, cleaning solvents, consumer electronics are especially harmful to the environment if they are disposed of incorrectly. Hennepin County has a drop-off facility at 1400 West 96th Street in Bloomington. Hours for the drop-off center are:

Tuesday, Thursday, Friday ----- 10 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Wednesday ----- 10 a.m. – 8 p.m.

Saturday ----- 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Sunday, Monday, and Holidays ----- Closed

A fee is charged for the disposal of a few items. The drop-off center also has a Free Product Center that offers household products to people at no charge. For more information, go to www.co.hennepin.mn.us/environmental or call 612-348-3777.

Congressman Sabo Delivers \$750,000 for Bureau of Mines Land

Congressman Sabo has once again delivered valuable funding to his district. One of the more exciting opportunities Congressman Sabo has provided for our part of Minneapolis is funding for a public planning process to determine the future use of the Bureau of Mines Research Center which lies directly south of Minnehaha Falls Park. This will give the community a chance to plan for a future that might include park land connecting Minnehaha Falls Park with Fort Snelling.

Thanks again to Congressman Sabo for his work on behalf of Minneapolis.

Light Rail Vehicle Testing to Start in May

Light Rail Vehicle (LRV) testing will begin in May. As the opening of the complete line approaches, please remember that LRVs are faster and quieter than freight trains. People will be safe if they obey the law and follow six rules:

1. Look both ways for trains.
2. Listen for train horns and bells.
3. Do not allow children to play near electrical lines.
4. Never try to beat the train when driving, walking, or biking.
5. Only cross at marked crossings.
6. Don’t trespass on tracks.