

**News from Cam Gordon
Council Member, Second Ward
February, 2007**

<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward2/>

Saint Martin's Table Discussion. Please join me, at St. Martin's Table, 2001 Riverside Ave, Saturday, March 10, 10:00 – 11:30 AM, for a discussion sponsored by St. Martins Table's Weekend Events, about current and pending city issues and my role as the sole Green Party Council Member. Learn about the results of the 2006 Second Ward Survey, my accomplishments of 2006 and plans for 2007.

Library "Consolidation" Meetings. Two library advisory groups are wrapping up their deliberations on a possible merger of the Minneapolis and Hennepin County library systems. Representatives of the City, Library Board and County will discuss why a merger is being considered and what changes a unified system might bring at a series of upcoming meetings:

- Saturday, March 3, 10 - 11:30 am, North Regional Library, 1315 Lowry Ave N
- Monday, March 5, 6:30 - 8 pm, Minneapolis Central Library, 300 Nicollet Mall
- Thursday, March 8, 7 - 8:30 pm, Nokomis Library, 5100 34th Ave S

This is a very serious decision that will have long term consequences for our city for generations to come. It is essential that questions and concerns about this proposal be brought up quickly. There appears to be strong support for this idea from the County Board, the City Council and Mayor and the Library Board. Though no Council committee has formally reviewed the work of the advisory groups so far, there is growing support for turning the Minneapolis system over to the County. I have concerns that we, as a community and as a Council, are not taking the necessary time to study, consider and discuss alternatives. If turning our public libraries over to the County is the alternative that will be chosen, I think that it is very important that we make certain that the people of Minneapolis get the best deal possible in the transaction. If you care about the library system and have ideas or concerns about this, please get involved. For more information, please go here:

<http://hclib.org/pub/info/futureoflibraries/Guiding%20Principles%20ADOPTED.htm> and here:
<http://www.mplib.org/shapemplsfuture.asp>

East Lake Library Grand Opening. The newly renovated East Lake Library (2727 E Lake S) will be re-opening March 3. Please join me at the grand opening celebration Saturday from 1 – 6 PM.

Neighborhood policing plans. As part of a growing effort to create a model community policing system, the Minneapolis Police Department is preparing "Neighborhood Policing Plans" for every neighborhood. Please contact your Crime Prevention Specialist to find out more.

Bike/Ped Open House. The Department of Public works held a Pedestrian/Bicyclist Open House last week. 125 attendees filled out surveys on problems and possible improvements to the current Minneapolis ped/bike system. If you're interested in filling out a survey online, please go here: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.asp?u=196693372440>

Northeast Diagonal Bike Trail. The NE Diagonal Bike Trail has been given advance construction funding for 2007 Federal Aid. It will connect Minneapolis' trail system to Roseville's, paralleling New Brighton Blvd from Broadway to the City limit.

Hiawatha Maintenance Facility. The City is building a new Maintenance Facility at the corner of 26th St E and Hiawatha. It will house the Field Services Division including the following construction and maintenance operations: Street Maintenance, Paving Construction, Sewer Maintenance, Sewer Construction, and Bridge Maintenance. One of the most exciting aspects of

this project to me is that the facility will be Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Gold Certified, the first such building in Minneapolis.

“Lurking” at the Minnesota Pipeline. I will be speaking at a Minnesota Pipeline event sponsored by the Minneapolis Urban League, advocating the repeal of the “Lurking” ordinance. The event will take place on March 7th, 6-8pm, at the Urban League, 2100 Plymouth Ave N. Other speakers include Guy Gambill from the Council on Crime and Justice, and Cheryl Morgan-Spencer from the Urban League.

Condo Conversions. The Condo Conversion ordinance I sponsored failed on a 7-6 vote. I am disappointed that the Council missed our chance to gather better data on condo conversions, protect condo buyers and preserve affordable housing in Minneapolis. I hope that the extremely close vote in the Council has made the Realtor’s Association more open to talking to affordable housing advocates than they have been in the past.

Community Engagement. The results of the Community Engagement Public Meetings and other input are now being analyzed by City and NRP staff, and will be transmitted to the Council and NRP Policy Board by mid-March. The full set of comments will be available on both the NRP and City websites. The NRP Policy Board will discuss the findings at its meeting of March 26th.

Review of the Minneapolis Comprehensive Plan. There will be a public outreach and engagement process starting in late March on the upcoming review and rewrite of the City’s Comprehensive Plan, *the Minneapolis Plan*. I will give you more details when I have them.

Animal Protection Ordinance. I will be supporting an ordinance that my colleague Ralph Remington will introduce soon, prohibiting circuses from bringing wild animals such as elephants and tigers into Minneapolis. The purpose of this ordinance is to protect human and animal health and safety.

Housing Fair. On Saturday, March 10, 10am-3pm, the 13th Annual South Mpls Housing Fair will be held at South High School, 3131 19th Ave S. More info can be found at www.housingfair.org.

Community Garden Resource Fair. The 3rd Annual Community Garden Spring Resource Fair will be held on Saturday, March 17th, 9am-2pm, at Augsburg College’s Christiansen Center, 720 22nd Ave S. It will feature an expanded selection of workshops, resource booths and networking opportunities. It’s an exciting location, as Augsburg will be the site of a new community garden starting next year!

New Fire Chief. Last Friday, the Council unanimously appointed James Clack to serve as Fire Chief for a year, finishing the term of former Chief Bleskachek. Chief Clack passed an extensive background check, screening and assessment.

Seward Coop redevelopment. Seward Coop’s redevelopment of the old Riverside Market site will be coming before the Planning Commission on March 26th. I am working with City Staff, Seward Redesign and the Coop to negotiate the outstanding development review issues, especially making sure that the alley to the south of the site can continue to support City vehicle use, while allowing the project to be successful.

New French Bakery. The New French Bakery project on Kasota will be given \$10 million bonds for rehabilitation of existing facility & construction of addition & equipping of the bakery operation.

University Citgo. Clay and Mia Lambert’s appeal on their Citgo project at 2700 University Ave was given unanimous support by the Council last Friday, thanks to the good work and dedication of Prospect Park neighbors.

Bracket Rocket Event. There will be a benefit screening of *October Sky* at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 24 at the Riverview Theatre, 3800 42nd Ave. South. *October Sky* is the story of

a young man's dream to escape a future as a small-town miner and literally reach for the stars. The film is rated PG. The screening will be followed by a party and prize drawing at the Riverview Cafe, across the street from the theater. Proceeds raised will help install the Brackett Rocket later this spring. Tickets are \$12 in advance (children 12 and under are \$3). Advance tickets can be purchased (starting March 1) at the Birchwood Cafe at 3311 E 25th Street in Minneapolis, or by calling FORECAST Public Artworks at 651-641-1128. See <http://www.bracketrocket.org/> for more information.

Openings on City Boards and Commissions. There are openings on the Charter Commission, the Empowerment Zone Board, the Housing Board of Appeals, the Latino Advisory Committee, the Public Health Advisory Committee, the Minneapolis Public Housing Authority Board and the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.

Yours, in peace and cooperation,

Cam Gordon
Minneapolis City Council Member, Second Ward
673-2202, 296-0579
cam@camgordon.org
<http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/ward2/>