

Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Southeast Como, 5-1-07

Cam's next Southeast Como Office Hours:
Tuesday, May 8, 9:30-11:00am
SECIA Office, 837 15th Ave SE

Items:

- 1) Roundtable: Neighborhood Organizations and NRP
- 2) TIF for Van Cleve Apartments
- 3) McMansions public hearing May 7
- 4) Minneapolis Community Engagement report
- 5) City/County Solid Waste Management Facility
- 6) Second Ward Interns
- 7) Police Precinct Open House
- 8) Groundbreaking for NE Diagonal Trail
- 9) Minneapolis *Greenprint*
- 10) Comprehensive Plan community forum
- 11) Grand Rounds Citizens Advisory Committee
- 12) Civil Rights Director
- 13) Homeownership Work Group
- 14) Maximum Occupancy
- 15) YCB "Out of School Time" event
- 16) Wind Turbine Ordinance
- 17) Bike/Walk to Work Day
- 18) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) Please join me, City Coordinator Steven Bosacker and others for a Roundtable Discussion Thursday, **May 24, 7-8:30 pm, Matthews Park, 2318 28th Ave S**. The City Council is taking a look at Neighborhood Organizations and the future of NRP. How can the City do a better job of supporting the work of neighborhood organizations? How can we help shape the future of citizen participation in city government and the future of neighborhood revitalization in Minneapolis?
- 2) The report on proposed Tax Increment Financing (TIF) and redevelopment contract business terms for the Van Cleve project went to the City Council's Community Development (CD) Committee today. Some Committee members expressed concerns about using Tax Increment Financing for market-rate housing in a "non-impacted" neighborhood and the matter was passed forward without recommendation. I am convinced that this is a project worthy of TIF and will be working to address concerns and build support before the Council meeting a week from Friday. Support from the community might also be beneficial. You can get a copy of the CD report and its attachments here: <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070511/CD20070501agenda.asp>
- 3) There is a public hearing on Council Member Betsy Hodges' proposed ordinance to address "McMansions" on **Monday, May 7, at 4:30 PM** in the Council Chambers. The last public hearing was packed with opponents of the proposed ordinance, led by the Realtor's Association. It is extremely important that some Southeast residents attend this public hearing to counterbalance that opposition and make clear that this tool will not only help address oversized houses in Southwest Minneapolis, but will help prevent small single family homes from being torn down and replaced with oversized de-facto "dorms."
 - 4) On April 26, 2007 the Minneapolis City Council Committee of the Whole discussed recommendations regarding the Community Engagement Report and the public's feedback. The Council Committee directed staff to begin work on some recommendations and approved a work plan which identifies a timeline and frames next steps to improve the City's community engagement system, including its relationship with neighborhood organizations and with the future of the Neighborhood Revitalization Program (NRP). The NRP Policy Board has also released its report on the Minneapolis Community Engagement system. You can download that staff report, recommendations and work plan here <http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/council/2007-meetings/20070427/COW20070426agenda.asp#TopOfPage>

- 5) On April 27th the City Council voted to move forward with a efforts to create a City/County Solid Waste Management Facility at 620 Malcolm Ave SE. I worked to postpone this action for two weeks to allow for more community involvement. This first step authorizes City staff to negotiate, prepare, and execute the appropriate development, operating, and maintenance management agreements with Hennepin County for the proposed joint City/County Solid Waste Management Facility, and to acquire, through negotiation or condemnation, the property located at 620 Malcolm Av SE.
- 6) My office will be hiring up to three interns to do outreach and organizing work on block clubs, crime & safety committees, and community events, including a “welcome to the neighborhood” event for new student renters this fall. Interns will work 10-20 hours per week, for a wage of \$12.09/hr. If you know anyone who might be interested, please have them contact my office.
- 7) Police Week runs from May 13-19, and the Minneapolis Police Department is inviting you to open houses at all Precincts. For Southeast Como, the 2nd Precinct open house will be on **May 14th, 1911 Central Ave NE, 11am-2pm**. I hope to see you there.
- 8) You're invited to a Groundbreaking for the new Northeast Diagonal Bike Trail, **Wednesday, May 9, 10AM at Stinson Blvd near Ridgeway Parkway**. When finished, the trail will stretch from New Brighton Blvd down Stinson to 18th, then on-street as a signed (not striped) route down to Elm.
- 9) Minneapolis *Greenprint*, the 2007 report on the ten environmental sustainability indicators, is now available. Go here to see it online: www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/news/20070413GreenPrint.asp, or contact my office for a physical copy. The report on the rest of the Minneapolis sustainability indicators will be coming out this summer.
- 10) Please join City leaders at a Community Forum to learn about the process and to discuss three themes that will shape the Minneapolis of the future: sustainability, heritage preservation and urban design. The last of three meetings will be **Thursday, May 17, 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the Capri Theater, 2210 Oliver Ave. North (at Broadway)**. For more information, please see: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/planning/comp_plan_update.asp. For a list of Frequently Asked Questions about the Minneapolis Plan and the process to update it, please go here: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/planning/docs/070330_CP_Update_FAQ.pdf.
- 11) The Park Board plans to create a Citizens Advisory Committee to meet over the course of the next 12-15 months to develop recommendations about completing the last link of Grand Rounds Scenic Byway. The study area is bordered by 35 W on the west and north, the Mississippi River to the south and St. Paul to the east. Please let me know if you or anyone you know would be interested in participating.
- 12) Mayor Rybak has decided to nominate Michael Jordan to be the Minneapolis Civil Rights Director. I am undecided at this point as to whether I will support this nomination. While Mr. Jordan has a respectable resume and will bring strong managerial skills to the position, he has a history of working in law enforcement, both as Commissioner of Public Safety under Arne Carlson and as the spokesperson for the Saint Paul Police Department. As one of the chief functions of the Civil Rights Department is to hold the MPD accountable, I am concerned that his experience in law enforcement might not be appropriate. I would welcome any comments you might have.
- 13) I am initiating a Southeast Como Homeownership Working Group to explore strategies and identify resources to promote homeownership in the Como neighborhood. An initial group will be meeting in the SECIA offices on May 21. The group includes Elizabeth Ryan and Mark Anderson from the City Community Planning and Economic Development staff, Jim Roth from the Minneapolis Consortium of Community Developers, Carol Lansing from the Greater Metropolitan Housing Corporation, Deanna Foster from Local Initiatives Support Corporation (LISC), Jan Morlock from the University and Katie Fournier and James De Sota from SECIA. Arvonne Fraser from Marcy Holms will also be attending.

- 14)** The group I have set up to talk about possible reforms to the Minneapolis Maximum Occupancy codes has met four times. We have reviewed the current codes, laid out our goals for “ideal” maximum occupancy regulations and studied how Minneapolis has regulated occupancy in the past and other municipalities regulate it today. The consensus of the group was to move towards regulating the maximum number of adults, regardless of their “relatedness,” who can share a dwelling unit based on the habitable square footage of the unit. I will also be putting together a package of other reforms to help deal with the concerns that I do not feel the current maximum occupancy code is effectively addressing, including: limitations on increasing the maximum occupancy of a unit by increasing its size; more regular inspection of all rental units; a system of rental license classifications, which would reward good landlords and direct more City resources to dealing with bad landlords; targeted grants and loans to increase homeownership in Southeast; clarifying and strengthening the definition of “impervious surface, to prevent yards from being effectively paved; and the creation and distribution of “welcome packets” to all new student residents.
- 15)** On May 3, the Youth Coordinating Board will host an “Out of School Time” event for Ward 2 providers of youth programs at Luxton Park to discuss opportunities for youth in the ward and possible new initiatives for this summer and beyond.
- 16)** The wind turbine ordinance I sponsored passed the City Planning Commission by consent last Monday. It will now go through the Zoning & Planning Committee and finally to the full Council. This change will broaden the applicable uses of wind turbines in the City, a small step in the right direction. To see the proposed ordinance, go here: http://www.ci.minneapolis.mn.us/cped/agendas/planning-commission/2007/docs/20070423_wind_ordinance.pdf
- 17)** Need to get in shape? Tired of being stuck in your car? Want to help the earth? The Twin Cities Bike/Walk to Work is a great first step! May is National Bike Month and on **Friday, May 18**, group rides and walks are being organized to downtown Minneapolis. Southeast Como does not yet have an organized ride – please volunteer to lead one. For more information, go here: www.tcbikewalktowork.org.
- 18)** There are openings on the Minneapolis Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, the Heritage Preservation Commission, the Housing Board of Appeals, the Latino Advisory Committee, the Public Health Advisory Committee and the Senior Citizen Advisory Committee. To apply, call (612) 673-3358 or email cityclerk@ci.minneapolis.mn.us.