



Minneapolis
City of Lakes

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Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Prospect Park, 7-22-13

**Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:
Pratt School, August 20th, 9:30-11am**

Items:

- 1) Municipal Utility Public Hearing
- 2) Community Oven
- 3) Parking in Motley
- 4) Rezoning Approved for Bruce Printing Building
- 5) Dinkytown Greenway
- 6) National Night Out
- 7) Franklin Ave Bridge
- 8) 10th Ave SE Mississippi River Bridge.
- 9) Climate Action Plan
- 10) Energy Pathway Study
- 11) Funding for Streetcars
- 12) Large East Downtown Development Project
- 13) Voter Ambassadors
- 14) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The City Council will hold a public hearing on **August 1, 2013**, to discuss placing a question on this fall's general election ballot regarding the City's energy future. If passed by the voters of Minneapolis, this question will authorize the City to form a municipal power utility. I view this as a necessary step to meeting the City's aggressive climate change mitigation goals. Approximately two-thirds of the greenhouse gas emissions in Minneapolis come through our existing electricity and natural gas utilities. A vote to authorize the creation of a municipal utility will not *require* the City to form one, but will give us that option – which I think will help in the ongoing electrical and natural gas franchise negotiations with Xcel and CenterPoint.
- 2) I have met with staff and community members to better understand and support efforts to get a community oven built in the Prospect Park East River Road area. So far several possible locations have been looked at, including one at Luxton Park and one on City-owned land at the green "oval" space near East Franklin and Bedford. It appears this use is currently not allowed on the "oval" but I planning to propose ordinance changes to make this a possibility.
- 3) Motley residents and City staff have agreed to try restricting parking in Motley from 8am-midnight, seven days per week. Staff are looking for a statement of support from PPERRIA, and I hope you will pass something to that effect. These parking restrictions are necessary to prevent negative spillover effects from the U of M stadium, especially during the period in which the Vikings will play there.
- 4) The Council, with my support, has approved rezoning the former Bruce Printing property at 315 27th Ave SE to C3 (Community Activity Center) allow for a K-12 school, restaurant and office.
- 5) Please join me on the afternoon of August 4th for the grand opening of the new Dinkytown Greenway. The Greenway connects from Oak Street to Bridge 9 along the north side of the University, and with the extension of this trail under the I-35W bridge tentatively planned for later this year, it will be a great new link for folks from Prospect Park and Saint Paul to get into downtown.
- 6) The 30th Annual Minneapolis National Night Out will be Tuesday, August 6. National Night Out is an annual nationwide event that encourages residents to get out in the community, hold block parties and get to know their neighbors as a way to encourage crime prevention. You can register your event online or through 311. If you want to block your street, you can do so for free through July 23. Not all streets can be blocked, depending on traffic flow. From July 24 through August 1, there is a \$100 fee. After August 1 no applications for blocking off a street will be allowed. To register and for more information see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/nno>

If you need this material in an alternative format please call Ahmed Muhumud at 612-673-2162 or email

Ahmed.Muhumud@ci.minneapolis.mn.us

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Hmong - Ceeb toom. Yog koj xav tau kev pab txhais cov xov no rau koj dawb, hu 612-673-2800;

Spanish - Atención. Si desea recibir asistencia gratuita para traducir esta información, llame 612-673-2700;

Somali - Ogow. Haddii aad dooneyso in lagaa kaalmeeyo tarjamadda macluumaadkani oo lacag la' aan wac 612-673-3500.

- 7) Hennepin County is planning to substantially renovate the Franklin Avenue Bridge. The design process has begun, and designs have been presented to the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committees. There are currently two layouts, one with buffered bike lanes and one with a physically-protected bikeway, which is favored by the Bicycle Advisory Committee. The protected bikeway option will include a new way for westbound bicyclists to turn south onto Seabury and West River Pkwy, something that has been needed for a long time. In both designs, the bridge will have one auto lane in each direction except at the east end, where it will widen to two lanes in each direction for the intersection with East River Pkwy and 27th Ave SE. The bridge is on the National Historic Register, and this project will have to protect and even enhance the historic character of the bridge (for instance, by putting in railings more similar to the originals than the ones installed in the 1970s). The County will be reaching out to the Prospect Park and Seward neighborhoods for an introductory community meeting in the next few months, and I encourage you to stay informed.
- 8) The Council has approved hiring SRF Consulting Group, Inc. to start work to rehab the deteriorated 10th Avenue SE River Bridge over the Mississippi River. Design work is scheduled to be completed early in 2014. Construction will begin in the summer of 2014 and is projected to be completed in the summer of 2015.
- 9) The Council has unanimously passed the Minneapolis Climate Action Plan (www.minneapolismn.gov/sustainability/climate). The Plan, subtitled "a roadmap to reducing citywide greenhouse gas emissions," offers goals and potential strategies to help achieve a 15 percent reduction in emissions by 2015 and a 30 percent reduction by 2025 from 2006 levels. The strategies are grouped into four categories: improving the energy efficiency; increasing our use of local, renewable energy; reducing vehicle miles traveled in Minneapolis and reducing waste. This plan is a great step in the right direction and I look forward to helping implement many of its ideas and strategies.
- 10) The City Council has approved hiring the Center for Energy and Environment to draft a report that explores the various paths the City could take to achieve its energy goals, including examination of potential utility partnerships, changes to how the City uses energy utility franchise fees, and municipalization of one or both energy utilities. The Center for Energy and Environment is charged with drafting "energy vision" goals and an overview of the various paths the City could take to achieve them. More information can be found at www.minneapolismn.gov/energyfranchise
- 11) The Council has voted to establish a Value Capture District to finance our first streetcar line, on the Central Ave-Nicollet Ave route. This was enabled by the legislature's creation of the Value Capture District funding mechanism, which grants authority to the City to establish a project area including one block to either side of a streetcar line, and place certain taxable parcels into the Value Capture District. The future tax revenues from these parcels may be used to fund the construction of the streetcar line. One of the reasons for taking this action at this time was to enable the City to request – and hopefully receive – federal transit funding to help us build this first streetcar line.
- 12) The City Council is poised to approve a framework and direct staff to negotiate terms based on it (here: <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-110756.pdf>) for participation in a large 5 block, development project near the Stadium in Downtown East. The blocks, currently owned by the Stair Tribune, currently consist of surface parking lots and three buildings. Ryan Companies is proposing to buy the land and construct one million square feet of office space in two 20-story office towers, a parking ramp of approximately 1,300 stalls approximately 320 housing units, approximately 40,000 square feet of retail space and a one –two block public park. City participation would include assuming a \$65 million dollar debt to help Ryan pay for the parking ramp and to purchase the park land from them. The debt would be paid back from parking fees. My amendment to force the developer to pay fair market value for the third of the land that they wanted to lock in at current prices passed the Council unanimously.
- 13) The City is looking for volunteers to work in the community to raise awareness and engage voters about the election in November. Voter ambassadors will create a network of community volunteers who will provide resources and information about this year's election directly to their neighborhoods and civic circles. Ambassadors will be trained in election law fundamentals, voting procedures, and how ranked-choice voting works. Anyone interested in volunteering for this program should contact the program coordinator, Anissa Hollingshead by at anissa.hollingshead@minneapolismn.gov.
- 14) Applications are now being accepted for open positions on the following City boards and commissions: Animal Care and Control Advisory Board, Advisory Committee on People with Disabilities, Minneapolis Workforce Council, Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Police Conduct Oversight Commission, Police Conduct Review Panel, Seniors Advisory Committee and Telecommunications Network. For a full list of appointment opportunities and position descriptions, go to www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings.