



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

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## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Seward Neighborhood 9-25-13

**Cam's next Seward Office Hours:**  
**Tuesday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9:30-11:00am**  
**Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St**

### Items:

- 1) Tree Roundtable
- 2) Safety Concerns
- 3) True Thai Keeps its License
- 4) Trap-Neuter-Return Ordinance
- 5) S-Curve
- 6) Minnehaha Reconstruction
- 7) Vote November 5<sup>th</sup>
- 8) Mock Election
- 9) City Comments on Sherco
- 10) City Energy Vision
- 11) Police Accountability
- 12) Water Trees Weekly
- 13) Minneapolis Residents Walk and Bike More
- 14) King's Fair
- 15) Touchstone Open House
- 16) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) I have organized a Roundtable Discussion about the threats and opportunities facing our urban tree canopy, for **Monday, October 7**, 7-8:30pm, at Longfellow Park, 3435 36th Ave S. We will discuss the tree loss from this summer's storm, Emerald Ash Borer, the importance of watering trees, and the Longfellow Trees program.
- 2) Since August 1st there have been at least 3 robberies in Seward. The most recent one involved a gun and an assault. Two suspects have been arrested who may have been involved in these, and other, robberies. This is both rare and very concerning. In response, Shun Tillman, our Crime Prevention Specialist, is working with the neighborhood group to set up a community meeting. Please stay tuned for details.
- 3) True Thai restaurant has found a way to pay the unpaid taxes that were putting its license in jeopardy, and has retained the license.
- 4) The Trap-Neuter-Return ordinance I authored has passed the Council unanimously. The purpose of this ordinance is to humanely and effectively reduce the populations of feral cats in Minneapolis by partnering with nonprofits that spay or neuter feral cats and return them to their environments.
- 5) I have presented the issue of the 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> Ave S-curve to the Engineering Subcommittee of the Minneapolis Pedestrian Advisory Committee. They agreed that the status quo is a problem, and will be looking into it further.
- 6) Hennepin County has indicated that they will be holding two more public meetings on the Minnehaha Avenue reconstruction project, on **September 30th** and **October 2nd**, both from 6-8pm at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church, 4101 37th Avenue South. I continue to support a protected "cycletrack" facility for Minnehaha.
- 7) The City has launched website, [www.vote.minneapolismn.gov](http://www.vote.minneapolismn.gov), where voters can register, find their polling place, apply for an absentee ballot and mark a ranked-choice ballot and see how the ballot-counting works. Voting absentee can be done in person at City Hall, or entirely by mail. It can be done in person (as of September 20) in City Hall during regular business hours, Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., or on the final two Saturdays before Election Day, Oct. 26 and Nov. 2, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. To vote absentee by mail, voters may request a ballot now. Additionally the city is in need of more election judges. We especially need judges who are fluent in a second language to provide additional language support in the polling place, including in Spanish, Somali, and Hmong. To find out more about becoming an election Judge, visit [vote.minneapolismn.gov/volunteer](http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/volunteer) or call 612-673-2296.

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

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Deaf and hard-of-hearing persons may call 311 or 612-673-3000. TTY users may call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

Attention: If you want help translating this information in language other than Hmong, Spanish or Somali, call 311

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, llama 612-673-2700;

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

- 8) The city held a small mock election earlier this month both to help ensure voters are “election-ready” as well as to test our internal, back-end processes in advance of the November 5th General Election. Everything went smoothly and the results have been posted on the City’s new election website. You can find them here <http://vote.minneapolismn.gov/>
- 9) The City has made comments on Xcel Energy’s Sherco coal-fired power plant. We are asking the PUC to compel Xcel to begin the planning process for replacing Sherco with cleaner, less polluting sources.
- 10) The Council has adopted a strong, future-focused Energy Vision, which you can read here: [http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@\\_clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-113830.pdf](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@_clerk/documents/webcontent/wcms1p-113830.pdf). This document makes clear the sort of energy system the City would like to see in 2040: clean, reliable, affordable and with lots of local energy production and local economic benefit. This is a great start, and I look forward to using the opportunity we have next year – both at the State Legislature and through our energy franchise negotiations – to put us on a path to making this vision a reality.
- 11) On August 21 the Council’s Public Safety Civil Rights and Health committee received its first report on the newly formed Office of Police Conduct Review that has replaced the Police Civilian Review Authority that used to review citizen complaints about Police conduct. I was troubled to learn that of the over 400 complaints, and 71 dealing with excessive force, only 17 were found to have merit and not one resulted in the discipline of a police officer.
- 12) Minneapolis yard and boulevard trees still need an inch of water every week throughout the fall. Extremely dry conditions followed the spring and early summer rainfall that drenched the city and caused significant damage, and the lack of precipitation now is causing stress on the City’s urban forest. Lack of water can make trees vulnerable to insects and disease and cause permanent damage to young and old trees alike. Trees up to five years old are especially susceptible. In any week that it rains less than one inch, yard and boulevard trees need to be watered. An effective way for residents to water a tree is to turn on a slow stream of water (just so the hose is weeping) for a few hours. Watering in the evening after dinner time is most effective since it minimizes evaporation, and trees tend to take most of their water during the night. For people who lose track of when they last watered a tree, a good way to remember is to water trees on the same day trash is picked up. Watering should continue until trees have dropped their leaves and reached full dormancy. Normally this occurs in early to mid-October.
- 13) The Census has released 2012 data on bicycling and walking in Minneapolis, and there’s great news. In 2012, **6.9%** of Minneapolis residents walked to work, up from 5.8% in 2011. And **4.5%** of Minneapolis residents biked to work. This is up from 3.4% in 2011 and marks the largest percentage of Minneapolis residents biking to work since records have been kept. We have regained our place as the second-highest city in the nation – after Portland, OR – in terms of the percentage of trips made by bike. But while this is welcome news, this new mode share is still less than a third of the 15% biking goal the Council recently adopted as part of the Climate Action Plan. We have to do more, and one of the best ideas out there for increasing bike ridership is to build protected, separated bikeways that are safer and more comfortable for all types of people.
- 14) Congratulations to the Seward Neighborhood Group for a wonderful King’s Fair this year. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to share a beautiful afternoon and be reminded why Seward is such a great place to live.
- 15) I was delighted to share in the grand opening of Touchstone’s Cedar’s Rising, the newest housing development in the neighborhood. Not only is this a one-of-a-kind develop custom-designed to serve a specific type of resident, but it is a good example of how an engaged community and a cooperative development team can lead to a successful project. You can learn more about this unique housing opportunity in the neighborhood here: <http://www.touchstonemh.org/programs-and-services/rising-cedar-apartments>
- 16) 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](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings).