



**Minneapolis**  
City of Lakes

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## Council Member Cam Gordon's Report to Prospect Park, 10-27-14

**Cam's next Prospect Park Office Hours:**  
**Pratt School, Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup>, 9:30-11am**

### Items:

- 1) Election Day is November 4
- 2) Two Questions on the Ballot
- 3) Conservation District Ordinance Passes
- 4) Conservation District Presentation October 29
- 5) Energy Franchises and Clean Energy Partnership
- 6) Staple Food Ordinance
- 7) E-Cigarette Ordinance
- 8) Fall Street Cleaning
- 9) Southeast Library Community Meeting
- 10) Parking in the University District
- 11) Good Neighbor Fund Informational Meeting
- 12) Hampton Inn Approved
- 13) Openings on Boards and Commissions

- 1) The Polls will be open now through **November 4** at City Hall. Election Day is officially November 4, but from now until then all voters in Minneapolis can cast their no-excuse absentee ballots in person at City Hall. This is the first year voters in Minnesota are not required to provide a specific reason for voting absentee. That means all voters now have the option to vote absentee either by mail or in person prior to Election Day. Last month the Council voted to extend the in-person absentee ballot hours available at City Hall, 350 5th Street South. So from now until Election Day, the hours for in-person absentee voting in City Hall are: 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday-Friday, through Oct. 31; 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays; Noon to 5 p.m. Sundays; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday Nov. 3. As always, voters can also do absentee voting at home. Ballots can be requested online at [vote.minneapolismn.gov](http://vote.minneapolismn.gov). All completed mail ballots must be received by the Elections & Voter Services Division by Election Day.
- 2) In this election, Minneapolis voters are being asked to decide on two different ballot questions. The first will ask whether voters support raising the filing fees for candidates for municipal office, from \$20 for every race to \$500 for the office of Mayor, \$250 for the office of Council Member, \$100 for the office Board of Estimate and Taxation and \$100 for the office of Park and Recreation Commission and, as an alternative to payment of a filing fee, allow a candidate to submit a petition of voter signatures as provided in state law. The second will ask whether voters support doing away with the requirement that restaurants in areas with limited commercial zoning receive no more than 30% of their revenues from alcohol sales. The Council has already scrapped the ordinance that prohibited restaurants in more commercial areas from making more than 40% of their revenue from alcohol sales. Along with this change, the Council also adopted a new set of rules that allow the City to prevent and address problems at restaurants that serve alcohol.
- 3) The conservation district ordinance intended to allow property owners to organize to better conserve physical aspects of highly valued areas of the city was unanimously approved by the Council this month. This is a new tool that is like a historic district but much more flexible. It allows people within unique, significant areas to adopt guidelines that will conserve the characteristics that make those places special. Thanks to several of my colleagues – especially Council Member Lisa Peterson Bender – we went to great lengths to ensure that all Conservation Districts are in keeping with our broader goals to help our city grow and evolve. Many people in the Prospect Park neighborhood deserve great credit for this accomplishment, especially residents Joe Ring and Bob Roscoe. We also couldn't have done this without a fantastic staff team, led by Dr. John Smoley. I look forward to seeing how the first proposed conservation districts work.

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](mailto:Ahmed.Muhumud@ci.minneapolis.mn.us)

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.

- 4) The Conservation District ordinance will be the topic for a Preserve Minneapolis discussion on **Wednesday, October 29**, 8am-9am at the Mill City Museum, ADM Conference Room. There people can learn about conservation districts, through a panel discussion featuring John Smoley, senior planner for the Minneapolis's department of Community Planning and Economic Development (CPED), and two Second Ward Prospect Park residents, Joe Ring and Bob Roscoe. Joe and Bob are members of the neighborhood committee whose study of conservation districts led the current effort to enable CPED to undertake the ordinance enactment. The program begins at 8:00am.
- 5) The Council has approved the franchise and Clean Energy Partnership agreements with our energy utilities, Xcel and CenterPoint. This Partnership is a way for the utilities to make good on their commitments to help the City – and the people of Minneapolis – realize our Energy Vision and reach our aggressive goals on climate, environmental justice, renewable energy and more. I view this as a major step forward, but this is only an opportunity. In the next year, as the Partnership gets underway, I will be working hard to make sure it fulfills its promise. [www.midwestenergynews.com/2014/10/17/minneapolis-utility-fight-ends-with-unique-clean-energy-deal/](http://www.midwestenergynews.com/2014/10/17/minneapolis-utility-fight-ends-with-unique-clean-energy-deal/)
- 6) My proposed ordinance requiring a greater amount of healthy food in licensed grocery stores was unanimously approved by the Health Environment and Community Engagement Committee on Monday, October 20. These new food standards are based on, but more flexible than, the Women, Infants and Children program standards. The requirements will apply to more types of stores (including dollar stores, pharmacies and department stores, which are all currently exempt), as long as they accept food assistance. You can read more here: <http://www.startribune.com/lifestyle/health/278135071.html>
- 7) I am proposing to amend Minneapolis' ordinances to strengthen city regulations around so called "e-cigarettes," which distribute nicotine (and other chemicals) by using electricity and vapor. My intent is to extend the State Clean Indoor Air Act to e-cigarettes. This would prohibit their use in all places in Minneapolis where smoking is prohibited by state law. The public hearing for this ordinance has been set for **November 17<sup>th</sup>**, at 1:30pm in Council Chambers. There is an informative video about this issue here <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=D-LAsTQ4wdc&list=UUket7tl3m0r1ScDTuUSREuw>.
- 8) Fall street cleaning is underway. Please beware that parking is prohibited on streets when they are being cleaned and cars can be ticketed and towed. City staff posted the first streets on Monday October 20, for sweeping (and enforcement) that began on Tuesday, October 21. It will take the usual 4 weeks to complete. Please watch for signs and use "Street Lookup" at [http://www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping/streetsweep\\_streetsweeplookup](http://www.minneapolismn.gov/publicworks/streetsweeping/streetsweep_streetsweeplookup) to see the sweeping schedule online and when your street is scheduled for cleaning.
- 9) One more public meeting will be held in October to discuss a new Southeast Library, and to hear more about the learning and information needs of the Cedar-Riverside, Southeast Como, Marcy-Holmes, and Prospect Park neighborhoods. The meetings will be held on **Thursday, October 30**, 7-9pm, at Luxton Recreation Center, 112 St. Mary's Ave SE. I hope you can make at least one of these meetings, which will help define a vision for the new Southeast Library.
- 10) This Council unanimously approved my ordinance that will reduce and improve parking requirements in the neighborhoods around the University – Prospect Park, Southeast Como, Marcy Holmes and the West Bank. Developers will no longer face a disincentive to build smaller units (one bedrooms and studios), and buildings in defined transit station areas will only have to provide about 1/3 of a parking space per bedroom. I want to thank the University District Alliance and City staff for all of their work to make this positive change possible.
- 11) There will be a community information meeting about the 2015 Good Neighbor Fund/Vikings Partnership Fund on Wednesday, **October 29**, 5-6pm, at the Van Cleve Park Community Center Multi-Purpose Room, 901 15th Ave SE. The meeting will give an opportunity to ask questions about the consideration of projects in 2015. There will be a brief presentation about applying for grants in 2015, with members of the Fund Management Committee, including representatives of the MN Vikings; to be followed by questions, answers, discussion. Questions are welcome via email to [gfund@umn.edu](mailto:gfund@umn.edu); or to Jan Morlock, at (612) 624-8318 or Peg Wolff at (612) 624-6504.
- 12) The Planning Commission has approved a new Hampton Inn at 2812 University Ave SE. This will be a new, five-story hotel with 117 rooms. This action included a rezoning from C2 to C3A, a conditional use permit for height, and a set of variances that mostly came from the unique position of the parcel (with University on one side and Williams St SE on the other).
- 13) Visit the City's website for a [full list of appointment opportunities](#) and position descriptions for City boards and commissions. Appointments to boards and commissions are made twice a year — in the spring and fall. This streamlined appointment process makes it easier for folks to learn about volunteer opportunities, ensures a more open and understandable process for residents and staff, and increases the diversity of the applicant pool.