

Second Ward February 2018 E-newsletter

News from Cam Gordon

Council Member, Second Ward

<http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ward2>

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Meeting on Housing Policy. Please join Council Member Warsame and me **Thursday, March 8th from 7 – 9 pm** at **Matthews Park**, 2318 29th Ave S, for a community meeting on housing with a focus on Wards 2 and 6. There we will discuss housing concerns, goals and strategies for improvement in our Wards and throughout Minneapolis. This is one in a series of meetings that I will be using to help develop the work plan of the City Council's new Housing Policy and Development Committee that I am chairing. The Committee will have oversight of all policy related to the health, safety and affordability of housing and oversees all matters related to homelessness prevention, housing opportunities, fair housing and housing finance, including residential real estate development, redevelopment and land sales.

Future of Neighborhood Organizations. The City is seeking feedback on a draft plan, called the Neighborhoods 2020 Roadmap, through April 30th. The Neighborhood and Community Engagement Commission (NCEC) will hold an open forum on this at their next full commission meeting on **Tuesday, March 27th from 5:00-7:00pm** at the Minneapolis Central Library, Doty Board Room, 300 Nicollet Mall. The plan presents three different approaches to neighborhood funding, programming and support services in preparation for an end to the City's current funding scheme that has been supporting community engagement and neighborhood organization work for decades. This scheme, which used revenues from a special Consolidated Taxing District created by the city and authorized by the state legislature, will continue to provide funds for this work through December 31, 2020 subject to annual City Council budget approval. New funding is proposed to start January 1, 2021. After a community engagement process that concludes in April, recommendations to the city council will be developed and potentially considered by the Council in November 2018. You can find the report at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/www/groups/public/@ncr/documents/webcontent/wcmssp-208855.pdf>. You can sign up for updates at <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/ncr/2020>. Comments can be submitted to NCR@minneapolismn.gov.

Racial Equity Community Advisory Committee Vacancies. The Racial Equity Community Advisory Committee that I led the effort to establish late last year is poised to begin work this year. This group will serve as an advisory board to the City Council, Mayor and City Departments on City policies, practices, budget and other matters that it determines to be appropriate, related to addressing racism and racial inequities and promoting racial justice and racial equity in the City enterprise and in the City as a whole. It will also advise the Racial Equity Steering Committee on the creation and implementation of the Racial Equity Action Plan, and provide an annual evaluation report to the community on the City's progress addressing racial inequities and closing racial disparities. This is critically important work and need skilled people who are passionate about this work to apply. The committee is comprised of 17 voting members. At least one member from each of the 13 wards are appointed by the City Council

and two members are appointed by the Mayor, with one seat available to a person appointed by the Minneapolis School Board and one by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, with a priority on racial balance. Members serve two-year terms. For more information you can contact the Division of Race and Equity, 612-673-2032, or Raceequity@minneapolismn.gov. The application deadline is Friday, March 30, 2018.

Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. The Council has approved the details of a new position of Director for the soon to open new Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs. The new office that will support immigrant and refugee communities and residents, collaborate with community stakeholders on immigration and refugee issues, and serve as resource, for other community organizations serving immigrants and refugees. You can learn more about the position here

<http://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/RCA/3311/Director,%20Office%20of%20Immigrant%20and%20Refugee%20Affairs.pdf>

Students Against Gun Violence. In response to the Parkland shootings in Florida, hundreds of students from Minneapolis Middle and High Schools marched to City Hall on February 21st to call for better regulation of firearms. Some students addressed our Intergovernmental Relations Committee before a vote was taken to add the following to our legislative agenda: “to support legislation that bans the sale statewide of assault weapons, bump stocks, silencers, and extended magazines.” To see a run-down of the City’s formal position on gun legislation at the state level look here:

<https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/File/881/Gun%20Violence%20Prevention.pdf>.

Our position on the federal level legislation is that “Congress and the Administration: oppose legislation that will create unsafe federal gun purchase safety standards, including legislation that removes right to carry restrictions across borders and lessens mental health criteria for gun buyers; support funding for the Center for Disease Control to resume studying the causes of gun violence; and support efforts to curb suicide rates and domestic abuse violence related to firearms.” Here is a written statement from Students Against Gun Violence “In conjunction with students nationwide, we are demanding that our voices be heard. It is unacceptable that we continue to feel unsafe in schools as a result of gun violence. It is unacceptable that our representatives continue to put the interests of the NRA over our safety. We demand that our lawmakers pass regulations to make it more difficult for assault rifles to fall in the hands of those proven to have violent intent. We urge our fellow community members to use their power in the coming election to vote our politicians who have accepted donations from/been bought by the National Rifle Association. As our representatives, we urge our city, state and federal officials to take our voices in account.”

House Tables Bills Aimed at Preventing Gun Violence. The Minnesota House Public Safety and Security Policy and Finance Committee heard two gun violence prevention bills on in late February. One (HF 1669) would expand criminal background checks on private sales and transfers and the other (HF 1605) would create a new gun violence protection order in statute that would allow family members and law enforcement to petition the courts to temporarily remove firearms from individuals who have demonstrated that they may be a significant danger

to themselves or others. Both are authored by Rep. David Pinto (DFL-St. Paul). Unfortunately, following a public hearing the committee voted to take no action and both bills were tabled indefinitely.

Youth Violence Prevention Update. In February the (newly renamed) Public Health, Environment, Civil Rights and Engagement (PECE) committee received an update on the City's youth violence prevention work. We learned that youth (18-24 year olds) homicides were down from 17 in 2015 and 10 in 2016 to 7 in 2017. This included 2 children under 18 and one of those was under 10. The number should be zero. The total number of youth violent crime victims was also down, to 1,615 from 1,820 last and is the lowest it has been since we started tracking this in 2006 when it was at 2,718. The update included information about specific programs including Group Violence Intervention, Inspiring Youth, Coaching Boys to Men and a new program on to stop Commercial Sexual Exploitation and Sex Trafficking. You can see the slides from the presentation here

<https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/Download/File/891/Youth%20Violence%20Prevention%20Presentation.pdf>. During the discussion we learned that the Youth Violence Prevention Executive Committee had not met since 2016 and then moved and the Committee unanimously supported directing staff to work with stakeholders, including the City Council and Mayor's offices, and return to the Public Health, Environment, Civil Rights & Engagement Committee by June 18, 2018, with recommendations on the future of the Youth Violence Prevention Executive Committee.

Next Step. At the PECE committee we also learned about Next Step, a hospital based program that provides case workers for youth and young adult (10-28) victims of violent injury treated at HCMC. It aims to reduce the rate of violent re-injury and re-hospitalization for youth and young adults who are victims of violent assault injuries by interrupting the cycle of recurrent violence and supporting positive development and holistic healing for victims and families who are affected by violence. Of the 174 participants they have served since July 15, 2016 only 3 have been readmitted for violent injuries again. This is a significant success, because the national rate of readmittance for violent injuries is closer to 40%. We learned after the report on the Next Step program to the committee that a state grant has been awarded to the City so that we can expand it to North Memorial Hospital as well. Here was a television news story on this from 2017: <http://www.kare11.com/article/entertainment/television/programs/breaking-the-news/hospital-intervention-program-helps-reduce-violence/464972052>

Youth Violence Prevention Week. Minneapolis will recognize Youth Violence Prevention Week from Sunday, March 31 - Saturday, April 7, 2018. The deadline for proposals from youth-centered programs to host an event was March first, but if you have ideas please contact Erin Sikkink (erin.sikkink@minneapolismn.gov). For more information see <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/health/youth/yvp/preventionweek>

Youth Coordinating Board Leadership. In February I stepped down as chair of the Youth Coordinating Board and 3 years and proudly moved and voted to turn that role over to Hennepin County Commissioner Marion Greene. I will continue to serve on the Executive

Committee as an at large member along with Marion, Don Samuels (Vice – Char), Londel French and Major Jacob Frey.

2017 Approved Construction Project. In 2017 the City approved construction projects that total of \$1.497 billion of new building investments. Following is the total valuation of building permits for the past several years -- 2000: \$1.142 billion; 2001: \$975.8 million; 2002: \$889.2 million; 2003: \$852.2 million; 2004: \$944.7 million; 2005: \$855.2 million; 2006: \$839.6 million; 2007: \$761.3 million; 2008: \$772.5 million; 2009: \$778 million; 2010: \$547.6 million; 2011: \$752.8 million; 2012: \$1.118 billion; 2013: \$1.211 billion; 2014: \$2 billion; 2015: \$1.4 billion; 2016: \$1.757 billion; 2017: \$1.497 billion. Most of the construction was for apartment buildings, commercial buildings and hotels. Last year, permits were issued for 2,530 new dwelling units, 196 new hotel rooms, including the new the Double Tree University in Ward 2 at 511 Huron Blvd SE. The total permit valuation in ward two was \$106,857,415. Clearly the current trend is for more construction of housing units in the City, especially high end apartments.

New Online Resources for Small Businesses. In February the city launched a new online tool to connect entrepreneurs and small business owners to the information and resources needed to plan, launch and grow a business in Minneapolis. The online “portal” (at business.minneapolismn.gov), has a variety of resources to help both new and existing businesses and was developed in consultation with entrepreneurs and business support organizations across the City to test and customize the platform to meet the needs of businesses in Minneapolis. It includes “starter guides” that lay out the steps to start common types of businesses, including restaurants, daycare centers, catering businesses, contractors, food trucks, and barbershops. The team has also been doing direct outreach to businesses in the community, providing information about the City’s Sick and Safe and Municipal Minimum Wage ordinances and collecting feedback about common challenges small business owners face.

Minneapolis Homes Program. In February the City sold over 30 properties for the construction or rehabilitation of at least 30 homes. Twenty-five of them were sold as part of the City’s Minneapolis Homes Development Assistance Program. As a result, over close to 30 vacant lots and/or homes will be built or redeveloped and added to our housing stock to provide affordable home ownership opportunities to more people in our city. For more details visit <https://lms.minneapolismn.gov/RCA/1903>.

Eviction Report. In February the Housing committee received a disturbing presentation on evictions in Minneapolis. In their research the staff found that over 3,000 Minneapolis evictions are filed in the 4th District Housing Court each year. These cases are disproportionately concentrated in just a few neighborhoods and are major issues facing renters in low income and minority neighborhoods, affecting nearly half of renter households in some areas of our City. When comparing the number of eviction filings to the number of estimated renter households, between 45-48% of renter households in zip codes, 55411 and 55412, experienced a filing in the past 3 years. The report concluded that addressing high levels of eviction is critical for housing stability, access, and quality and recommends that the City work to

implement targeted strategies to address high-evictions properties and reduce evictions. It specifically recommends re-examining our Conduct on Premises ordinance, developing a comprehensive legislative agenda and strategy for changes at the state level, supporting additional tenant resources and exploring additional policy tools for tenant protections. You can find the full report and more information at <http://innovateminneapolis.com/reducing-evictions/>.

Conduct on Premises Ordinance. In response to the concerns about evictions Council Members Cunningham, Ellison and I have begun the work of amending our Conduct on Premises ordinance. We want to ensure that it is effective in helping landlords manage tenant behavior but not force, or even encourage evictions, when they are not necessary or justified.

U of M Gentrification Study. In February I attended an interesting presentation by the University of Minnesota's Center for Regional and Urban Affairs (CURA) researchers on gentrification in Minneapolis and Saint Paul. They shared information about what kind of neighborhood change is happening, examining census and housing market data, but also the perceptions of people living and working in various neighborhoods within both cities. You can find more information here <http://gentrification.umn.edu/>.

Department Head Reappointments. Mayor Frey has begun the process of nominating people for appointment to the various department heads that require reappointment for two year terms this winter. In the next few months the Council will need to approve new directors for the Assessor, City Coordinator, Civil Rights, Community Planning and Economic Development, the Fire Department, Health Department, Police Department, Public Works, and Regulatory Services. The Police Chief's term will not be up until the end of this year. Spence Cronk has left his position as City Coordinator so that is the only position that is currently vacant. At the last Executive Committee meeting he brought forward three names for reappointment, Patrick Todd for City Assessor, Robin Hutcheson for Director of Public Works and Susan Segal for City Attorney. I supported the first two in the Committee and abstained from voting on the City Attorney. I have voted against the City Attorney's reappointment in the past and will likely do so again. On March 9th, following public hearings held at the appropriate committees, the Council will vote to approve or disapprove of these appointments. The Mayor has announced his plans to nominate David Frank and Nuria Rivera-Vandermyde the official department heads of CPED and the Coordinator's Office, respectively.

Reappointment of Director of Public Works. The Transportation and Public Works Committee voted unanimously, with my strong support, to reappoint Robin Hutcheson to the position of Director of Public Works following a public hearing on February 27. The Council will take a vote on it on March 7th. I have been very impressed with Robin Hutcheson's thoughtful, responsive leadership so far during her first term, and her willingness to push for growth and change in the way we build and maintain our infrastructure. I look forward to working with her in the years ahead.

City Assessor. The Executive Committee voted unanimously, with my strong support, to nominate Patrick Todd to be reappointed to the position of City Assessor. The Council will vote

on this matter March 7 following the public hearing before the Ways and Means Committee for on March 6. I have found Patrick to be a thoughtful, professional and proactive assessor and plan to vote for his reappointment.

Reappointment of City Attorney. Mayor Frey's nomination of Susan Segal to be reappointed as City Attorney has met with some community concerns and also hit a bump with the Council Process when it failed to secure the needed 3 votes to pass the Executive Committee but was erroneously forwarded to the Council anyway. At the February Executive Committee meeting there were 2 votes in favor of her nomination and 2 abstentions. The rules of the 5-member committee require 3 affirmative votes for passage of any motion. In response to this the Mayor has called a special meeting of the Executive Committee meeting for Monday March 5th, at which the Executive Committee sent the nomination to the full Council, for consideration at its meeting on Friday, March 9. There will be a public hearing on this March 7th at 1:30pm, and the Council may vote to continue the nomination into the next Council cycle. While I consider Susan Segal to be a skilled, knowledgeable and hardworking City Attorney I do have reservations about supporting her reappointment and will likely cast a no vote on March 9th when it come up to the Council for final approval. To learn more about the Council's misstep in following our own rules see <http://www.startribune.com/after-breaking-own-rules-committee-to-redo-nomination-vote-for-minneapolis-city-attorney/475470633/>. You can find some details about concerns others have about this reappointment at <http://www.nlgmn.org/> and <http://southsidepride.com/2017/12/11/we-need-a-new-city-attorney/>

Chief Resilience Officer. I was disappointed to learn that Kate Knuth was stepping down as our resilience officer. I am sorry that we've lost Ms. Knuth in this position. She's a talented person, and I wish her well in her future endeavors. <http://www.startribune.com/minneapolis-chief-resilience-officer-steps-down/473945953/>

Annie Young Park. On February 7th I was happy to join the Park Board at their meeting sharing comments about Annie Young, the former park commissioner who passed away in January after serving 28 years on the Park Board. At the meeting the Park Board approved renaming Lower Riverside Park as Annie Young Meadow in her honor. A memorial for Annie Young will be held there on **March 17** at 10:00am. This is the part of the park that is down the embankment on the west river bank just north of the Franklin Ave Bridge. They are also considering renaming all of Riverside Park in her honor, but some of the nearby residents are have concerns about this, and there is more process underway to assess this idea. <http://www.journalmpls.com/news/parks/2018/02/part-of-riverside-park-renamed-for-annie-young/>

Judy Farmer. I was sorry to learn that longtime Second Ward resident and former School Board Member and President Judy Farmer has died. Her family is planning a celebration of her life from 2 to 4 p.m. April 7 at the Minneapolis Woman's Club. <http://m.startribune.com/obituaries/detail/0000244555/?fullname=judith-lehman-farmer>

Stone Arch Bridge. After learning about concerns about the need for significant repairs to the Stone Arch Bridge, the Council added language to our legislative agenda to support a request for financial support from the state for rehabilitation.

Minneapolis Music History. The City has been awarded grant funding from the Minnesota Historical Society to complete a study into the history of music in Minneapolis and I recently accepted the offer to sit on the Music Context Study Steering Committee that will help to guide the study process that will be managed by our planning department with support from Hess Roise Historical Consultants. I am very excited about this study that is scheduled to be submitted in October, which will identify and document a wide range of music genres and the places that have played an important role in developing and sustaining Minneapolis music. To help get started there will be two community engagement events this month: **March 20** at the Capri Theater, 2027 W Broadway Ave, and **March 29** at Inbound Brewery, 701 N 5th St. To learn more and take a survey to share your ideas please go to <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/hpc/WCMSP-208555>

Block Leader Training. The 3rd precinct police are offering Block Leader Trainings **Tuesday April 4** and **Monday June 11** from 6:30 – 8pm. Block clubs offer a great tool for crime prevention and community building and in order to better connected to the Police Department a leader is key. The training will help you learn what block clubs do, how to organize your neighbors so you can have a direct impact on preventing crime and be prepared to work with neighbors and the police if there is a problem on your block. For more contact Karen.notsch@minneapolismn.gov.

Ethical Practices Board. The Council has held a hearing for the two new appointees recommended to serve on the Ethical Practices Board and I am confident that Walter Bauch will be reappointments and that Mehmet Konar-Steenberg will be appointed early in March. Mehmet is a Ward 2 Seward resident who served on the neighborhood group board in the past and is currently working as a law professor at Mitchell Hamlin School of Law. I was delighted to see that he had applied and believe he will make an outstanding member of the Board.

Open Streets. The Council has approved all but one of the routes for the 2018 Minneapolis Open Streets events to be held this summer. Open Streets are events that close a street or streets to motorized traffic and open it up for general use by the public, notably those walking and bicycling. The events are free to the public and provide an opportunity for people to engage in physical activity, meet their neighbors, and discover new businesses in different neighborhoods around the city. 100,000 people participated in eight events. The routes approved that include Ward 2 neighborhoods this year include Franklin Portland Ave S to 28th Ave S 1.8; East Lake/Minnehaha on Lake Street from Elliot Ave to Minnehaha Ave, then on Minnehaha Ave to Minnehaha Pkwy/Godfrey Pkwy for a total of 3.8 miles; University of Minnesota area on 14th Ave SE from 5th St SE to University Ave SE, then on University Ave SE to Oak St SE, then on Oak St SE from University Ave SE to East River Parkway for 1.2 miles. Other routes will be on West Broadway, in Northeast, on Nicollet, on Lyndale and downtown.

Hateful Flyer in Cedar Riverside. In February, hateful flyers were distributed in the Cedar Riverside neighborhood that were intended to intimidate and discourage residents so that they

would not participate in civic activity, including political party caucuses. In response Council Member Warsame and I released a strong statement on the people of Cedar Riverside to “respond to these acts of hate the way we always have: by continuing to show up, speak out, participate, vote, and use your passion and talents to make our society better.” You can find the full statement here

<https://www.facebook.com/camgordonward2/photos/a.463614340467597.1073741829.453149924847372/911254802370213/?type=3&theater>

U of M Protected Bikeway. The Council has approved the layout for the University of Minnesota Protected Bikeways Project, found at <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/File/2018-00122>. The project consists of new protected bike lanes connecting the University of Minnesota and the surrounding neighborhoods of Como, Marcy Holmes, and Cedar Riverside including on 18th Avenue from East Hennepin Ave to Como Ave SE; Rollins Ave SE from 15th to 18th Aves; 15th Ave from Rollins to University; 10th Ave SE from 8th St to University; 19th Ave So from 2nd St S to Riverside; 4th Street So from 19th to 20th Aves; and, 20th Ave from 4th St So to Minnehaha Ave S. Improvements will include signal improvements, new signage, and new pavement markings. While approving the layout, the Council also directed staff to explore opportunities to upgrade the physical protection of the protected bikeway on 15th Ave SE from candlestick bollards to a more robust form of protection where feasible, and to pursue this as soon as practical.

Locomotive Fire Near Kasota Ave. In February, fire fighters responded to locomotive freight train that was on fire in the area of 500 Kasota Ave. The locomotive was reported to be carrying between 2000 – 4000 gallons of diesel fuel in its tanks. Crews laid hand lines across the tracks and successfully extinguished the fire before there was a larger catastrophe.

University of Minnesota Child Development Center. I was surprised and troubled to learn that the University of Minnesota Administration intends close the University of Minnesota Child Development Center. This has been a highly respected Second Ward institution throughout my time on the City Council, and well before. Since the closing of the Center has been announced I have received a number of calls and emails with concerns from constituents and others. No one has expressed support for closing it. Everyone is raising questions. Clearly, the center provides a valuable resource for University staff, students and faculty. Clearly, it is a valued community resource to others who serve and teach children throughout the state. So in the days to come, I will be reaching out to the University and asking them to reconsider this decision. I will seek to better understand why it was made, listen to parents and others who are concerned about the loss of this beloved program, and offer to work with all of them to keep it open or find an alternative that would allow the Center to remain in operation elsewhere. I have also signed this petition urging a halt the Center's planned closure and for a commitment to its preservation. I invite you to do the same.

<https://docs.google.com/.../1FAIpQLScM5PkgkywKMXSJgi.../viewform>

Minnehaha Commons. The council has approved accepting a Metropolitan Council Livable Communities Local Housing Incentive Account (LHIA) grant award for Minnehaha Commons at 3001 East Lake St in the amount of \$250,000. Alliance Housing, Inc. is partnering with the

Touchstone Mental Health to create Minnehaha Commons, a supportive service project for extremely low income seniors who have experienced homelessness. The proposed development project consists of a 31,500 sq. ft. three-story building with 43 studio apartments. The property will have a community room, service provider space/office, property management office, laundry room and front desk on the first floor. There will be a tenant lounge area on the second and third floors and an outdoor patio for informal gatherings. The building also includes adequate storage space to hold property for required time periods when tenants leave without notice.

Fresh Thyme Liquor License. On **March 13** at 1:30pm there will be public hearing in City Hall room 317 on the application we have for a liquor license for the soon to open Fresh Thyme Grocery store at 26 30th Avenue Southeast near the Prospect Park Station. Anyone is welcome to comment on the application from Fresh Thyme Liquor for an Off-Sale Liquor License to operate a liquor store. People can also submit comments in writing to contact Inspector Greg Buenning at greg.buenning@minneapolismn.gov

Aeon Prospect Park. The Council has accepted a Metropolitan Council Livable Communities Local Housing Incentive Account (LHIA) grant award for Aeon Prospect Park at 3001 4th St SE in the amount of \$382,000.

Rezoning for Bunge Project. The Zoning and Planning Committee has voted to recommend approval of an application submitted by Urbanworks Architecture to rezone the properties located at 901 12th Ave SE, 901 1/2 12th Ave SE, 913 12th Ave SE, 1200 Brook Ave SE, and 1206 Brook Ave SE to add the IL Industrial Living Overlay District (retaining the UA University Area Overlay District) to redevelop the former Bunge Grain Elevator site to 145 dwelling units of multiple-family housing. This is small but critical step in the redevelopment of this area into affordable housing unit while preserving the head house as a land mark. For some more details see <https://lims.minneapolismn.gov/Download/RCA/3710/Bunge%20staff%20report.pdf>

Bunge, Riverton & PPL. The City has accepted grants from the Metropolitan Council's Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA) in the amount of \$73,500 for soil remediation to support Project for Pride in Living (PPL) and Riverton Community Housing's construction of two apartment buildings and restoration of the Head House on site of the former Bunge grain elevators near Van Cleve Park. The Council also accepted grants from Hennepin County's Environmental Response Fund (ERF) in the amounts of \$34,500 and \$185,260 to be used for demolition, hazmat abatement, and soil remediation.

Malcolm Yards, at 445 Malcolm Ave SE, 501 Malcolm Ave SE, 518 Malcolm Ave SE, 419 29th Ave SE, 504 29th Ave SE and 501 30th Ave SE, was awarded \$45,700 from the Met Council to assist in Wall Development Company's redevelopment almost 17 acres in Towerside near the University. The funds will be used to investigate soil conditions. The eventual project will consist of mixed-use commercial/industrial and residential development, generating several hundred thousand square feet of space and up to 600 residential units. The projected total development cost is \$200,000,000.

Midtown Corner Senior Housing. The City has accepted grant funds for a proposed project at the old Rainbow Grocery Store parking lot in Longfellow at 2901 26th Ave S. The Metropolitan Council grant award of \$85,600; and State Department of Employment and Economic Development Award of \$98,800 will assist with Wellington Management’s plans to construct a mixed-use affordable housing project with 90 senior apartments and 15,000 square feet of retail space on a portion of the parking lot. The projected total development cost is \$19,990,238. The awarded grant funds will be used primarily for soil remediation.

Corridors of Commerce Program. On March 9th I expect the Council to support the Transportation and Public Works Committee’s recommendation pass of resolution expressing the City's support for projects submitted to the Minnesota Department of Transportation Corridors of Commerce program that includes funding for the Hi-Lake Interchange Reconfiguration project that would make significant improvements to the area on East Lake Street under the Highway 55 bridge near the Light Rail station. The Minnesota Department of Transportation (MN DOT) has decided to fund/approve \$400 million of projects statewide in 2018 through a competitive selection of projects on the trunk highway system, targeting transportation routes identified as important links for regional and statewide economic growth. I am very glad that the Hi-Lake project is on the list and hope that is awarded funding.

Minnehaha Academy. Plans for construction on the North Campus of Minnehaha campus are moving forward and currently include significant reconfiguration of the campus with 4 new 1 – 3 story structures. A formalized proposal will be coming forward for preliminary review by city staff and the Planning Commissioner Committee of the Whole this month. They will also be setting a community meeting to share the plans with the neighborhood soon. A formal application will be made soon and they plan to seek formal Planning Commission approvals at the commission meeting on April 9th. They are hoping to begin construction in late spring so that it can be completed this summer and the new campus will be ready for the first day of school September 2018.

Openings on Boards and Commissions. A number of board and commission positions are open for City Council and mayor appointments this fall. Visit <http://www.minneapolismn.gov/boards/openings/index.htm> for more information and to apply.

Open Office Hours in the Ward. I usually hold open Community “Office Hours” in the ward every Monday morning from 9:30 to 11:00 am. Please feel free to call the office at 673-2202 to reserve some time when I will be there or just stop by.

First Mondays at the Birchwood Café, 3311 E 25th St;
Second Mondays at Black: Coffee and Waffles, 1500 Como Ave SE;
Third Mondays at T-Rex Cookie Café, 3338 University Ave SE; and
Fourth Mondays at the East Lake Library, 2727 E Lake St.

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