



March 13, 2012

SEWARD NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP

2323 E Franklin Avenue

Minneapolis, MN 55406

12 MAR 16 PM 1:56

CITY CLERK
DEPARTMENT

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Members of the Redistricting Group:

Seward, one of the few Minneapolis neighborhoods well defined by geographical boundaries, is a strong and cohesive neighborhood that works hard at engaging all its stakeholders in building a strong and vibrant community where everyone can flourish. In the past decade, our efforts at community building have been enhanced greatly by the fact that the neighborhood lies entire within a single ward. This gives Seward stronger representation at the City Council, minimizes the amount of time we spend interacting with elected representatives, and, consequently, maximizes the number of volunteer hours available for engaging the community itself. It is this cohesiveness and sense of community that gives Seward the tools it needs to respond quickly and positively both to opportunities such as facilitating public input into City projects and programs and to tragedies like the horrific slaying at the Seward Market a few years ago.

Seward was divided as a community during Urban Renewal in the late 1960's and through the 1970's into two parts: East Seward, the more affluent and stable area targeted first by city planners for strengthening and relatively minor rehabilitation and West Seward, the less affluent and more blighted area originally slated for wholesale demolition and rebuilding. We have spent decades mending the rift in the community cause by that division.

Now, in your final redistricting plans, you are proposing a return to this division of our neighborhood. By bifurcating Seward into two wards along a residential north-south avenue, so minor that it does not even directly cross Franklin Avenue, this division of the neighborhood between Wards 6 and 2 may well resurrect the east-west ill feelings among residents. Certainly, the division will make it more difficult for the Seward Neighborhood Group to continue its efforts at building community and fostering the growth in cross-cultural experience and appreciation that makes the neighborhood such a great place to live.

For these reasons, at its March 12th meeting, the Executive Committee of the Seward Neighborhood Group reaffirmed its support for the February redistricting plan for Seward and strongly opposed the March redistricting plan that divides the neighborhood. We encourage you to listen as carefully to the voices coming from our neighborhood as you have to the voices from outside it.

Respectfully,

Ben Walen
Co-President
Seward Neighborhood Group

Mike Trdan
Co-President
Seward Neighborhood Group

Menshek, Peggy Y

From: csmith@citolink.com
Sent: Saturday, March 17, 2012 12:18 PM
To: Redistricting2012
Subject: Comments for Redistricting Public Hearing

Cecil Smith
1600 3rd St NE
Minneapolis, MN 55413

RE: WARD 6 PROPOSED BOUNDARIES

I am writing to express concerns regarding proposed the radical changes to the 6th Ward boundaries. As an active business owner and community member in this Ward I am very troubled to see that an opportunity is being missed to connect more of the Native American community with our Ward which now has the American Indian Cultural Corridor as new centerpiece of the cultural life of the Ward.

The new boundaries will also radically shift the ethnic composition of Ward 6, and weaken the opportunity for Native American concerns to be heard in our community. I believe the proposed Ward boundaries for 6 and 9 take us in a direction of representation that is not helpful for the integration and racial harmony of our City, nor do anything to address the historical inequities for some of our most marginalized citizens.

I love the diversity of our city, especially in the existing Ward 6, please make sure that every minority group has an opportunity for a voice in their Ward.

Please reconsider the proposed Ward 6 and Ward 9 boundaries to follow the principles established by the Charter Commission, that is keep communities of interest in one Minneapolis City ward where possible and Change current boundaries as little as possible.

Thank you,

Cecil Smith

Menshek, Peggy Y

From: Dave Stack <ds329ds@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 7:20 AM
To: Redistricting2012
Subject: Borders between Ward 5 and 7, and between Park Districts 2 and 4

Hello Redistricting Group,

Please consider some minor tweaking to the proposed border between Ward 5 and Ward 7. And also please consider making the same minor change in the border between Park District 2 and Park District 4. This slight change would not require any new population numbers recalculations because there are no residents living in the areas that would change. I would like to see the centerline of Bassett Creek used more as the boundary. I believe that it would be good to have more of an equal sense of ownership and engagement with this natural amenity that is already so close to the the current draft boundary. The current draft line places almost all of both sides of Bassett Creek within, and way out on the edge of, Ward 5 and Park District 2. It would take so little to move the line a bit here and there to give both Wards and both Park Districts equal involvement with creek issues.

If having Bassett Creek as the border from the west edge of Minneapolis to the tunnel opening where the creek goes underground does not appeal for some reason - please, at least consider moving the border to the existing boundary between the Harrison Neighborhood and the Bryn Mawr Neighborhood. Note that the latest draft boundary in this area does not appear to honor the neighborhood boundary east of the Queen Avenue area. East of Queen Avenue is drafted a sliver of Bryn Mawr Neighborhood land into Ward 5 and into Park District 2. The current drafted line appears to follow the Burlington Northern RR tracks instead of the actual neighborhood border. Why not, at least, keep all of Bryn Mawr in Ward 7, and in Park District 4, instead of placing a tiny portion of Bryn Mawr in a different Ward and Park District? The centerline of Bassett Creek is used as the border between Harrison and Bryn Mawr to a large extent in this area. And here again, there would be no population numbers recalculations needed because no one lives in the in-between area.

Full disclosure, I do not currently reside in these Wards or Districts. However, I still own property adjacent to Bassett Creek Park, where I lived for 25 years, and I am still very interested in Bassett Creek issues.

Thank You for considering my request.

Sincerely,
David Stack
612-924-9059
ds329ds@hotmail.com
3306 W. 46th St.
Minneapolis, Mn 55410

Menshek, Peggy Y

From: Fred H Olson <fholson@cohousing.org>
Sent: Sunday, March 18, 2012 9:58 AM
To: Redistricting2012
Subject: Bassett Creek & the lines of Ward 5 and 7, and of Park Districts 2 and 4

Redistricting Group,

I support Dave Stack's recommendations (see copy of letter to you below).

Dave is a prime mover with Friends of Bassett's Creek which has a general goal of improving the conditions, image and role of Bassett's Creek. We think it could and should be closer to that of South Minneapolis' Minnehaha Creek.

His proposed redistricting change would be helpful in doing that.

Fred

--

Fred H. Olson 1221 Russell Av N Minneapolis, MN 55411 USA

Email: fholson at cohousing.org 612-588-9532

My Link Pg: <http://fholson.cohousing.org> My org:

Communications for Justice -- Free, superior listserv's w/o ads

From: Dave Stack <ds329ds@hotmail.com>
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Date: Sun, 18 Mar 2012

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