

Joan Campbell Oral History Interview
Southeast Seniors Neighborhood Stories & Memories Oral History Project
October 26, 2018



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Abstract

Joan Campbell is a high profile member of the Southeast Minneapolis community.

Starting out from small town roots, Joan came to the University of Minnesota to become a nurse. She worked in the demanding cardiac transplant area and rose to head cardiac nurse. During this time, Joan became involved in the local DFL party, eventually becoming one of the first two women to chair a congressional district in the state of Minnesota. Governor Wendell Anderson appointed her to the Metropolitan Council.

Joan went on to run for Minneapolis City Council and served for three terms. Since then, she has served on the Stadium Commission for the Twins' Target Field. As a single mother of a daughter, she was involved in the innovative Southeast Schools initiative during the 1970's which brought new models of education to the district. She has also provided support as a board member to Southeast Seniors.

Some of her accomplishments she cites include helping develop the Metropolitan Radio System so the police and fire departments can talk to each other across jurisdictions (which turned out to be very helpful during the 35W bridge collapse), opening up the Minneapolis riverfront near the Guthrie Theater, promoting affordable housing and shelters, assisting in fighting back the University of Minnesota, and opening up the north part of Prospect Park to city development.

Joan has lived in all three neighborhoods of Southeast Minneapolis and currently lives in a Prospect Park apartment with a view of the many positive improvements she's brought to the city.

Southeast Seniors Neighborhood Stories & Memories Oral History Project

Interview with Joan Campbell

October 26, 2018

Jane Burnham, Interviewer

Jane Burnham: **JB**

Joan Campbell: **JC**

Track 1

00:00

JB: Today is October 26, 2018. I'm Jane Burnham interviewing Joan Campbell in Prospect Park, Minneapolis for the Neighborhood Stories and Memories Oral History Project. Thank you, Joan, for agreeing to do this.

JC: You're welcome.

JB: Let's start at the beginning with you. You've lived in Southeast a long time. However, you started off where?

JC: You mean in my life?

JB: Yes. Where were you born—and grew up?

JC: I was born in Spring Grove, Minnesota which is a small town down in the Southeastern corner of the state quite near La Crosse, Wisconsin, actually. My father was a pastor, and my family lived there for about 18 years. We moved when I was a sophomore in high school, and I thought that was a terrible thing (laughter).

JB: Why is that?

JC: Well, you know, you grow up in a small town and these are the people you went to kindergarten with, and then all of a sudden, in the middle of my sophomore year, I'm going to a new school. And my sister who was a senior got to stay and finish and all that stuff. So we moved to Northwood, Iowa and I graduated from high school there and then I went to nurse's training at—well, I went to Luther College for a year before I went to nurse's training. And then I went to a hospital-based school for nursing because that's what you did in those days, so it's—

JB: Not university but—college or—

JC: Yes. We took our basic sciences at Drake University, but you don't end up with a bachelor's degree. You have to go on further for that. And that was the education of choice those days because you got a lot of practical experience. But it's changed now—more academic. And I

went to a county hospital school of nursing because my doctor in Northwood had been an intern there and he thought that that was one of the best places to get a good nursing education because you had all these interesting patients. So, at his advice, I applied and I was accepted. And then, after I graduated, I came up here to work because they were doing all kinds of pioneering stuff in pediatric cardiology and open-heart surgery and I thought it was very exciting.

JB: So, you chose Minnesota specifically.

JC: Yes, for that, and I wanted to get back to Minnesota because that's where I was born (laughter). And so I got a job in the Heart Hospital. I worked in pediatrics. And I thought I would go on and get my bachelors, but I took all kinds of interesting humanities courses (laughter) and never took the rest of it that was a requirement, so I never did finish it, but I sure took a lot of classes.

JB: All at the U [University of Minnesota]?

JC: Yes, well, you know, they had what they called Regent's scholarships and, if you worked there, you could go to school for next-to-nothing. So most of us took classes. And then I met the person who became my husband. He had just finished college, and he was working, and he was planning to go to graduate school eventually, and he finally did. We were married, had a child—one child. Then, as he was about to finish his Ph.D., we got a divorce. He decided that I shouldn't be going with him and—I'm really telling stories here. But it was interesting because I thought—I mean I didn't know anybody other than one aunt who had ever been divorced because it was really not that common. And this was a long time ago—50-some years ago now. And so I was embarrassed and ashamed.

JB: How old was your—was it son or daughter?

JC: Daughter. She was five. And (laughter) it took me about two days to realize (laughter) what a good thing this was (laughter).

JB: And why? Go on?

JC: You know, I'll be very candid—I think I got lost in the marriage. He was very dominant and very charismatic—you know, something of a narcissist and all of the things that we know about in today's world, but he moved out of town because he got his job at Sacramento State University where he lived through the rest of his life. And I got all the friends (laughter) because he left town. So that was comforting. And I just didn't feel like I was alone because they were all very supportive and I started having fun. And one—a couple—this would have been in 1966-67 said, "You know, you've got to get out more. Why don't you come to the precinct caucus with us?" (Laughter). And the rest was history (laughter). I was totally hooked.

JB: That's how you started your political career—

JC: Yes—just—

JB: —you're community—

JC: Yes. So, then I got involved in the party and held a number of party offices while all the time I was working.

JB: You were living—the precinct would have been the—

JC: Actually, when I went—all of the precinct caucuses at that time were held at University Lutheran Church of Hope, because we fed into— it was organized by wards and we fed into the ward convention at the same night. So, I lived over in Como at that the time, but—and so that would have been second ward, third precinct, but they were all held in the same place in those days. And, you know, there were great discussions and I was just captivated by the whole thing, and it was a real good fit for me—really good fit.

JB: And that will—tell—let’s finish up a little bit about your working at the University, and then we’ll get back into the—

JC: That, if somebody asked me about what some of the most interesting things in my life were, being a part of early open-heart surgery, and the pioneering efforts of that, plus all the transplant stuff that started while I was there—I was at the university for a little over 30 years. And it was exciting and fun and interesting and you really felt like you were involved in something historic, which we were. And, I mean, we watched children not make it through, and that comes up a little later in life. And then I evolved into being a head nurse in the heart cath [catheter] lab, and then I was in the outpatient department in the heart hospital where we saw both children and adults, and we also saw kids with rare diseases and kidney problems and, you know, real—. And something that you wouldn’t see in a lot of places, really rare childhood diseases—infectious disease. And all the work that was being done and experiments and all of that stuff. But it was—I got to a point in time where I was almost immune to children having cardiac arrests—that was a way of coping.

But—so I took a little break from the cardiac part of it, but I did continue to work in other parts of the U, and then I stayed there doing a lot of stuff in outpatient department.

09:54

And then, in 1972 , by that time, I was holding a party office—there’s a connection here—party office.

JB: When did you sort of join politics to begin with?

JC: 1966 would have been my first precinct caucus, but then I was elected to a couple of precinct and district offices, and then I was elected to secretary of the Fifth Congressional District followed a couple years later by being the first woman to chair a congressional district in the state of Minnesota—first of two women. There was another woman in Winona who would— [was elected the same year].

JB: Of the same time.

JC: Of the same time. And it was then that I was working one day at the clinic, at the heart hospital, and there was a call from the governor's office—Governor Wendy [Wendell Anderson]—

JB: Now this was the early—this was the—

JC: The early '70s and it was—

JB: Governor—

JC: Wendell Anderson. It was actually from his aide, Tom Kelm, who was extremely powerful in Minnesota politics. And I thought he was going to say that they wanted to appoint me to the board of nursing because some other group had submitted my name, some other nurses. And he said, "The governor would like to appoint you to the Metropolitan Council." And my sophisticated response was, "Oh, wow." (Laughter). And then I hung up the phone—and this is one of the downsides of not having a significant other is because I really want to call somebody and tell them. Our wing of the party didn't get those kind of appointments. We were too radical and young. And so I thought, who would be interested, so I called Allan Speare—you may have—. Anyway, Allan was my oldest friend in Minneapolis. He came to the history department while my husband was a graduate student there and we became really good friends. So I called him up, and I told him, and he said, "Well that means we've really arrived." (Laughter). It was just wonderful. And so that was—I handled both those things at the same time.

JB: You—well, backing up a little bit, there was—you said you had a story about—this must be the story—

JC: Yes.

JB: —of him. Okay, got it.

JC: And then—I don't know why—where my name came from, but this is the story that was really kind of sweet. Some months later, because I was chair of the Fifth District, I was sitting at the head table at some event and I was sitting right next to the governor, and he was taking—writing notes and he passed up on the food, and I said, "Aren't you going to eat anything?" And he said, "I had grilled cheese sandwiches and tomato soup with the kids." And he says, "I never eat at these things." And I said, "You know, I've never properly thanked you for appointing me to the Met [Metropolitan] Council." And he said, "Oh, you probably don't know how that happened. And I said, "What do you mean?" And he said, "Well, I've had some of my close advisors in my office and—he had Al Hofstede and Martin Sabo—and there's an opening in this district, and I want to appoint a woman, and I want to appoint a woman who people like, who is smart, and won't give me any trouble. And both Al Hofstede and Martin Sabo said Joan Campbell almost simultaneously (laughter). I thought that made me sound kind of boring (laughter).

JB: What do you think—the not give you any trouble part?

JC: (Laughter). Right. But, you know, they—neither one of them said anything to me about it, and I saw them quite often, and he said, “Oh, of course they wouldn’t tell you that, because that’s the type of men they are.” And so, that’s how I got on the Met Council.

JB: And tell me about that. What was it like being on the Council?

JC: Oh, it was like going to graduate school every day. I mean, in those days, they actually were doing some very interesting stuff like the Metropolitan Land Planning Act and solid waste and there was federal money for regional organizations and we had—there was a process called the A-95 review and, if there was a regional body in an area, they would review applications from local governments for all federal money. And so we could really engineer where maybe housing funds would go, and we managed to get quite a bit of affordable housing in the close-ring suburbs, usually senior housing, but still affordable. But the staff, I mean—you know John Kari. Well, he was a super-planner, we called him. There were about four who were super-planners we called them. I mean, you would just learn from them. We were all civilians and they were planners and visionaries and that sort of thing. And so it was really a learning experience, and it was also a wonderful place to learn about bipartisanship and cooperation, unlike what we see today because we had staggered terms.

JB: Meaning—

JC: Meaning that, every four years, half of the Council would be appointed and, if there was a Republican governor—

JB: Oh, I see.

JC: You know, and so often there were—pretty even split. Some of us got appointed by Republican governors or reappointed, which I did, because Governor Quie reappointed me. So, you had good debates, worked things out, and it was a nicer time. And a lot of civic-minded people would be on advisory committees. We had a lot of input from groups like that—citizen’s league and places like that. So, I mean, I’m serious when I say it was like going to school every day.

JB: Is that what then prepared you for City Council?

JC: I think so—yes. I think—when I ran for City Council is when Kathleen O’Brien decided not to run.

JB: What year was that?

JC: Well, I ran in 1989 and took office in 1990. Three people were running for open seats and we all had some kind of experience that I think made it easier to make that adjustment. One difference, real difference, between what the Met Council does and the City Council does is the immediacy of what actions on the City Council take. I mean, you could—we planned Hiawatha Corridor on Met Council and it was 20 years later that they started building this, so it’s—

JB: More of a planning organization.

JC: Yes, as a matter of fact, Dennis Schulstad said, who was on the City Council—had been there for 25 years when he retired on the last day of his term—he said, “The first day I came to the council, Hiawatha Corridor was on the agenda and it’s on the agenda again today.” (Laughter). And that was kind of what happens. But—

JB: Why did you decide to run? Why did you decide to—?

JC: Well, I thought, you know, I’d held all these party offices and I had at one time thought about running for County Commissioner, but my daughter was way too little to for me, and now she’s—you know, she was through college and it just seemed like the right time. And things were changing at the U too. I mean, you could see layoffs coming and things like that, and I had a nice pension.

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JB: Oh, so when you quit the Met Council and ran for City Council, you also—

JC: Yes.

JB: —were giving up the job at the U.

JC: Yes, because the Met Council was certainly not a full-time job—City Council was. So, it just seemed like the time to do it. And I do think the Met Council prepared me for City Council. It was a different vibe—City Council.

JB: But running for an office—

JC: It’s a whole lot different than supporting other people. That was an interesting experience because I had been door-knocking for years for other people. And then, when you door-knock for yourself, it’s a whole new experience, because I’m not used to pushing myself in that sort of thing. And so I did it. Never ran unopposed.

JB: Darn.

JC: (Laughter). I had three terms.

JB: And tell me about your time then on the Council—your accomplishments, disappointments.

JC: Well, one of the things that I notice now is, when I drive around town, I had a role to play in that; I had a role to play in that. And it’s very, very satisfying to know that. But I think the thing, when I was first assigned to—the committee I was first assigned was to chair the Public Safety and Regulatory Safety Committee which was police, fire and licensing and things like that—real, you know, the stuff of local government, so it was a good learning place to be. And I learned a great deal about regulatory issues that I probably wasn’t as aware of. And one time—oh, because I was on that—talk about things I’m proud of—this is one of the things I’m proud of.

I was assigned to the Metropolitan Radio Board as Minneapolis—I'll tell you what it is—Minneapolis, a representative. And that was a group of people from the seven-county area, some law enforcement people, county commissioners, some city people, and we were developing a plan for the Metropolitan Radio System so that police and fire could talk to each other across jurisdictions on their phones.

Jurisdictions I mean, before we did it, Hennepin County couldn't talk to Minneapolis. They didn't have the same frequency, sort of—things like that. And we had to build towers and decide where the towers were going to go. So, it was a real inter-governmental kind of thing. And, when they started dividing up the responsibilities, the city's responsibility was to buy their own radios which were pretty expensive. And my good friend, [Mayor] Sharon Sales-Belden, didn't want to put it into the bonding bill, because she thought it was boring. She wanted to—well, she also had other priorities. She wanted to fund services—human services. And so, I understand that, but I said, “Well, this is—that's the only place that the money's going to come from.” And so I got the votes to do it, against her wishes. And, you know, then the bridge fell down, and everybody could talk to each other. (Laughter).

And I got a call—two calls. I got a call from the fire chief and from the head of the emergency 911 thanking me—this was years later—thanking me for pushing for those radios because they said it really worked and it made the whole thing better (laughter). So, that's one thing I'm proud of that has—is so esoteric that you just, you know—

But I remember Alice Rainville, who was a Council Member from the North Side who'd been there for a long, long time told me that the reason I was having so much trouble getting people to approve the radios was that there wouldn't be a ribbon cutting (laughter). She said it's not sexy enough. You know, you could—usually bonding money was used to build stuff.

JB: So, for political purposes.

JC: Yes (laughter). And so, that's something I was proud of. And then I also helped open up the Riverfront where the Guthrie [Theater] is—that sort thing. Because it was in my ward and had been zoned for technology and nothing was happening. It was—actually that was Governor Perpich who wanted to build this technology corridor from Duluth to Rochester, and it was going to go right through that area. And so it really sat dormant for a really long time. And then the committee that was supposed to be helping develop it decided maybe we needed to change the zoning and maybe something would happen. And then Sharon Sales-Belden asked a developer if they would be interested in redeveloping the Pillsbury A Mill where the Mill City Museum is now. And they said yes, and so then we just opened it all up and everything.

JB: And there it is.

JC: So that's another thing that I'm kind of proud of. I think a lot of affordable housing and shelters—I had an argument with my aide about shelters once. She wanted me to put a moratorium because they were all going into my part of downtown, and I said, “I can't do that.” I said, “I'll think about it.” And I said, “I just can't do it.” What else?

JB: Were shelters more of a newish idea at that time?

JC: Well, the homeless shelters were—I think they were becoming more necessary, but they were also—there were a lot of homeless people roaming and the idea to get services all in one place. So, People Serving People which is right down—well, I think it's right across from the stadium now—it looks like a house kind of. That had been in a real dumpy place, and so that was part of it. And then people didn't want them in their neighborhoods either, you know?

JB: Right. You mentioned the other day a few things—well, housing issues in Como and Marcy.

JC: Oh, yes. I don't think it was as serious in Prospect Park, but there was a lot of absentee landlords, particularly in Como and, to a lesser extent, in Marcy I think. Well, not to a lesser extent, but Marcy had bigger houses, so they were more adaptable. But it really changed—I mean, the parties in Como—and I lived there in an apartment building, and it was noisy. In fact, it was row housing that I lived in, and I watched—there was a party right next door. And I called the police. And then I watched out my window when they came. And it was a two-bedroom, two-story apartment, and over a hundred people left (laughter). And that sort of thing went on all over Como, and it's still a difficult problem over there because they're over-crowding, you know little houses that they have. And then there was Katie Fournier and Joan Leigh from Marcy-Holmes and some others—I can't remember who all were there.

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They formed what was called the first Southeast, second Southeast where they would—had some money to buy homes and fix them up and sell them. It didn't last very long, but they did a few. And then Joan Leigh, who has since died, was promoting housing for faculty and graduate students at the U and built this—or got somebody to build—this was during my time on the City Council. And what did they call it?—Rollins Court? It was over off 15th and between 15th and 14th on the north side of Dinkytown, and there were townhouses. And so they were built, and then they were torn down about less than 20 years later I'm sure to put in a big apartment building.

JB: Oh, for students.

JC: Yes. And I'm sure she's rolling over in her grave because she worked so hard on that and they were lovely. And they had faculty living there. And it was—

JB: Okay, a couple other things you mentioned—the opening up of the north—north of University.

JC: Yes.

JB: In Prospect Park were you were talking about?

JC: Well, yes—between University and Como—the whole industrial area down there that's now the grocery stores over there now and some apartment buildings. And it was really a

wasteland of brown fields that needed to be cleaned up and multiple owners, and there was a committee that was put together by the University to talk about how they could plan for that area. And then we got involved this—one of the first meetings of that group—the planners from someplace in Canada—Toronto I think—put a big map on the wall of the University—the main campus and the St. Paul campus and showed the land in-between and said something like, “Think how the University could expand (laughter). And I’m sitting there as part of this group representing the neighborhood and I said, “Over my dead body.” (Laughter). And they looked at me. I said, “First thing we have to do is establish an east boundary for the University (laughter). And I remember Ken Dayton, who was the nicest man, who was on this committee representing the business and the booster’s committee, and he kind of smiled and he got a big kick out of me (laughter). And then I said, “We’ve got to keep some of this in the tax base.” I said, “We have to do that. We have to build the roads, the infrastructure.” Well, they still haven’t built what was called Grannery Road which is supposed to go in north of where the university is now, and they’re already further east than they were supposed to be.

JB: The University, and the Grannery Road should be sort of between Prospect Park and Southeast Como?

JC: Yes.

JB: Just getting through those tracks somehow.

JC: Yes—maybe over. I mean, it’s an engineering problem as well, not just a money problem, but there was a metal company—what was the name of it? Anyway, they just left town in the middle of the night and they had this big vat that they used in one of their buildings and the property eventually goes to the county under those circumstances, but my aide and I were over there. The staff said, “You’ve got to come over and look at this.” And it was just this big vat of awful stuff. So who’s responsible for cleaning this up? Well, you’re supposed to go after the people that own it. And the pollution control agency got involved. And I was listening one day to my aide, Pat Kelly, on the phone talking to somebody, and she says, “Well, it’s \$20,000 that we’re talking about here,” which must have been the gap. She said, “Do we use that \$20,000 to help with the cleanup or do we pay it to the lawyers?” (Laughter). I thought, yes, that’s why I’ve got her working for me (laughter). And, eventually, the county came in and cleaned it up and now it’s more—it’s useful.

JB: And that’s right in that same area?

JC: Yes, but there were little parcels like that all over the place. And that wasn’t exactly embraced by the communities. They were afraid of what might go there. And Prospect Park and Como was concerned about where the road would go so that the—you know, where the traffic would go and the Park Board was doing their Grand Rounds—the missing link. And Marcy-Holmes, to a lesser extent, but it wasn’t all rosy, but there were people from the neighborhoods involved in the planning which was a good thing.

JB: Another thing that you mentioned the other day was the Southeast alternative schools, and I don’t know anything about that.

JC: Okay, that's why I was also wondering about Sally because I think she could probably fill in the blanks there. In the 70s, when all the schools were being integrated and so forth, a group of people in Southeast Minneapolis—I was a parent; I was not involved in organizing, but I went to the meetings. Judy Farmer was involved—this, I think, was before she was on the school board. Anyway, the notion was—

JB: But can I—I'm sorry—I'm going to just back up—this was a time you were on the Met Council and also a parent?

JC: Yes.

JB: Is that kind of what brought you to the table?

JC: And my daughter was going to Tuttle. And I think they got some grant money from some place to do this. Anyway, they were going to have three different kind—it was models of education—three different kinds of grade schools and elementary schools. Tuttle was a traditional K through I think 6 [kindergarten through sixth grade], and Marcy-Holmes was going to become Marcy Open School, and Pratt was going to be continuous progress. So, you could go from K through 3rd grade and K through—and fourth, fifth and sixth. And you could move quicker, you know, at your own pace. And then everybody would feed into Marshall-University High School.

JB: Over in Dinkytown—Marshall High.

JC: Yes, and it was just the envy of the rest of the city. And it was working. And of course you had involved parents and, I mean, my daughter, I sent her to Marcy Open School because she'd been going to Tuttle—we lived in Como then and had a teacher who was just a witch. And then I found out when she was going to go to Marshall that she wanted to go into a more structured—and she chose this. And the teachers told me that. She never told me because she knew I was this pusher of open schools, but she needed more structure in her life and she recognized that. I was so proud of her. But then, at some point in time, they opened up the high school citywide to—you could go to Marshall if you wanted to. And so, it became—a lot more people of color came there. And they also had people with—kids with disabilities there. So, it was a real diverse group of people. And, in fact, when they opened it up to the Northside, we won the state tournament in basketball. We never would have won it with just Southeast kids (laughter).

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But the reason I think it was such a wonderful thing is, to this day, my daughter who is in her 50s can spot somebody who went to Marshall-University High School. She said, “You went to Marshall, didn't you?” And inevitably they had. And it's because they have this—I guess they're not racist—they're anti-racist.

JB: So, what happened?

JC: Well, I was trying to figure out that because I don't remember—I think what happened was that Marshall-University closed. I think that was when—

JB: That was the University decision?

JC: Well, it was Marshall-U High School. Oh, you—before there was University High as well as Marshall—

JB: Two separate—

JC: They merged, and I think that may have been what happened, but there was still this value in keeping the grade schools. I didn't know if Pratt is still a continuous progress school—I don't know.

JB: I don't think so.

JC: No—but most of the high school kids that went to South, so there still was this kind of attitude. But I think it's just a value system that stuck with these people, and every once in a while, it comes up and I think it's just too bad it wasn't copied.

JB: And you helped shape it.

JC: Yes.

JB: You as parents.

JC: Yes.

JB: Well, moving forward then these days, you had three terms on the city council, and now you're on the ballpark commission.

JC: Yes. That's just been fun, although it's not as much fun as it used to be. But I'm—I represent—well, I was appointed by Barb Johnson, president of the City Council when they put it together there: five members, two by the governor, two by the county because the county funded it, and one from the city. I'm the only one left of the originals, and I think that's because they don't know I'm there (laughter).

JB: What are your day-to-day activities?

JC: Well, they're not so much, no.

JB: Not so much.

JC: We only meet four times a year but, when they were building—so, for the first three years, we met monthly and we oversaw the construction and had to approve budgets and many things in construction. Now we have to approve the budget. Our role essentially is to own the ballpark on behalf of the public, and we lease to the Twins. But they really operate it and bear no—I mean, there's a capital fund that keeps building for major things that might have to be done like a new scoreboard would be a good example of some really expensive thing. But—and

they have—can come to us and ask for money from that particular capital improvement fund if they think they need it, but so far, I think, they've only asked for it once. And it's got several million dollars in it.

This is an untold story—that the bonds that were sold to build the ballpark—there are proceeds from bonds. Some of the money is used for amateur sports, fields for kids, for library hours, stuff like that that Peter McLaughlin got into the bill to get it to pass really. And the bonds are going to be paid off a decade early, and every once in awhile in the paper you see it—oh, that money we're spending on the ballpark. And it's really paying for itself (laughter), you know. But that's not a very interesting story, but I think it's amazing. So now we meet quarterly. We improve capital improvements. We approve the budget and any kind of major improvements that they want to make.

JB: They consult with you on the new manager?

JC: No (laughter). No, they don't do that, but we get a report from Matt Hoy who is [in charge of operations]. He's in charge of the whole structure, you know, what do you need to do here? And so, he's just a bundle of information about fan experience and stuff like that. And that's really what our role is to see that it's run well, and the reason we exist is that there has to be a body between the county and the ballpark because otherwise there's a tax problem. So, we are the kind of firewall between the county and the team (laughter).

JB: All of this stuff that you have been talking about has been in the context of living in the Southeast neighborhoods, right? You've lived in all—

JC: All three of them.

JB: All three of them—yes, and you are a long-time member of the University Lutheran Church of Hope is that what it's called?

JC: Um-hm.

JB: And why didn't you end up moving in retirement to some fancy condo in Edina or something?

JC: Well, first of all, I couldn't afford it (laughter), but I've always been a renter, and that's by choice. I mean, some times in my life, I probably was in a position to buy something, but I'm not good at the things you have to be good at to be an owner. You know, I'm not—

JB: Yard work.

JC: Yard work—all that stuff, and so, I've always—and this is the perfect location. You're right in the middle of the metropolitan area. It's about 30 minutes from end to end, from here to Stillwater, from here to Minnetonka or whatever—a little—not quite, but 30 minutes to Minnetonka, and it's very close to downtown. The one thing that it is not—well, it's on a bus line. The light rail stops are just beyond—oh, you know that—just beyond where they're convenient.

JB: Still a hike.

JC: Yes.

JB: Any other reflections about all this and living in these neighborhoods?

JC: Well, I love living in Southeast Minneapolis, and—because it's pretty. Speaking of Southeast, have you seen any of these coyotes that everybody's talking about?

JB: No.

JC: [Spooky sound effect and laughter]

JB: Any other reflections on your life—your career?

JC: Really, actually it's a good life. Oh, one other thing I did—I was on the board of Southeast Seniors for a while too—you know that.

JB: Oh, that's right!

JC: I think this is a good place to—well, there's a nice quality of life in the Twin Cities Metropolitan area, and I'm scared about what's going to happen in two weeks or ten days, and I'm—all that, but ultimately it's just a—culturally, it's superb. I go to Guthrie and I go to—I have season tickets to Orchestra Hall, and—

JB: And to think that you've been a part of that, about making that all happen, is kind of interesting. Alright, anything else or?

JC: No.

JB: I'm sure there's a zillion more things.

JC: One of the things that's nice from a view from here is that you see eagles every once in a while. And I had an eagle on my—sitting on that railing out there.

JB: What?

JC: Yes (laughter). In fact, I was just kind of walking around and he was just sitting there. Look (laughter).

JB: That's amazing.

JC: Well, anyway, thank you very much.

JB: Oh, thank you.

[End of Interview]

Total Interview Time: 0:49:47