



## City Newsletter April 3, 2026

The Public Works Department and Planning Department submitted for and were successful in obtaining **Solar on Public Buildings** grant funding for the installation of solar arrays at 5 locations within the City of Bemidji. The 5 locations include, the Sanford Event Center, City Park warming house, Bemidji Fire Station #2, Neilson Reise/Curling Club, and the Water Treatment Plant. The solar on public buildings grant covers 70% of the solar array cost and the remaining 30% is anticipated to come from the IRS Federal Tax Credit. If things go as planned, the project will be 100% covered and our electrical costs will be offset immediately after the installations are completed and online!

Taking advantage of not having to wait for the ground to thaw, Wolf Track Energy (Solar Installer for all 5 projects) began in late March on installation of the water treatment plant rooftop solar array and are nearly completed. The solar array is installed as a “ballasted” system which doesn’t require penetrations (holes) through the roof and is held down by heavy, concrete blocks instead. This installation style protects the integrity of the rubber membraned roof and prevents the chance of future leaks. The solar array is anticipated to offset roughly 30% of the overall power usage of the water treatment plant and equates to a savings of roughly \$8,000/year.

We’ll keep you posted as the other sites are developed!





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April 3, 2026

## Citizen Engagement

The City of Bemidji currently has opportunities to serve on various boards, committees and commissions. See our website for more information [www.ci.bemidji.mn.us](http://www.ci.bemidji.mn.us)

- Housing & Redevelopment Authority (2 residents)
- City Library Board (1 resident and 1 Beltrami County resident)
- Parks and Trails Commission (1 resident)
- Community and Police Advisory Board (1 available)
- Public Arts Commission (1 non resident or city resident available)
- Housing Appeals Board (1 Tenant)
- Deer Management Committee (1 - Ward 4)



## BOARD/COMMISSION APPLICATION

### General Objectives and Guidelines

The City Council invites all interested parties to become involved in city government. It is the Council's desire to engage full participation in the development and implementation of the policies of the City of Bemidji. The Boards and Commissions of the City of Bemidji are voluntary advisory bodies to the City Council, charged with the responsibility of researching, reviewing and making recommendations to the City Council. Completed applications can be mailed or dropped off at City Hall or by email at [cityclerk@ci.bemidji.mn.us](mailto:cityclerk@ci.bemidji.mn.us).

### Personal Information

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (C): \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (H): \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please select the Board/Commission you are applying for (additional information attached):**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> City Library Board                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Heritage Preservation Commission  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Merit Hearing Board                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Redevelopment Authority |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Trails Commission           | <input type="checkbox"/> Housing Appeals Board             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> City Planning & Zoning Commission   | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Arts Commission            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> South Shore Design Review Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> City Charter Commission           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sanford Center Advisory Board       | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustainability Commission         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community and Police Advisory Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____                       |

**Please provide a statement as to why you are interested in serving on this board or commission (additional information attached):**

**Please provide a description of professional, civic or community activities which are relevant in qualifying to serve on this board or commission (additional information attached):**

**Please provide your qualifying education and experience which are relevant in qualifying to serve on this board or commission (additional information attached):**

**Please provide your availability to attend meetings and fulfill responsibilities to serve on this board or commission (additional information attached):**

**Please provide any references relevant in applying for this board or commission (optional):**

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Name	Address	Phone
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Name	Address	Phone
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Name	Address	Phone
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*NOTE: This application is of public record. Public Service opportunities are offered by the City of Bemidji without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, disability, sex or sexual orientation.*

## **Board/Commission Information**

<b>Charter Commission</b>	Review the city charter and make recommendations for changes to the City Council and to the voters. Qualified voter required. No member of the City Council may serve on the Charter Commission. Appointment by District Court Judge. Meets annually in June or as needed at City Hall.
<b>Heritage Preservation Commission</b>	The primary function of the Heritage Preservation Commission is to advise the City Council on matters relating to historic preservation. Members must have demonstrated an interest in the historical, cultural or architectural development of the City and at least two members shall be preservation-related professionals, if available in the community. Per Minnesota Statute 471.193, the Commission must include a member from the Beltrami County Historical Society, if available. Meets on the third Tuesday of the month as needed at 4:30 p.m. at City Hall.
<b>Housing Appeals Board</b>	The primary function of this Board is to hear and decide all appeals brought under the Housing Code, Uniform Building Code, Uniform Building Code and Rental Housing Registration Ordinance, including appeals from the Building Inspector's decision to deny, not renew, revoke or suspend a Registration Permit or Provisional Registration Permit. Make up of this Board is as follow: two contractors, two homeowners, one landlord and one tenant. Meets as needed at City Hall.
<b>Housing &amp; Redevelopment Authority</b>	The purpose of the HRA is to oversee the operations of the Northland Apartments. City residency required by Minnesota Statute 469.003. A tenant is appointed on an annual basis. Meets the last Tuesday of the month at Noon at Northland Apartments meeting room.
<b>City Library Board</b>	The purpose of this Board is to advise the City Council as to management and operation of the Bemidji Public Library. Three non-City residents may be appointed per Minnesota Statute 134.09. Members can serve up to three consecutive, three year terms. Meets the third Tuesday each month at 5:00 p.m. at the Public Library.
<b>Merit Hearing Board</b>	This Board hears appeals from an employee separated from employment to determine just cause. City residency required. Meets as needed at City Hall.
<b>City Planning &amp; Zoning Commission</b>	The Commission's primary function, among other duties pursuant to City Code, is to evaluate proposed planning and zoning requests. This includes variances from the development code, special use permits, and zoning amendments. Other responsibilities include subdivision

review and assisting in updating the comprehensive plan. City residency required. Meets the fourth Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall.

**Parks & Trails Commission**

Advises the Council and City Manager in all matters relating to parks and trails. City residency required. Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 4:30 p.m. at City Hall.

**Public Arts Commission**

To promote public appreciation, accessibility and patronage of public art in the Bemidji community, and review and recommend to the city council public art activities on city owned or controlled property, as well as property owned or controlled by the Bemidji Economic Development Authority (BEDA), and advise the city council generally on public art related matters. Three non-City residents may be appointed per City Code. Meets the second Tuesday of the month at 1:00 p.m. at City Hall.

**South Shore Design Review Committee**

The SSDRC follows the Design Guidelines as set forth in the South Shore Planned Unit Development which addresses site planning, exterior architecture and landscaping for public, civic, commercial, office, mixed-use and residential components of the South Shore Development. They are based on the Design Principles and complement the Master Plan, convey the City of Bemidji and BEDA's intentions to the builders of housing, offices and shops, and establish parameters for review of site plans and architectural drawings.

A seven-member South Shore Design Review Committee (SSDRC) shall administer these Design Guidelines.

Staff support for the SSDRC will be provided by the City of Bemidji. Initially, as sole Owners of the South Shore Development, the City of Bemidji and the BEDA will select six of the SSDRC members. The seventh member will be a appointed position from the City Planning Office. Committee members may ultimately be selected from additional South Shore Development property owners as the area develops. Committee membership should rotate. Meets as needed at City Hall.

**Community and Police Advisory Board**

The Board is made up of eleven (11) representatives. The Bemidji Chief of Police and one (1) Bemidji City Council Member will participate as two (2) non-voting members of the Board.

Board Members should have an interest in strengthening community and police relationships. Board Members should be representative of the City of Bemidji and that representation should strive to include diversity. Board

Members include city residents, representatives from the business communities, spiritual communities, faith organizations, service organizations and educational groups in the City of Bemidji. Efforts will be made to ensure diversity and representation from every city ward.

Citizens wishing to be a member of the Board shall complete an application; participate in an interview process and a criminal background investigation. Board Members must complete eight (8) hours of ride-a-longs with the Bemidji Police Department within three (3) months of appointment. The Board will have at least four regular meetings each year which will be set during the January annual meeting. Special meetings may be called by the Board Chair when deemed necessary. Meets the fourth Tuesday of the month at 4:00 p.m. at City Hall.

### **Sustainability Commission**

An advisory body to the City Council. Its purpose is to promote resiliency, sustainability, and green initiatives in the Bemidji community, to promote, develop, recommend community sustainability partnerships and networking, to review and recommend to the City Council activities on City owned or controlled property, as well as property owned or controlled by the Bemidji Economic Development Authority (BEDA), and to advise the City Council generally on sustainability related matters.

The Commission shall consist of seven (7) members, three (3) of which may be non-City residents, with demonstrated experience and expertise in sustainability practices and efforts, and holding no official position with the city. Meeting the second Thursday of the month at 3:30 p.m. at City Hall.

### **Sanford Center Advisory Board**

The Sanford Center Advisory Board serves as an advisory board to both the Sanford Center Management and the Bemidji City Council regarding the management and operations of the City's Sanford Event Center, as required under the management agreement between the City of Bemidji and the management company.

Membership consists of nine (9) members; two of which are At Large Members of the City of Bemidji. Each member shall be considered a voting member for purposes of action taken or to be taken by the Board. Meets the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:00 a.m. at City Hall.

# Bemidji Citywide Deer Hunt – 2026

## Applications Coming Soon!

Before you know it, it will be time to submit land use permission forms and hunt applications for the 2026 Bemidji Citywide Deer Hunt. This year, the City is introducing a new and improved online application process, making it easier than ever to participate!

Residents and hunters will now be able to complete the process from the comfort of home through our online registration system.

To access the application portal, visit and simply follow the prompts;

<https://secure.recl.com/MN/bemidji-mn/catalog>



### Dates of importance

**Permission forms** are due no later than, May 20, 2026,  
**Application submittal** opens July 1, 2026 and closes August 1, 2026.

**We look forward to another safe and successful deer management season in Bemidji!**

If you have any questions, please contact:  
Madison Brogren – [Madison.Brogren@ci.bemidji.mn.us](mailto:Madison.Brogren@ci.bemidji.mn.us)  
Scott Schroeder – [Scott.Schroeder@ci.bemidji.mn.us](mailto:Scott.Schroeder@ci.bemidji.mn.us)