

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Special Meeting – August 22, 2006

Pursuant to due call and notice, a special work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on August 22, 2006, at 5:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Lehmann presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Lehmann, Markeson, Hellquist, Johnson, Erickson, Downs, Meuers.

Bill Krueger, Director of Convention, Sports & Leisure, International, presented Phase 1 of a two phase study on the market issues for a regional event center. Phase 1 consisted of local interviews, local market conditions, comparable facilities, market surveys, market conclusions, facility program issues and event and use levels. Phase 2 will be completed in approximately four weeks and will consist of refinement of Phase 1, financial operations, staffing levels, economic impacts resulting in a final report and final presentation. According to Krueger, Bemidji is right on the cusp when it comes to communities that are able to support an events center. Bemidji ranked toward the low end of the demand index but it was still high enough to recommend that the project continue to move forward.

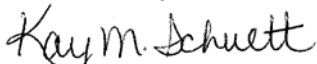
Krueger noted that if BSU plans to move to the Western Collegiate Hockey Association (WCHA), they would need to play in an arena with at least 4,000 seats. He added that for many concert promoters, 4,000 seats is the magic number they consider when selecting a location for a concert.

In summary, Krueger liked the location picked for the event center. He stated that it is an iconic location and is a key location with respect to the edge of downtown that can help with revitalization. Krueger emphasized that if Bemidji plans on building an event center, it is important to do it right and not scrimp. Discussion continued on placement of a hotel near or adjacent to the event center.

ADJOURN

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay Murphy-Schuett
City Clerk