

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Work Session – Tuesday, November 12, 2013

Pursuant to due call and notice, a work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Tuesday, November 12, 2013, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of City Hall, Mayor Albrecht presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Albrecht, Hellquist, Johnson, Olson, Erickson, Thompson, Meehlhause

Staff Present: City Manager John Chattin, Parks & Recreation Director Marcia Larson, City Attorney Alan Felix, Public Works Director Craig Gray, Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Clerk Kay Murphy

Other Present: Don Heinonen, Parks & Trails Commission

Discussion - South Shore Development Options

Parks & Recreation Director Larson reviewed park plans/development options, finance options and public input options for the south shore beach area. Summarized as follows:

- Alternate 1 – Master Plan, South Shore Park – Estimated cost \$3,407,168 which includes construction and beach/water cleanup. Larson noted that the cleanup of the lake portion is estimated at \$1.4 million.
- Alternate 1.5 – Minimal Park Amenities – Estimated cost \$2,234,000 or \$2,734,000. Includes beach and water cleanup.
- Alternates 2 and 2.5 – Use Lake Bemidji as a “vista”. Larson stated that the concept is for a multi-purpose space that would complement the Sanford Center, neighborhood and south shore development. Cleanup of the sand/land area \$170,000.
 - Alternate 2 – Estimated cost \$2,238,231 to \$2,634,000 includes beach land cleanup. Larson stated that “Splashpads” have become a huge draw in other communities that she spoke with. Larson stated that the City of Round Lake uses their lake as a vista.
 - Alternate 2.5 – Estimated cost \$1,700,000. Variation of Alternate 2 removing playground equipment and others items to reduce cost which could be added as funding became available.

Finance Director Eischens provided financing options for the proposed alternates as follows:

<u>Description</u>	<u>Funding Option</u>	<u>Levy Increase</u>
Alternate 1	Voter Referendum (Bonds)	7.0%
Alternate 1.5	Voter Referendum (Bonds)	4.5% to 5.6
Alternate 2	Voter Referendum (Bonds)	4.8% to 5.4%
Alternate 2.5	Finance with City Reserves	2.7%
	Repay with increased tax levy over 15 years. No interest or bond costs.	

Eischens cautioned the City Council about spending the City reserves because it would reduce the undesignated

Council discussed the various options presented.

- Hellquist inquired as to the on-going maintenance costs of the improvements to the beach area.
- Chattin stated that with staff it would be in the \$15,000 to \$20,000 range annually.
- Erickson stated that “splashpads” are unique and offer something different than offered elsewhere in the community.
- Hellquist inquired about a community pool. Larson responded that, depending on size, the estimate is approximately \$800,000 to install a pool and that maintenance costs would vary. Chattin suggested that the area was not large enough to accommodate a pool. Discussion continued regarding other potential locations for a pool.

The “promised” replacement for the Nymore Beach was discussed. Hellquist stated that at the time the “promise” was made, the extent of cleaning up the lakebed was unknown.

Gray stated that the intent is to go out for bids regarding the woodchip cleanup in March. The bids would be good for a 2014 fall project.

Mayor Albrecht stated that it is evident that there is support in Bemidji for parks. The south shore beach park was not in the first phase funding request. She stated that she is not in favor of increasing the levy or bonding.

Don Heinonen, Parks & Trails Commission member, stated that the Commission tried to give the Council suggestions from the community.

Public Input

Larson discussed ways to get input from city residents and asked the Council for direction. She noted that MARS (Marketing Assistance and Research Solution) has proposed a mail survey to 3,800 residents at an estimated cost of \$3,500 to \$5,000 (depending on mailing costs).

Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Olson, to develop a survey with limited questions to get input from residents regarding the south shore beach. Motion carried unanimously.

CITY MANAGER PERFORMANCE REVIEW

Motion by Hellquist, seconded by Meehlhause, to close the meeting in accordance with Minnesota Statute Section 13D.05, Subd. 3 for the purpose of evaluating the performance of City Manager John Chattin. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting closed at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Mayor, Council, Chattin and Murphy

Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Olson, to reopen the meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting reopened at 8:50 p.m.

Mayor Albrecht will summarize the Manager’s performance at the next regular Council meeting on December 2, 2013.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Olson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk