

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Work Session – November 21, 2011

Pursuant to due call and notice, a work session of the City Council of the City of Bemidji, Beltrami County, Minnesota, was held on Monday, November 21, 2011, at 6:00 p.m. in the Conference Room of City Hall, Mayor Larson presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Larson, Waldhausen, Hellquist, Johnson, Albrecht, Thompson, Negard (joined the meeting at 6:10 p.m.)

Staff Present: City Manager John Chattin, Parks & Recreation Director Marcia Larson, City Clerk Kay Murphy

Other Present: Amanda Prosser, Brauer & Associates

Mayor Larson stated that the purpose of the work session was to review the final parks system plan.

Amanda Prosser, Brauer & Associates, reviewed the revisions incorporated after the last meeting with the City Council. She noted that they have continued with the idea of phasing out the three smaller parks and keeping the South Lake Irving boat landing. She stated that the plan has been reviewed by Marcia Larson and Mayana Rice. No feedback on the plan has been received from the Steering Committee or the public. In addition, Marcia Larson and Prosser have written a mission statement which states the purpose of the Parks, Open Space and Trail System plan. Discussion continued regarding the cornerstone parks and modifications made from the work session in October.

Negard asked with all the improvements in parks and trails planned what would it cost to maintain them?

Marcia Larson responded that the improvements are planned over 20 years and at the time of requesting an improvement, staff will include the funding for maintenance costs.

Hellquist stated that with the planned elimination of two parks, Ward 2 will only have Gordon Falls Park. Discussion continued regarding the condition of equipment and problems at Gordon Falls Park.

Council discussed separating Library Park and Paul Bunyan Park from the Southshore Park. Parks & Recreation Director Larson stated that there are issues to be addressed at Paul Bunyan Park, i.e., electrical, and dealing with the geese problem and the City will need to hire a consultant.

Chattin stated that there is an expectation by the public that something will get done at Paul Bunyan Park and Library Park. He stated that it is unknown what and when things will get done at the Southshore Park.

Motion by Waldhausen, seconded by Thompson, to approve the 2011 Parks, Open Space and Trail System Plan separating Library Park and Paul Bunyan Park from the Southshore Park in the Plan. Motion carried unanimously.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Hellquist, seconded by Negard, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Kay M. Murphy
City Clerk