

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

### Work Session – March 10, 2014

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, March 10, 2014, 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, Meehlhause, Hellquist, Johnson, Olson, Erickson, Thompson

Staff Present: Parks & Recreation Director Marcia Larson, Public Works Director Craig Gray, Finance Director Ron Eischens, City Clerk Kay Murphy  
Others: WSB & Associates Inc. - George Watson, Rich Koechlein

Mayor Albrecht stated that the purpose of the work session was to review the preliminary plan and budget for Paul Bunyan Park.

#### Paul Bunyan Park

Larson stated that after comprehensive public input, the Master Plan for Library/Paul Bunyan Park and South Shore Park were adopted by the City Council on July 9, 2012. Based on available funding, park project priorities were identified by the Park and Trails Commission and approved by the Council on August 12, 2013.

George Watson, Architect - WSB, reviewed the park plan for Paul Bunyan Park noting the following amenities:

- New parking lot design which will provide better traffic flow and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street access will be closed. There will be 80 standard, 4 handicap, 2 oversize, 2 drop-off, and 8 pull-through parking spaces.
- Addition of stormwater infiltration areas which will link up to the existing stormwater treatment pond next to the visitor center.
- Create 10' wide asphalt trail which will allow maintenance trucks to access 3<sup>rd</sup> Street dock.
- Addition of an 8' wide asphalt trail.
- Rotary Pavilion will be salvaged and relocated south of the visitor center.
- Nimi Sculpture will be relocated.
- An enclosure will be built around the dumpster/electrical.
- Addition of two picnic tables for visitors.
- New plant materials within existing raised planters along visitor center.

Watson stated that the planting around the plaza and behind Paul & Babe statues will have a north woods feel.

Larson stated that the Jaycees Pavilion will be salvaged and potentially relocated to City Park. She noted that the Bemidji Jaycees have contributed financially to City Park and felt that it might be a good fit.

Councilor Erickson inquired about the "future children's play area" and the structures currently at the waterfront and asked if these could be relocated. Larson responded that the current structures from the 1990's, and relatively small, and noted concerns regarding equipment integrity once relocated. Larson stated that there is a group raising funds for inclusive playground equipment that are planned to be installed in the play area.

Watson reviewed the timeline for the project noting that bids will go out between May 19 and June 9. The project would begin July 7 after the Jaycees Water Carnival. He noted that it will be a two stage process to allow the Dragon Boat Festival in August and then work will resume. The project completion date will be May 31, 2015.

Watson reviewed the budget stating that the project estimated cost is \$1.2 million. There will be alternatives built into the project for the Council to consider. The following were identified as alternate items:

- Plant materials of size and substance would be an alternate to up-size;
- Additional walking trail along lake
- Additional seating/benches

- A place to set a camera to take a self-portrait in front of the statues
- Kayak and canoe racks by lake access point
- Bike rental location (Nice Ride) will be at end of visitor center
- Meehlhause inquired if there would be a sign identifying the park. Larson indicated that the current sign into park needs some upgrading. Council consensus is that the current sign is adequate. Watson suggested that a sign be placed on TH197 after the Mississippi Bridge identifying the statues.

Larson stating that the funding source for Paul Bunyan/Library Park Improvement project is a combination of the remaining half cent sales tax (\$887,215) and Legacy Funding (\$750,000). The project costs/expenses were identified as:

• Archeological – 106 Group	\$51,960
• Chief Bemidji Platform	\$48,000
• WSB & Associates	\$175,000
• Construction & Contingency	<u>\$1,362,255</u>
Total	\$1,637,215

Erickson raised concerns about the different amount of sales tax money remaining as identified by staff in August 2013 as compared to today. She felt that the Council should designate a “not to exceed amount” on the project. Erickson stated that the additional sales tax could perhaps be used for the south shore project as there may be a need for matching dollars for a grant.

Eischens explained that in August of 2013 the remaining sales tax amounted to approximately \$744,000. Since that time, the Paul Bunyan Trail Bridge, City Park and North Country Park projects have closed and there is roughly \$120,000 in additional sales tax available. He stated that it the Council’s decision on where to spend those dollars.

Mayor Albrecht stated that the community has identified Paul Bunyan Park as a priority and the additional sales tax dollars should insure that more amenities can be included in the project.

Olson stated that the Council has trimmed two-thirds off the original park plan and he would like the focus on returning some of those items that the community wanted.

**Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Olson, approving the preliminary layout/design and budget total of \$1,637,215 for Paul Bunyan/Library Park. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### Grant – South Shore Lake Bemidji

Gray stated that he met with the DNR along with Dave Hengel, HRDC, to discuss the potential for a LCCMR grant to assist with the lakebed cleanup. The DNR representatives felt that it would be tough to get this grant and suggested that Lessard Sams would be more applicable. Hengel will complete the grant for the City.

Johnson expressed concerns about the lack of grant applications to clean up this south shore. Johnson asked when the Lessard Sams application was due. Mayor Albrecht replied that it is due the end of June and would be keeping a close eye on this application.

**RESOLUTION NO. 5880: A Resolution approving Submission of 2015 Application to the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) for Funding from the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust Fund to Assist with the South Shore Lake Bemidji Response Action and Restoration was offered by Councilmember Erickson, who moved its adoption, and upon due second by Councilmember Olson was passed by unanimous vote.**

#### ADJOURN

There being no further business, motion by Olson, seconded by Hellquist, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kay M. Murphy  
City Clerk