

CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA
Work Session – Monday, March 25, 2019

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 25, 2019, at 5:30 p.m. in the Chambers of City Hall, Mayor Albrecht presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Albrecht, Meehlhause, Beard, Johnson, Rivera, Erickson, Thompson.

Staff Present: City Manager Nate Mathews, Parks & Recreation Director Marcia Larson, City Attorney Al Felix, Public Works Director/City Engineer Craig Gray, City Clerk Michelle Miller

Mayor Albrecht stated the purpose of the work session was to discuss the Parks & Recreation Department Annual Report and 2019 Projects. A discussion regarding VisitBemidji was added to the agenda by Erickson.

Parks & Recreation

Larson presented the 2018 Parks & Recreation Annual Report highlighting:

- Implementation of Parks & Recreation Strategic Plan
- Forestry Management
- Recreation Programs
- Partnerships in the Community

Larson also provided an overview of 2019 Priorities including:

- Gordon Falls Park improvement
- Eagle Scout musical playground project
- Nymore hockey rink project
- Former Overbeek property open space project
- Algoma Park

Gordon Falls Park Improvement

Larson stated that the Parks & Recreation Commission identified Gordon Falls Park as a high priority for improvements due to the age and dilapidated condition of existing amenities. A survey of the residents in the area was conducted in 2018 and assisted in identifying the needs and expectations from the neighborhood. A concept plan was developed with a total cost of construction of \$217,257. The recommended funding is Parkland Dedication Fees and the Capital Improvement Budget. Council recommended seeking assistance from any outside organizations for funding, similar to past partnerships on park projects.

Motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Rivera to approve the improvements to Gordon Falls Park as presented at a cost of \$217,257 with funding from Parkland Dedication Fees and Capital Improvement Budget. Motion carried by unanimous vote.


VisitBemidji

Erickson, VisitBemidji Council representative, stated that a proposed Strategic Alignment Agreement will be voted on by the VisitBemidji Board on Wednesday morning. Erickson wanted to make sure council was aware of this agreement and had a chance to provide any input before the vote. Felix stated that this agreement will not violate the agreement between VisitBemidji and the City.

Adjourn

There being no further business, motion by Meehlhause, seconded by Rivera, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Michelle R. Miller
City Clerk