

# CITY COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

## BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

### Work Session – July 9, 2012

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, July 9, 2012, at 5:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of City Hall, Councilor Johnson (acting Mayor) presiding.

Upon roll call, the following Councilmembers were declared present: Waldhausen, Johnson, Albrecht, Negard, Thompson Absent: Larson, Hellquist

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

Others Present: WSD & Associates (formerly Bauer & Associates) – Amanda Prosser and George Watson

Councilor Johnson stated that the purpose of the work session was to review the plans for Paul Bunyan Park, Library Park and South Shore and discuss the storm cleanup.

#### Park Plans

Amanda Prosser reviewed the outcome from meetings with users groups and public hearings for the Paul Bunyan, Library and South Shore parks. Master plan highlights included:

- Removal of 3<sup>rd</sup> Street exit and improve pedestrian flow to downtown and via the Lake Shore Trail.
- Creation of plaza areas for events, markets, rental facilities, etc.
- Library Park is a designated passive space.
- Centralized donor recognition monument in the plaza space near Paul & Babe.

Discussion continued regarding the shoreline restoration/stabilization options. Prosser stated that she heard concerns from Fishing Has No Boundaries regarding wheelchair access. Prosser stated they are proposing designated breaks or access points in the rip rap to allow people to move between the sand beach and the park. These access points will require annual maintenance due to ice heaves and sand replacement might also be an issue.

Prosser stated the cost estimated range to complete the work proposed at Paul Bunyan and Library Parks is \$2.9 million to \$3.4 million. Costs include a 10% contingency and 15% testing, construction documents and surveying fees.

Prosser reviewed the South Shore Park master plan stating that the estimated cost to complete the park improvements is \$1.4 million to \$1.7 million. This cost does not including building improvements or beach/lake cleanup.

Waldhausen expressed concerns that the City may have too many phased projects. Parks & Recreation Director Larson responded that the primary phased project is North Country Park.

**Motion by Albrecht, seconded by Thompson, to accept the Paul Bunyan, Library and South Shore Park Master Plan as prepared by WSD & Associates. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### Storm Cleanup

Chattin reviewed staff decisions that were made following the storm event on July 2, 2012. At that time, staff was unaware of the extent of the damage and then realized that by committing the City to pick up resident's downed trees would exceed the City Manager's spending authority.

Negard commended Chattin for making the decision to help city residents to remove downed trees. He further stated that Ward 5 is in bad shape. Councilmembers concurred.

Discussion continued regarding the days and times for the Rako debris site. Councilmembers asked that it remain open through Saturday, July 21 for City residents.

Chattin stated that a special Legislative session has been called for the Duluth “disaster” and it is hoped that the City may get reimbursement for some of our storm cleanup costs.

**Motion by Thompson, seconded by Negard, authorizing staff to continue with the storm cleanup and authorizing necessary expenses estimated to exceed \$100,000. Motion carried unanimously.**

**ADJOURN**

There being no further business, motion by Waldhausen, seconded by Thompson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Kay M. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a thin horizontal line.

Kay M. Murphy  
City Clerk