

**BLUAC Steering Committee  
January 19, 2006 Minutes**

In attendance: Julie Spencer, Lia Payne, Jack Paulson, John Bourquin, Shelley Gonzales, Carol Venable, Leslie Budewitz, Doug Averill, Doris Gorsuch, Buz Meyer, Phil Hanson, Gary Ridderhoff, Chuck Gough, Paul Guerrant, Brett Thuma, Al Johnson, Gwen Sutherland, Denise Lang, Ramona Niewoehner, Sally Janover, Clarice Ryan, Pat Wagner, Craig D. Wagner, Warren Gardner, Don Loranger, George Darrow, David Coverdell, Elna Darrow, Sue Hanson

Chairman Loranger called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM

Minutes of the January 12, 2006 meeting were approved as corrected.

Treasurer, Shelley Gonzales presented the Bigfork Steering Committee Financial Report for Calendar years ending December 31, 2005 and 2004 (attached). Cumulative Cash Position to date is \$2,279.55. A reserve is held \$1,500 to cover costs for Ken Weaver, leaving \$799.55 in funds available. We anticipate imminent expenses for maps, binders, printing costs and publication of the final Bigfork Land Use Growth Plan document. Members are urged to open their checkbooks to help bolster the dwindling funds. Checks of any amount should be made out to the Community Foundation for a Better Bigfork (CFBB) with a notation on the check "Steering Committee".

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Committee Reports**

**Planning Sub-Committees:**

Shelley Gonzales reported that she met last Tuesday with the retail and commercial area committee. They are off and running. She again offered to meet with any of the other sub-committees when they hold their meetings.

Sally Janover is helping with contacting the Artist community to gather information regarding trends, what they are looking for in support from the community and what role the arts play in the economy of Bigfork. Gathering information on sales income would facilitate the data and provide information for investigating a Resort Tax for the area.

Buz Meyer reported that the Land Use sub-committee has not met. The area maps are divided into 4 maps. He would like to see the maps divided again into 8 maps. The Land Use committee will meet after the Steering Committee meeting next week.

**Government Committee:**

John Bourquin reported that not much has transpired since the last meeting. This committee will meet after the meeting today.

**Expanding BLUAC borders:**

Warren Gardner has made some progress in contacting land owners in the area north of McCaffrey to determine their interest in becoming part of the Bigfork Land Use Zoning Area. He sent a survey to 19 property owners. Four surveys were returned undeliverable, 6 were returned and indicated no opposition to zoning, but wanted to retain the rural atmosphere. One owner was opposed to zoning and inclusion in the Bigfork zoning area. Eight of the surveys went unanswered. He did contact the Parkwood subdivision and was given the impression they may be interested. Next he will verify the process of expanding the zoning district with the Flathead Zoning Office.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Denise Lang noted that the Citizens for a Better Flathead was holding a workshop on Saturday, January 28, 2006, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM in Kalispell. The workshop will focus on specific policies that can be recommended for adoption into a growth policy. For more information, email [heidi@flatheadcitizens.org](mailto:heidi@flatheadcitizens.org) or call 756-8993.

Don Loranger suggested that the Steering Committee take a leadership role in healing the wounds in the community from recent events. All agreed that it was important to “take the high road” and focus on the future and how we can work together as a community. Several ideas were suggested. A committee was selected to look into ideas and report back to the committee. Warren Gardner, Denise Lang, Al Johnson and Doug Averill make up the committee.

George Darrow read a letter he has written to the Executive Director of Montana Community Foundation highlighting the achievements through volunteerism in Bigfork, with the suggestion that MCF consider using Bigfork as a prototype for other Montana communities. “An exploration of the many possible adaptations of the Bigfork Formula to the varied circumstances of Montana’s communities could be immensely productive in achieving MCF goals.” George included with his letter a presentation made at Big Sky to the Montana Association of Rural Development Councils describing the planned sequence of Bigfork development highlighted as follows:

#### **The Bigfork Formula for Homegrown Prosperity**

1. Marshall diverse resources—country, state, federal, private—to build up the community infrastructure—water, sewer, roads, schools, community facilities and institutions—and integrate these components for functional effectiveness. This basic foundation underlies everything else you do.
2. Utilize the talents, energy creativity, enthusiasm and experience that already exist in your community. Every Montana community has untapped people resources that can be brought together in a common effort to work toward agreed-upon goals.
3. Identify and capitalize on your unique attributes and strengths. Montana has a diversity of attractive landscapes. Every community has a unique history of livelihoods, adaptations, memorable structures and sites. If we don’t celebrate our own heritage, no one else will.
4. Create an amenity oasis to complement your natural surroundings. Cumulatively develop an amenity density that will reach critical mass and spontaneously ignite. Moths always are drawn toward the flame.

5. Encourage sustainable enterprises based upon renewable resources and then protect those resources for the long-term future. Real development has the potential for growing stronger and better over the span of generations.

6. Expand contacts and interties with the region and the nation. Reach out to learn, to compare, to inform. Living in small towns no longer means having narrow horizons. Advertise your unique attributes and make yourself known.

7. Quality attracts quality and junk attracts junk.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:20 pm

Sue Hanson  
Secretary