

**Bigfork Steering Committee**  
**October 19, 2006, 2006 Minutes**  
**bigforksteering.org**  
**DRAFT**

In attendance: Don Loranger, Janet Loranger, Doris Gorsuch, Bob Gorsuch, Darrel Coverdell, George Darrow, Steve Zabaro, Paul Guerrant, Craig D. Wagner, Pat Wagner, Gary Ridderhoff, Phil Hanson, Julie Spencer, Shelley Gonzales, Gil Coutts, Liz Coutts, Natalie Burggraf, John Bourquin, Doug Averill, Clarice Ryan, Denise Lang, Buz Meyer, Sue Hanson, Elna Darrow, Carol Venable, Marilyn Robinson, Tom Lewis, Bill Myers, John Mueller, Mike Richeson, Emily Tice, Leslie Budewitz.

Chairman Loranger called the meeting to order at 12:04 PM.

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

Former Treasurer, Shelley Gonzales, presented a 9-month financial statement from Chrysler & Gordon. She explained that the firm had changed computer programs at the beginning of the year and had not picked up \$386.83 in expenses from the prior year. Checking balance in the account is \$1,379.69. Financial report was approved as presented.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Resort Tax**

Elna Darrow reminded members that Gary Marks, City Manager from Whitefish, would address BSC at the October 26, 2006 meeting. He will discuss how Whitefish developed their Resort Tax, how taxes were levied and how the funds were spent. The sub-committee is in process of studying the Resort Tax possibilities for Bigfork. Normally, the Resort Tax only levies on luxury items. The committee must first define the needs of Bigfork and the feasibility of a Resort Tax.

**Joint Zoning District:**

Leslie Budewitz read a Statement of Purpose for the sub-committee as follows:

BSC Subcommittee for Lake County Planning & Zoning  
– Statement of Purpose –

The purpose of the subcommittee is to investigate the possibility of forming a Planning and Zoning District for the Lake County side of Bigfork, including Woods Bay, Ferndale, Swan Sites, and adjacent areas. A Bigfork Planning and Zoning District already exists in Flathead County. A new district would give Bigfork residents who live in Lake County a voice in the future growth and development of the community, and would strive to work harmoniously with the existing Lake & Flathead County districts.

If a survey and other discussions demonstrate that Lake County residents want to create a Bigfork Planning and Zoning district, the subcommittee will work with Lake County Planning Staff to formally create the district and draft regulations to be submitted to the Lake County Commissioners.

Approved by the subcommittee 10/12/06

She noted a change in the statement, subsequent to the October 12, meeting, which would include several zoning districts rather than only Flathead County zoning districts. She reported contact with the Woods Bay Sewer & Water district in which they had expressed they were motivated to move more quickly due to timing with their sewer plans. The sub-committee will meet today at 1:00 PM where they will study the Lake County Growth Policy and the process to form a district.

Denise Lang noted that meeting during working hours proves a hardship for some volunteers who wanted to work with the committee. This will be discussed at the meeting.

Don Loranger expressed concern about the change in language from a joint zoning district to a separate entity. His understanding was a joint zoning district would be able to work more closely with the adjoining Bigfork district better than separate entities.

Budewitz noted that the joint zoning district was suggested by the Lake County Commissioners. However, there is no statute to support a joint district. The committee is still working on that issue and have not ruled it out.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **Election of Officers:**

Don Loranger expressed his appreciation to the officers he has worked with in the past year for their hard work, commitment and the enormous effort on the Draft Growth Plan. Officers were elected by ballot or by acclamation when a single person was nominated for a position. The following officers were elected:

Chairman: Elna Darrow

Vice Chairman: Craig D. Wagner

Secretary: Pat Wagner

Treasurer: Chuck Gough

Members At Large: Don Loranger & Gary Ridderhoff

Elna Darrow assumed the Chair and thanked the past officers for their many contributions of effort and congratulated the new officers.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Tom Lewis: Asked if comments were still being accepted on the Draft Growth Policy. Answer: Yes. Comments are accepted throughout the public hearing process to be conducted by BLUAC and the BSC.

Pat Wagner: Noted the BSC website was becoming confusing because of the minutes, agendas and announcement of both BSC and BLUAC. She questioned whether a separate section might be set up for BLUAC to ease the confusion.

Don Loranger: Could we post the BSC Bylaws on the website?

Sue Hanson: Suggested clarification could be made by definitions for all the entities to include BSC, BLUAC, C of C and CFBB. A link with the Bigfork Eagle was also suggested. Sue Hanson, Pat Wagner, Mike Richeson and Bruce Solberg will work together to sort out the confusion.

Bruce Solberg: Stated he had received communication from Senator Burns and Governor Stevens (from Alaska) looking for a host for political event in Bigfork on October 28, 2006. The BSC cannot host such an event, but any one interested is encouraged to contact Bruce at the Chamber of Commerce.

Doug Averill: Reminded members that time is approaching for the decoration of Bigfork for Christmas. The Elves are in need of help to sort through the many strings of bulbs for repair and bulb replacement. The Elves are gathering at the Flathead Lake Lodge at 8:00 AM on November 11, 2006, for a great breakfast and to separate into working groups to fix the lights and cut trees.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:04 PM  
Sue Hanson,  
Secretary

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Bigfork Elves:** Gather at the Flathead Lake Lodge, November 11, 2006, at 8:00 AM for breakfast and work sessions for cutting trees and repair of lights.

**Resort Tax:** Gary Marks, City Manager for Whitefish, will speak to the BSC regarding the Resort Tax and how it works in Whitefish at the **October 26** BSC meeting.

**Bigfork Draft Growth Plan:** Is available in PDF format on the website, at the Bigfork Library, and the UPS Store for copying. Written comments may be handwritten, in Word.doc format, or email comments. Send written comments to:

Sue Hanson  
BLUAC Secretary  
220 Swan River Road  
Bigfork, MT 59911  
837-5323  
btrfly@montanasky.net

**Flathead County Planning Board and Board of Adjustment** positions open. Planning Board (5 positions open) meets approximately 2 times a month; Board of Adjustment (2 positions open) meets once a month. Members must be Flathead County

residents but may not be residents of the cities of Kalispell, Columbia Falls and Whitefish. Mail applications to:

Mary Sevier  
Flathead Planning & Zoning Office  
1035 First Avenue West  
Kalispell, MT 59911  
751-8200

**Deadline: November 13, 2006**

**Lake County Planning Board and Board of Adjustment** positions open. One position is open for each board. Applications are needed from this area. Send applications or receive information:

Sue Shannon  
Lake County Planning Department  
106 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue East  
Polson, MT 59860  
[planning@lakemt.gov](mailto:planning@lakemt.gov)  
883-7235

Announcements, as well as the minutes are posted on the BSC website.