

Bigfork Steering Committee Minutes

May 10, 2007

bigforksteering.org

Approved

Community Forum

In Attendance: John Bourquin, Craig Wagner, Pat Wagner, Elna Darrow, George Darrow, Denise Lang, Chuck Gough, Gary Ridderhoff, Clarice Ryan, Edd Blackler, Leslie Budewitz, Paul Rana, Sue Hanson, Doug Averill, Shelley Gonzales, Steve Zabaro, Mike Richeson, Paul Mutascio, Mary Jo Naïve, Pete Leander, Scott Reichner, Russ Kinzer, John Lang, Jeff Harris, Joe Brenneman, Bruce Solberg

The Meeting was called to order by Chairwoman Elna Darrow at 12:02

Agenda: The agenda was adopted as amended and needed as not everyone expected had arrived. (m/sc Hanson S./Gough)

Minutes: The minutes for May 3, 2007 were approved as amended per Chuck's email. (m/sc Gough/Hanson)

Treasurer's Report: Chuck Gough reported the balance of \$1328.63 remains the same. (m/sc Wagner, C./Solberg)

Russ Kinzer, Superintendent of Bigfork School District gave a report on the needs of the Bigfork School District and projection of school enrollment. He handed out projections of enrollment as done by both him and a professional company. (See attached in Notebook) It appears that the Bigfork School District depends on land values to some extent to determine these factors. As land values rise, affordable housing seems less attainable and the need for improving the present facilities becomes foremost.

Resort Tax Committee: Bruce needed to leave for another meeting and then made his report. He did attend the meeting Don Loranger arranged for him in Kalispell with the Kalispell City Manager, Bob Brown and Max Baucus in attendance. The outcome of this meeting : Baucus would support a county wide tax (with Whitefish as an exemption as they are already incorporated and exempt). Bruce met with his committee people and has taken The Montana Annotated Code on the Resort tax and is assigning sections of this to different members to become knowledgeable experts.

Community Forum: Jeff Harris, Director of Flathead County Planning and Zoning had been invited to attend and spoke next. He reported that there was a decline in subdivision requests and that was probably due to the freeze that was put on until the Flathead County Growth Plan was adopted, however more lots are now being formed. The neighborhood plans have been put on hold as three planners left the dept in one week and they have 60 projects to act on in a timely manner as mandated by the state. His department will be doing some reorganization when they get their new planners up to speed and some planners will be looking at capital improvement projects such as transportation needs in the valley. John Bourquin, Chairman of the BLUAC thanked Jeff for his planners presenting BLUAC's conditions on projects when they speak to the planning board and county commissioners. John asked if all planners could continue this practice. BLUAC needs to make sure it is in the BLUAC report. (That is being done) There was a lengthy discussion about the B3 zoning classification and how developers are trying to use that classification to avoid subdivision regulations. These regulations are being rewritten at this time and there is a interim meeting being held on Tuesday evening, May 15, 2007,

6:00 to 9:00 P M at the Earl Bennett Building to present what they have. Jeff also mentioned they will be doing a lot more work on zoning, a very controversial subject.

Joe Brenneman explained new procedures at the Commissioners meeting. They will take public comment on items before them 15 minutes before the meeting, at 8:45. Montana State mandates a public hearing and the hearing at the Planning Board meets that requirement. This is to let all on our email list know that if you have an issue before the commissioners you need to be at the meetings at 8:45 in order to voice your opinion.

Lake County Zoning: They are meeting tomorrow but not on the 18th. They have 2 more Public Meetings scheduled for July 18 and July 19, they need to hear back about sites. They will be at the Swan Lakers Picnic in July, they will be in a booth at the Art Fair in August, possibly at the Huckleberry Festival in Sept. Doug Averill offered the dock at Woods Bay as a site. Leslie, the chairman, moved that she be allocated 150.00 for reimbursement for signs and flyers. (No second needed as this is a standing committee) Motion passed. Leslie also asked for a separate page on the Web. Pat Wagner and Sue Hanson will work on that.

Vision Committee: The vision committee had a very small turn out. Russ Kinzer, Superintendent of Bigfork Schools, presented his projection of Bigfork school needs mentioned earlier and was invited to today's community forum. Edd is looking for another space to meet as the conference room was sold. They will meet again on June 4, 2007.

George Darrow addressed the transportation issue and stated the Flathead Valley has a perfect alignment of roads that would make a nice transportation network.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:38
Pat Wagner, Secretary