

**BLUAC Steering Committee
December 15, 2005 Minutes**

In attendance: Ann Guerrant, Paul Guerrant, Leslie Budewitz, Warren Gardner, Clarice Ryan, Elna Darrow, Sally Janover, Shelley Gonzales, David E. Reynold, Craig D. Wagner, Buz Meyer, Brett Thuma, Pat Wagner, Paul J. Rana, Sue Hanson

Vice-Chairman Buz Meyer called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm

Minutes of the December 1, 2005 meeting were approved as mailed. Minutes for the December 8, 2005 meeting were approved as corrected (attached).

Treasurer, Shelley Gonzales, reported approximately \$400 was available in the treasury after the \$1,500 was set aside for expenses of the Government Sub-Committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

WEBSITE: Sue Hanson reported that the website has a new face with a new banner created by Mike Callaghan of Bigfork Web Development. Pat Wagner has been working with Mike to learn the steps to update the website with the downloaded trial program. She reports that the program is easy to work and has ordered the program on behalf of the committee. The cost is \$149 and a CD of the program will be available to any of the members working on the website. Treasurer was directed to reimburse Pat for the program. The secretary will send a note of thanks to Mike for donating the domain and for all his help with the website.

AMENDMENT: Sue Hanson reported that the amendment to the BLUAC Policies and Procedures has been approved by the Flathead County Commissioners. The amendment allows for election of BLUAC members rather than appointment by the Commissioners.

Residents who have lived in the Bigfork Land Use Area for two years or more may petition to be on the May ballot for election between December 19, 2005 and February 16, 2006. There are three forms to be completed and submitted to the Flathead Election Office. Those forms are available at the Election Office or by email. For more information, contact Monica at the Election Office 758-5535.

The next BLUAC meeting on December 29, 2005, will include the replacement of two BLUAC members dismissed due to 5 absences in the 2005 Calendar Year.

BY-LAWS: Craig Wagner reported on the Steering Committee By-Laws. He received one comment from the Foundation for a Better Bigfork which he has address and Leslie Budewitz presented some grammar and punctuation corrections. Craig has not received comment from the Flathead County Commissioners or Jonathan Smith. Clarice Ryan questioned the repetition of some parts of the By-Laws. Wagner explained the necessity of those repetitions. Shelley Gonzales moved that the By-Laws be approved as corrected. Elna Darrow seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Copies of the completed By-Laws will be made available to the Secretary to obtain the signatures of the By-Law Committee at the next meeting.

PLANNING SUB-COMMITTEE: Shelley Gonzales reported that most of the committees were up and working. She will meet with the Retailers tonight to solidify the Downtown Committee. She requested that all committee members contact her before going to the Flathead GIS or other County offices for information. She has been working closely with Tom Reynolds and would like to avoid duplication of requests for information and to conserve Tom's time on this project. She reported that Reynolds had provided her with some excellent websites for information the committees may need. She will compile more information for each committee to study during the next two weeks. Clarice Ryan noted that she had picked up a copy of the Natural Resources Document for use by the committees.

NEW BUSINESS:

Shelley Gonzales reported that, in regard to incorporation, Julie Spencer of the Bigfork Water & Sewer District stated that should Bigfork incorporate they should be aware that a city falls under the jurisdiction of the EPA regarding issues like storm drains. The storm drains in Bigfork were installed in 1964, mostly made of wood, and would likely not conform to EPA specifications. Spencer noted that costs for upgrading the storm drain systems could be huge. The consensus was that Dr. Weaver should be made aware of this cost in his budget figures.

Leslie Budewitz announced that there are openings in Lake County for Planning Board positions. The northern part of Lake County has not been represented for a long time and it is important that people apply for those positions to have representation in Lake County.

Warren Gardner asked about the procedure to expand the Bigfork Land Use Area to include north to La Brant road. The Flathead County Commissioners would need to approve an expansion of the zoning district. Exact boundaries and 60% of the residents in the new area would petition the expansion. Gardner will begin acquiring signatures with the help of Craig and Pat Wagner.

It was decided to suspend Steering Committee meetings for the next two weeks so everyone can enjoy the holidays and take a break from committee work. The next Steering Committee meeting will be January 5, 2006, Noon, at the Bethany Lutheran Church.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:07 pm

Sue Hanson
Secretary