

Bigfork Steering Committee
October 12, 2006, 2006 Minutes
bigforksteering.org

In attendance: Pat Wagner, Don Loranger, Janet Loranger, Paul J. Rana, Elna Darrow, Liz Coutts, John Bourquin, Shelley Gonzales, Bruce Solberg, Denise Lang, Carol Venable, Buz Meyer, Craig D. Wagner, Gary Ridderhoff, George Darrow, Edd Blackler, Sally Janover, Chuck Gough, Steve Zabaro, Paul Guerrant, Clarice Ryan, Tom Lewis, Bill Myers, Mike Richeson, John Mueller, Phil Hanson, Leslie Budewitz, Sue Hanson, Brett Thuma, Emily Tice, Steve Connolly.

Chairman Loranger called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM.

Minutes of the October 5, 2006, meeting were approved as corrected.

Treasurer Gonzales reported \$1,766 in the checking account. There is \$180 in invoices to be paid. We are still waiting for the funds to be transferred from the Foundation for a Better Bigfork.

Gonzales tendered her resignation in compliance with the amended Bylaws, which state that an Executive Committee Member may not also serve on BLUAC. Loranger accepted the resignation and acknowledged Shelley for her outstanding service to the Bigfork Steering Committee, which was followed with hearty applause from the membership.

OLD BUSINESS:

Nominating Committee Report:

Janet Loranger reported the following members who have agreed to hold office:

Chairman: Elna Darrow & Craig Wagner

Vice-Chairman: Craig Wagner & Sue Hanson

Secretary: Pat Wagner

Treasurer: Chuck Gough & Carol Venable

Member At Large: Leslie Budewitz, Don Loranger, Gary Ridderhoff, Brett Thuma

Chairman Loranger opened the nominations to the floor. There were no further nominations. Nominations will be taken from the floor at the next meeting where election of officers to be held on October 19, 2006, Noon, Bethany Lutheran Church. Only members who have attended three consecutive meetings will be eligible to vote.

Growth Plan:

Chairman Loranger reviewed the process to this point. The Survey was conducted in 2005, Survey results tabulated and public meetings held, Sub-committees were formed to draft each section of the Draft Growth Plan, Sub-committee drafts were consolidated into a complete Draft, Draft was evaluated by Lisa Horowitz, a professional

planner, the Executive Committee completed formatting and editing. The Draft will pass to BLUAC for study and public workshops. Final Draft will be completed with the cooperation of both BSC and BLUAC for presentation at public meetings before being reviewed again and submitted to the Flathead County Planning Board and Commission for approval.

Comments on the Draft should be in writing. Oral comments should be backed up in writing, limited to 3 minutes.

Comment:

Tom Lewis: Asked a point of information regarding a document at the Bigfork Library recommending additional zoning designations. Answer: The document is not part of the present Draft.

Brett Thuma: Has additional comments to the Draft. Copy of comments will be emailed for documentation. His comments relate to Conditional Use Permitting.

Bill Myers: Has reviewed a copy of the Draft. There is a lot of good in the document. It seems there are areas where there are plans to take away personal property rights. He sees new zoning standards such as view sheds, open space requirements, signage, architectural design standards, and steepness of slope. He has serious concerns he will be regulated out of property rights.

Sally Janover: Asked what is time frame for accepting comments on the Draft. Answer: BLUAC will determine the deadline. All comments will be attached to the Draft.

Tom Lewis: Is concerned about requirements regarding steepness of slopes and will submit his comments in writing.

Denise Lang: Is reminded of the 1993 Growth Plan significantly in the area regarding signage. How is it enforced? Answer: It is not enforced by BLUAC. The section was intended as a guideline.

Clarice Ryan: Are you still planning open public meetings? Answer: BLUAC will decide the schedule for public meetings.

Bill Myers: Said the sign ordinance was enforced on me. I had to move my sign.

Elna Darrow moved that the BSC formally convey to the BLUAC the September 2006 Draft Bigfork Neighborhood Plan, as well as public comments received on it to date, for the purpose of further cooperation between the BSC and BLUAC on community presentations, solicitation of public comment and final plan refinement.

Buz Meyer seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Edd Blackler: He is still confused, and thinking back to how things occurred in 1992 and 1993, the Steering Committee was able to run public meetings. Then the Steering Committee came up with a document to convey to Flathead County. Why is BLUAC brought into the process? Their job is to review proposals as to compliance to the Growth Plan. I think the BSC should maintain control and convey the plan to the County. Answer: The Survey showed a majority of respondents wanted BLUAC elected. The Steering Committee got that accomplished. BSC acts, according to the Bylaws, as an advisory committee to BLUAC.

Clarice Ryan: I'm not sure BSC has had an opportunity to study the plan long enough.

Elna Darrow: The BSC created BLUAC in 1993. It would be inappropriate to bypass or ignore BLUAC. We have done this planning for BLUAC. BLUAC will be responsible for enforcing the Growth Plan. We are an advisory committee to BLUAC.

Tom Lewis: What happens after BLUAC studies the Draft? Answer: BLUAC will review and work out with BSC any changes. It goes to the community next for comments. BLUAC, as the elected representatives, will vote to forward the final Draft to the Commission.

George Darrow: BLUAC is a “way station” in the process.

Gary Ridderhoff: I understand comments will be attached to the plan. Who will look at those comments? How will those comments be considered? Answer: Comments will be documented much like Flathead County is doing. Each comment will show a response from BSC/BLUAC.

John Bourquin: Public comment may bring up areas or subjects not covered in the 2005 Survey. It will be important to look closely at those. BLUAC will go through all comments as well as refer to the Survey. Results will be worked out jointly by BSC and BLUAC.

Steve Zabaro: If you get significant comment on one item, you would have to consider it. Call for the motion. Motion passed unanimously.

Resort Tax

Elna Darrow provided copies of the Montana Code Annotated in reference to the Resort Tax. She announced that 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. Whitefish has had a Resort Tax for 10 years and recently voted to extend the Resort Tax for another 10 years.

Leslie Budewitz has information about the Resort Tax in Red Lodge. Considerations are boundaries, population requirements, and agreement by the County Commission. She clarified that there are two forms of districts; the first involves the County collecting the revenue and distributing it and the second would create an elected board to receive and distribute the revenue.

Bruce Solberg, from the Bigfork Chamber of Commerce has extended an invitation to Bigfork Merchants to attend this meeting.

Chuck Gough: Can the district cross county lines? Answer: Yes, and this can also be coordinated with the new zoning district.

Clarice Ryan: This sounds like a cross over with the BDC. Will they be included? Answer: Yes

NEW BUSINESS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Shelley Gonzales: Extended a warm “Thank You” to our neighbors in Lake County for all the hours, input and help they have given to putting together the Survey and Draft Growth Plan. She encourages all BSC members to volunteer to help with the effort to create a Lake County Zoning District.

Carol Venable: Announced the Flathead County Planning Board passed the Saddlehorn project after a very long meeting.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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 hand-written, 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 4th Avenue East
Polson, MT 59860
planning@lakemt.gov
883-7235

Tamarack Time! October 14, 2006, 1:00 PM downtown Bigfork.

Election Candidate Panels:

Thursday, October 12, 2006, 7:00 PM, Northridge Lutheran Church Gym, sponsored by Flathead Neighborhood Network. Candidates for County Commissioner. Call 756-8993 for more information.

Tuesday, October 17, 2006, Noon Lunch Kalispell Chamber of Commerce, Red Lion Hotel. Candidates for State House and Senate. Call 758-2800 for information.

Tuesday, October 17, 2006, 6:30 PM, Whitefish Chamber of Commerce, Whitefish City Hall Council Chambers. Candidates for County Commissioner, Justice of the Peace and County Treasurer.

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