

**BLUAC Steering Committee
October 13, 2005 Minutes**

Chairman Averill called the meeting to order at 12:05 PM. Minutes of the October 6, 2005 meeting were approved as corrected.

Old Business:

Various members commented on the success of the public meeting held on October 11, 2005, at the Bigfork Elementary School gym. Shelley Gonzales reported that 29 Survey Booklets were sold for a total of \$440. Secretary Hanson reported there were 109 people in attendance according to the sign-in sheets. There were no cards turned in with questions but a number were turned in requesting to be put on the email list for minutes. It was noted that the meeting went longer than anticipated but the length was due to the number of questions from people attending.

Don Loranger reported the Government sub-committee is waiting to contact Ken Weaver from MSU before proceeding further. Mr. Weaver would offer advice on gathering data for more detailed information regarding incorporation.

Carol Venable reported that she is still waiting to hear from the Flathead County Attorney regarding the procedure to elect BLUAC members. Don Loranger noted that November 18th is the deadline for applications for county planning positions.

Treasurer Gonzales reported \$180 deposited to the checking account from BDC. She asked Loranger to provide a list of people who purchased Survey Booklets at the BDC auction so they may be mailed letters regarding the 501-3C-tax deduction.

Janet Loranger reported that another restaurant might be considered for lunch meetings for the Steering Committee. The Launch at Marina Cay is available and is less expensive than La Provence. Don Loranger made the motion that the October 27th Steering Committee meeting be held at the Launch for comparison. Carol Venable seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Secretary Hanson will notify the newspapers of the change.

Janet Loranger reported the nominating committee slate for committee positions. Those nominated were:

Chairman: Don Loranger and Gary Ridderhoff

Vice-Chairman: Buz Meyer and Ann Guerrant

Secretary: Sue Hanson and Pat Wagner

Treasurer: Shelley Gonzales and Carol Venable

Members-At-Large: Elna Darrow, Doug Averill, Denise Lang, Brett Thuma and Vince Taylor

Election of committee positions will be held on October 20, 2005, at the lunch meeting at La Provence in Bigfork, 12:00 PM. It was noted that nominations for each of these positions would be accepted from the floor.

New Business:

Don Loranger introduced Bob Brown from Whitefish who is a former Representative for the State of Montana, former Senator, former Secretary of State, and candidate for Governor 2004, and former government and speech and debate teacher at Bigfork High School from 1979 to 1988. Mr. Brown first acknowledged George Darrow who is a former member of the Montana House of Representatives and Montana State Senator. He stated that George was his mentor when he was new in the legislature and was instrumental in helping modernize state government.

He began by saying that in the last 25 years only three cities had incorporated in the State of Montana. Those cities are Coalstrip, Ft. Peck and Pinesdale. He also advised that it was politically impossible to pass legislation to effect some kind of special governmental status for the Bigfork area. His basis for this is that the Legislature is reluctant to make "exceptions" and noted that Big Sky had petitioned for a similar request and it didn't even get out of committee. Craig Wagner noted that the Montana Code

allows for "special zoning districts". Brown explained that the Bigfork Land Use Plan is the same as a special zoning district. Another member asked if "control of zoning is important enough to incorporate?" Another question was if there was any law regarding incorporating across county lines since school districts cross county lines and the taxes are appropriated to Flathead County for that purpose. Mr. Brown did not have the answer to that question but suggested that there was likely a statute to cover that eventuality. Mr. Brown also suggested that since the Steering Committee was a sub-committee of BLUAC, the Flathead County Attorney would be able to advise on those questions.

Before the meeting was adjourned, it was announced that the Long Range Task Force was meeting today at 4:00 PM at the Earl Bennett Building in Kalispell.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:20 PM

Sue Hanson
Secretary