

**Bigfork Steering Committee**  
**October 26, 2006, 2006 Minutes**  
**bigforksteering.org**

~~DRAFT~~  
APPROVED

In attendance: Craig D. Wagner, Steve Zabaro, Darrel Coverdell, George Darrow, Paul J. Rana, Carol Venable, Emily Tice, Gil Coutts, Liz Coutts, Clarice Ryan, Janet Loranger, Brett Thuma, Leslie Budewitz, Elna Darrow, Paul Guerrant, Julie Spencer, Gary Ridderhoff, John Bourquin, Edd Blackler, Bruce Solberg, Tom Lewis, Sally Janover, Rose Schwennesen.

Chairman Darrow called the meeting to order at 12:00 PM.

Minutes of the October 19, 2006, meeting were approved as corrected.

Treasurer's report: None

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**Resort Tax**

Elna Darrow reported the presentation by Whitefish City Manager, Gary Marks, has been rescheduled for the November 2, 2006 meeting.

**Joint Zoning District:**

Leslie Budewitz reported the meetings of the sub-committee will be held at 10:00 AM, Fridays, at the Chamber of Commerce. She noted the discussion would continue regarding a joint or separate zoning district. The committee needs to investigate further whether a joint zoning district is feasible.

Budewitz read an amended Statement of Purpose for the committee as follows:

*"The purpose of the subcommittee is to investigate planning and zoning options for areas adjacent to the Bigfork Land Use Area which are in Lake County, including Woods Bay, Ferndale and Swan Sites. These neighborhoods are similar to other neighborhoods around Bigfork, and some formal means of providing a planning and zoning voice to the residents of these areas will contribute to a greater consistency of planning for the Bigfork community. Options include forming a new Lake County Planning and Zoning District or forming a joint planning and zoning district with Flathead County."*

Paul Rana reported the Woods Bay Waste Water Project is pursuing assistance and cooperation from several governmental entities. There are three water or sewer districts in the area including Woods Bay, Shavers Creek and Greater Woods Bay. The project needs the support of the Bio Station and has been told by Dr. Stanford the area must be zoned in order to provide a viable recommendation or support from the Bio Station. Criteria for accurate study and engineering must include zoning for projections as to the size of a wastewater treatment facility. Some areas have restrictive covenants and Lake County has density requirements, but no zoning in the area. The group will

move forward to determine if a joint district is feasible. If they are told they cannot do this, they will pursue a new district.

**Website:**

Bruce Solberg stated the Chamber website does not have a link to the BSC website. He make that addition to the Chamber website.

**Draft Growth Plan:**

Chairman Darrow read the following transmittal to BLUAC:

*“The Bigfork Steering Committee has been working for about 2 years to update the 1993 Bigfork Neighborhood Plan to fit with the Flathead County Growth Plan. Having surveyed the Bigfork community and compiled the information required by State law, the Bigfork Steering Committee does hereby transmit to the Bigfork LUAC this draft neighborhood plan update for their consideration and joint presentation to the community for comments.*

*The Bigfork Steering Committee hopes the forthcoming community meetings will refine the plan to satisfy the needs of the area for the next several years.*

*Respectfully Submitted,*

*Elna Darrow, Chair*

*Bigfork Steering Committee*

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Edd Blackler: Commended Brett Thuma on his letter to the Editor in today’s Bigfork Eagle.

Brett Thuma: Informed the committee of a document outlining Sample Subdivision Models, which are in accordance of current Montana State Statues. The Model has been endorsed by Montanans for Smart Growth and Montana Realtors. Sue Hanson will forward the document to BSC and BLUAC members.

Elna Darrow: Announced the meeting site for the November 9, and November 16, 2006 BSC meeting will be held upstairs at the Bethany Lutheran Ark (building behind the church) due to conflicts with church activities.

Sue Hanson: Noted it had been more than a year since BSC had made a donation to Bethany Lutheran Church for the more than generous use of their facilities. Hanson moved the BSC make a donation of \$500 to Bethany Lutheran Church. Craig Wagner seconded the motion. Motion passed unanimously. Hanson will notify Treasurer, Chuck Gough to send a check to the church.

Clarice Ryan: Offered her extra copy of the Draft Bigfork Neighborhood Plan to anyone who would like to read it. Several others offered to do the same.

Elna Darrow: Complimented Bill Myers on the idea to make the plan available at the UPS Store for copying.

Bruce Solberg: Announced that Pacific Power Corp. will be conducting a tour of the fire management work being done along the Swan River Nature Trail. Tour will begin at 1:30 PM on November 2, 2006, at the east end of the trail. Please contact the Bigfork Chamber of Commerce, 837-5888, if you will be taking the tour. Tour members must wear hard hats during the tour.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:45 PM  
Sue Hanson,  
Acting Secretary

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Nov. 9 & 16:** BSC will meet upstairs at the Bethany Lutheran Ark (building behind the church) due to church activities on those dates.

**November 2, 2006:** Pacific Power Corp. Tour of Swan River Nature Trail. Tour begins at 1:30 PM at the east end of the trail. Please contact the Bigfork Chamber of Commerce 837-5888 if you plan to take the tour. Tour members will be required to wear hard hats during the tour.

**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 **November 2** 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.