

Bigfork Steering Committee Minutes
November 2, 2006
bigforksteering.org
(Draft)

In Attendance: Paul Guerrant, Pat Wagner, Chuck Gough, Sue Hanson, Craig Wagner, Liz Coutts, Gil Coutts, Clarice Ryan, Carol Venable, R. S. Zobar, Bruce Solberg, Darrel Coverdell, Paul J Rana, Rose Schwennesen, Brett Thuma, Elna Darrow, Buz Meyer, Gary Marks, John Bourquin, Carole Meyer, Ron Olthuis, Scott Reichner, George Darrow, Julie Spencer, John Mueller, Gary Ridderhoff, Don Schwennesen, Doug Averill, Kevin Barrows

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Elna Darrow at 1:03
Elna requested that Gary Marks' presentation on the Whitefish Resort Tax be moved to the beginning of the agenda and all were in agreement.

Gary Marks, Whitefish City Manager gave an overview of the Resort Tax as it applies to Whitefish.

It is a 2 % percent tax on Retail (defined luxury items), Bars - Restaurants, and Lodging. Since Whitefish is an incorporated city this tax can be used for property taxes. They have allocated 25% to property taxes within city limits, 65% to the improvement to streets, sidewalks, gutters, curbs and city related underground utilities, 5% to bicycle paths and other park capital improvements, and lastly 5% to the administration of the tax (retained by the businesses collecting the tax). The resort tax structure is set by the Resort Tax Ordinance and can only be changed by voter approval. There is a Resort Tax Monitoring Committee composed of 7 members from the different entities involved and is only an advisory body. The City Council has the final say on which projects receive the tax money. Since inception in 1995 voter approval has risen sharply and collections are projected to be over 12 million by the end of the Fiscal Year, 2006/2007. (Attachments with Secretary's records)

Minutes:

The Minutes were approved as emailed. (M/SC Wagner , Ridderhoff)

Treasurer's Report:

As of September there was \$1380.00. Approximately \$150.00 was spent in October and a check for \$500.00 will be sent to the church in a couple of weeks.

The treasurer's report was accepted. (M/SC Wagner. Ridderhoff)

Committee Reports

Lake County/Bigfork Zoning District

Carol Venable reported that they are meeting every Friday 10:00. At the present time she is waiting for some information from Don Loranger.

New Business

Scott Reichner from Flathead Mortgage has 72 acres that he wants to develop. He expressed a desire to work with the committee and the neighborhood growth plan to develop this new plan. John Bourquin remarked that BLUAC is still working on the Neighborhood plan and hopes to be through in about a month. The BLUAC wants to help and have interaction with developers to make the process of approval a rewarding and congenial experience. It was suggested that Scott check out the Bigfork Growth Plan and the Survey that are both on the webs site, www.bigforksteering.org.

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 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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:53

Pat Wagner, Secretary