

3Bigfork Steering Committee Minutes

March 12, 2009,

bigforksteering.org

Community Forum

(amended)

APPROVED

In attendance: Craig Wagner, Pat Wagner, Gary Ridderhoff, Edd Blackler, Chuck Gough, John Bourquin, Leslie Budewitz, Paul Guerrant, Bruce Solberg Kim Crowley, Cheryl Richmond, James Losee, Gary Ridderhoff, Gordon Graham, Alex Strickland, Doug Averill, Joe Brenneman, Steve Zabaro

Chairman Craig Wagner called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

A moment of silence was held to remember our friend, Elna Darrow, whom we will miss.

Agenda: The motion was made to adopt the agenda. (m/sc Zabaro, /Gough) Passed

Minutes: The minutes for February 12, 2009 were approved as amended. (m/sc Gough, /Bourquin) Passed.

Treasurer's Report: Steve reported our balance was the same as last month-\$2212.07. He also had received the corrected bill from Bigfork Web Development in his personal post office box. Pat will see they have the Bigfork Steering Committee Post Office address of P. O. box 1864, Bigfork, MT 59911

Nominating Committee: Steve stated this will be a hard task as most of the members attending and having 3 consecutive meetings are already holding offices.

Community Reports: Kim Crowley, Director of the Flathead County Library System gave a report on the remodeling being done on the library in Bigfork. WE have put in new display shelving, new format area for audio visual and computers. We will probably be doing a fund raising for new furniture. They are working on the Columbia Falls Branch and still looking for a new location for the Main Branch.

Leslie mentioned her idea of getting a group of people as a joint committee together from the Bigfork area who is very interested in finding a location for a new library. Kin asked for names which Leslie gave her.

Chamber of Commerce: Bruce reminded everyone about the Sundowner at Rocky Mountain Bank that evening 5:00 pm To 7:00 pm.

Rotary Club: Gordon Graham reminded everyone about the Chili Feed on Friday Night at the Methodist Church. This is a fund raiser for their continuing bike path project here in Bigfork.

Resort Tax Committee: Cheryl Richmond let us know the resort tax is a document of 1985 and does not pertain to today. Bigfork's map would look like a spider with only 500 people to approve, and then administer the process. It will take legislature changes to process the Resort Tax and that will take time. Whitefish has a Tourism Promotion Assessment (TPA) Assessment in their community which has possibilities here. This is an assessment of 1% which is strictly voluntary on restaurants. (no liquor) and lodging and possibly the golf course and the playhouse. The money that is collected is specified for the promotion of (no infrastructure) but some tree cutting and outside improvements. Bigfork can be included in all promotional literature. It does require a 501C4 to be filed. There are no boundaries and can cross county lines. Cheryl has many more details and can be reached at 837-3735 or montana.cheryl@gmail.com. This would be a short term

solution and the committee still would pursue the Resort Tax Legislature. She left a question and answer sheet from the Whitefish Convention and Tourist Bureau. (attached in Secretary's notebook)

Doug Averill has also proposed a gathering such as a cocktail party at the lodge. This would be a get together to see if Bigfork and surrounding areas have an interest in a fund to provide monies for the benefit of Bigfork without all the administrative costs. If this is successful we can build a formal committee.

A lengthy discussion was held with many questions and suggestions coming forth. A motion was made for Cheryl and Doug to get together to discuss these two ideas. (m/sc Guarrant/ Zabaro)

Jim Losee will pursue getting the tax bulletin on a 501C4 that tells you how to file. We will hold another meeting on March 19, 2009 12:00 pm at Bethany Lutheran Church to discuss these ideas some more.

North Lake County Planning: Leslie's Committee sent out 1193 letters with the cost of printing donated by Plum Creek. These letters were sent out to property owners in a roughly 35 mile area asking them to let the committee know how they want their land used in the future. There are 2 areas designated: Uses and Density. (copies and map on file in Secretary's notebook)

They have also requested a clarification to their role in the BSC. Do we want them in the same capacity as BLUAC? Or as a sub committee to the BSC, answer: BSC as we are a sub-committee to the BLUAC. North Lake County will hold their next meeting on March 27, 2009 at Saddlehorn Discovery Tower at 9:00 am. In April the meetings will be April 3, 2009 and April 17, 2009, same place and same time.

Commissioner Joe Brenneman: Joe first addressed the issue of conflict question that has come forward from the County Planning Board. The County has found no conflict of interest as the person involved has no financial benefit from his position on another group.

The village question at the legislature level was a disappointment to Joe. There was opposition from both Democrats and Republicans. Some people speaking against the idea are those who are not in favor of neighborhood plans in control. The community members who want this will now have to be the persons to pursue this idea.

Stormwater Committee: No report. They also are looking for a Vice Chairman due to the loss of Elna Darrow.

Old Business: A motion was made to place an ad in the Bigfork Eagle reminding people of the Planning Board Meeting on March 25, 2009 (m/sc Wagner. P/Zabaro)

Meeting was adjourned at 1:40 pm

Pat Wagner, Secretary