

Bigfork Steering Committee Minutes
March 13, 2008
bigforksteering.org
Community Forum
(draft)

In attendance: Craig Wagner, Pat Wagner, Gary Ridderhoff, Edd Blackler, Chuck Gough, Elna Darrow, George Darrow, John Lang, Julie Spencer, John Bourquin, Bruce Solberg, Gary Ridderhoff, Steve Zabaro, Paul Guerrant, Shelley Gonzales, Darrell Coverdell, Marilyn Wood, Robin Steinkraus, Edd Blackler, Paul Rana, Leslie Budewitz, John Lang, Mickey Sogard, Julie Spencer, Joe Brennemen.

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

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

Minutes: The minutes were approved as emailed. (m/sc Solberg, /Zabaro) Passed unanimously

Treasurer's Report: No Report No Treasurer ,
Shelley submitted some invoices which we will take to Chrysler & Gordon, the accounting firm.

Community Reports: John Bourquin, former chairman of the Government Committee that investigated Bigfork incorporation reported and apologized that his final report of incorporation was in error. He got together with Ken Weaver and they went over the money figures again. It was found that the true market value was used for the initial calculations and not the assessed valuation. In other words the market value should be divided by the number 4, which was confirmed by Scott Williams of the Department of Revenue. After confirming population numbers and city budget figures it was determined that in order to incorporate and have a city budget, the property taxes would rise by 27% and not the 67% originally reported. (A revised copy of John's report is attached the secretary's notebook) The meeting was then turned over to Joe Brennemen who would like to report on an idea he had for small communities. It is the establishment of an unincorporated village/township in Montana. The basic concept is to give small communities the ability to determine their own destiny. The county commissioners would still be the final authority but a decision from a small town council would be considered more seriously than a decision from an advisory board. We also discussed how the resort tax could help in this situation. For example, we have a Town Council, who has decided we need an extra Sheriff located in Bigfork during the summer months and the resort tax has funds available to pay the costs. That was just one idea, there were others brought up. This is in the very early stages and would of course have to go through the state legislature. Joe wanted to know if he should go forward with this idea and talk to some state legislature members about the idea. Joe had a report on his ideas but left it on his desk. (See second attachment) A motion was made to go forward with incorporation (m/sc Bourquin/Darrow E,) Failed unanimously A motion was made to support Joe in his effort to form a Village/Township form of governing for small communities. (m/sc Budewitz/Bourquin) Passed unanimously.

Our next speaker was Marilyn Wood, Director Flathead Land Trust. She shared with us some plans for the North Shore of Flathead Lake. They would like to expand the Waterfowl area that already exists on both East and West sides. They have been writing grants, accepting donations, trying to raise money to buy this land and have been successful but of course they need more. They want to keep the whole water fowl area intact and improve it as an area for the people of Flathead County. She showed a concept of how it would look in the future. There is a developer that has plans for a subdivision on the east side. Planning and Zoning denied it the first time. They revised their density from 310 to 290 homes, still including several amenities like an equestrian center. and it will come back before the Planning and Zoning Board on March 26, 2008 at 6:00 pm. Flathead Land Trust is in negotiations with this developer but of course it means money.

Resort Tax Committee: Bruce reported that the information and the packet that Ken Weaver sent is so helpful they are ready to start presenting it to the community. He also handed in a voucher to pay Ken Weaver \$250.00 which we will drop off at Chrysler and Gordon also. John Lang mentioned there is a good article in this weeks Flathead Beacon telling you every thing you need to know about a resort tax. Seeley Lake just passed the first round with the Legislature in their application for a resort tax. The committee is now talking with people in the community and asking them how they feel about the resort tax, and are being given factual information. Bruce stated a very active member in Whitefish has made a month to month study with regard to the income derived from their tax and when she sends it to me I might be able to get a better figure for the amount Bigfork might expect.

Lake County Planning: Leslie announced their next meeting will be Friday March 21, 2008, 9:00 am at Saddlehorn Discovery Tower. They will have at their meeting, Sue Shannon, Director of Planning and Zoning of Lake County and John Bourquin to discuss advisory boards.

Vision Committee: This committee will meet April 7, 2008 at 12:00 pm at Saddlehorn Discovery Tower. This meeting will have Ned Cooney who will give advice on how to be a more efficient group.

Storm Water Committee: There is a meeting tonight at 5:00 at Saddlehorn Discovery Tower, March 13, 2008

Chairman's Report: Drew Hubatsek gave a great presentation on shaded lighting. He had many samples of both good and undesirable types of lighting. His wife, showed the power point slide show. One very important issue demonstrated on this slide show was how much better visibility is in shaded light than in a full glowing light environment. There was also a picture of the great blackout that went all the way to Toronto several years back, and you could look up and see the milky way.

Old Business: Shelley reported that she had finally received the Land Use Map, fully cleaned up by the GIS Dept; it has been incorporated to the neighborhood plan and..... THE NEIGHBORHOOD PLAN WAS DELIVERED TO FLATHEAD COUNTY PLANNING DEPARTMENT THIS MORNING... MARCH 13, 2008. Sounds of applause in the background.

Announcements: There will be no Bigfork Steering Committee meeting on March 20, 2008. We will meet again on March 27, 2008. at 12:00pm

There will be a BLUAC meeting Thursday March 27, 2008 at 4:00pm.

Meeting was adjourned 1:47 Pat Wagner, Secretary