

BLUAC Steering Committee
March 24, 2005 Minutes

Chairman Averill called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m. Minutes were read and approved as read. Averill welcomed the guests from the other community planning groups and invited everyone to introduce him or herself. In addition to regular Steering Committee members, the following were in attendance:

Evergreen Business & Property Owners Assoc: (4th Tuesday 7:00 p.m. Evergreen Fire Hall)

Linda Graham – 752-0292 shipit@centurytel.net

Denise Cofer – 752-3736, 130 Birch Dr, Kal – cofers@digisys.net

Kerry Finley – 257-6867, Evergreen – thinktnk@digisys.net

Pam Holmquist – 257-6881, 1000 Sherman Rd, Kal – rmm@digisys.net

Lakeside Community Council: (4th Tuesday 7:00 p.m. Lakeside Sewer Office)

Rick Clark – 844-2089, Box 793, Lakeside – rclark@centurytel.net

Somers Town Site Association: (Apr. 18, 2005 7:00 p.m. Somers School)

Dennis Hatton – 857-3398, Box 141, Somers

Nancy Bowman – 857-3222, Box 428, Somers – jnbowman@centurytel.net

Old Business:

Denise Lang opened the discussion of making the Secretary an official Steering Committee position. Steering Committee officers include Chairman, Doug Averill, Co-Chairman, Denise Lang, Treasurer, Shelley Gonzales, At-Large, Katy Brown and Elna Darrow. Shelley Gonzales made the motion that Sue Hanson be appointed Secretary, and increase officers to 6 positions. Denise Lang seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously.

Denise Lang reported on the status and development of the survey. The survey committee used the original (1991) survey was used as a model to formulate the current survey. After many revisions, the draft was sent to professional planner, Janet Cornish of Community Development Services of Montana (Butte), for evaluation, especially in respect to “leading” questions and objectivity. The inclusion of some Lake County residents in the survey was justified by property owner proximity to Bigfork and because 60% of property taxes of those Lake County residents go to Bigfork Schools.

The mailing list was compiled from lists of voter registrations in the district and property tax rolls. The lists (totaling over 10,000 names) were compared and duplications were deleted from the list to come up with a master list of 6,175 names. Only one survey per household will be mailed. There will also be public notices in the local newspapers to alert citizens in the district to contact the committee if they did not receive a survey.

The survey will be printed on newsprint to cut printing costs. Surveys will be mailed to the Bigfork Postmaster. John Bourquin and Shelley Gonzales reported that the final draft of the survey was being typed by Jim Jackson (Lakeshore Country Journal) and should be sent to the printer by Friday, March 25, 2005. John Bourquin stated it is important that there be coordination between the draft committee, mailing committee and compiling committee to assure continuity of information. Doug Averill offered that publicity is vital to the success of the survey. He reported that the previous survey had a 30% response ratio.

New Business:

Representatives of the visiting community groups shared some of the projects and challenges they are facing. They also expressed appreciation for the opportunity to meet with the Bigfork Steering Committee and exchange information and ideas. There was some discussion regarding the feasibility of Incorporation with the consensus that that option may not be financially feasible. It was noted that Community Councils could work effectively as long as the councils stays active, alert and keep the

community informed. Denise Lang suggested to committee members that they might send letters to the newspapers stating the importance of the survey and to keep the survey in people's minds.

Next meeting will be March 31, 2005, 12:00 p.m. at the Lutheran Church. Meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

Sue Hanson, Secretary