

Bigfork Steering Committee Minutes
April 5, 2007
bigforksteering.org

In Attendance: Edd Blackler, John Bourquin, Gary Ridderhoff, Elna Darrow, Paul Guerrant, Steve Zabaro, George Darrow, Sue Hanson, Bruce Solberg, Paul Rana, Darrel Coverdell, Leslie Budewitz, Sally Janover

Chairwoman Elna Darrow called the Meeting to order at 12:02

Agenda: The agenda was adopted as emailed. (m/sc Zabaro/Solberg)

Minutes: The minutes for March 22, 2007 were approved as emailed. (m/sc Blackler/Guerrant)

Treasurer's Report: No Report

Committee Reports:

Resort Tax: Bruce Solberg reported he is meeting with Gary Marks in Whitefish next Thursday to talk about the process Whitefish worked for their resort tax. He hopes to speak to someone who was on the ground floor of the initiation process. He has not had a response from Chamber President Callaghan's letter to retailers regarding the resort tax. He will also check with Ken Weaver at MSU and Cal Dunbar of West Yellowstone for information regarding the process. Solberg's email address is chamber@bigfork.org

Lake County Zoning: Leslie Budewitz reported the zoning committee will be holding public meetings in late June in the process of establishing a zoning district to discuss possible boundaries and logistics of a zoning district. Meetings will be held in the following areas: Swan Lake, Yellow Bay, and Woods Bay. Leslie has established with Sue Shannon a legal basis for establishing zoning districts and advisory committee review in Lake County. Shannon has spoken with BJ Grieve and believes the county can make legal accommodations for such zoning districts during their growth plan review.

Vision Committee: Edd Blackler reported on the April 2, 2007 meeting of the Vision Committee. He felt it was an energizing meeting. The committee is in the process of developing specific areas and goals/categories for focus. Sally Janover is working on a chart for this purpose. The committee will meet once a month on the first Monday of the month, noon at the Flathead Bank meeting room at Osborne Landing.

Elna asked, after reading the summary of the meeting, what were the proposals for establishing a 12-month retail season. Blackler noted that most suggestions focused on branching out from current activities on the "shoulder" season such as conferences/conventions. The idea would be to establish Bigfork as a place of action and hopefully draw the attention of future business to the Bigfork area.

Leslie asked if a list had been compiled for businesses missing in the community. That list has not been made at this point.

Elna asked that the sub-committee summary include the names of people attending. Another suggestion was the appointment of a secretary to assist in record keeping and posting a notice in the Bigfork Eagle's Community section inviting the community to the meetings.

Old Business:

Steve Zabaro asked if there had been any decision regarding Potczny Park. The committee will contact Mike Pederson and Paul Mutacio to ask the status.

Sally Janover mentioned there had been activity at the Marina Cay construction site suggesting some progress was being made in the discussion of storm water run off in the area. She also noted the great public service by Mike Richeson, Editor of the Bigfork Eagle, for writing his article about the flooding problem and bringing it to the public and county attention.

New Business:

Bruce Solberg suggested the BSC might be interested in hearing about a project called "LINK" at Bigfork High School, which is putting together job information for high school students. Solberg has been working with the school and students in the project to promote better communication and job opportunities for local students. The project will use the Chamber website to list businesses needing employees. It was suggested the presentation be made at the end of May when the project is up and running.

Announcements:

Storm Water construction permit requirements will be presented by Gail Faber (DEQ stormwater permitting section 406-444-5351) to the Flathead Homebuilder's Association. Also presenting are Suzie Turner (City of Kalispell) on the new stormwater program they are working on, plus a consultant with the City of Livingston's efforts to enact a riparian setback ordinance. The meeting will be held on April 18, 2007, 9:00 am to Noon at the Hampton Inn in Kalispell.

"Survival In The 21st Century": Nationally know speaker will give a seminar for Senior Citizens on April 17, 2007, 10:00 am to 11:30 pm at Bethany Lutheran Church. The Better Business Bureau sponsors the seminar.

Public Forum: The Bigfork Steering Committee will hold a public forum for the purpose of providing service organizations the opportunity to present a brief report on plans and challenges and to receive feedback at the next meeting April 12, 2007, noon, Bethany Lutheran Church.

Meeting adjourned at 12:58