

MEETING MINUTES
Community & Infrastructure Solution Group
September 20, 2004
4:00 p.m.

In attendance: Jack Eakman, Dave Leverett, Lenya Smithwick, Loren Bough, Erin Hayes, Carol Collins, Kate Wilson, Bill Davis, Julie Pfingst, Steve Johnson, Kay Reeves, Pete Mroczkiewicz, Dick Fast, Jim Dolan Jr.

Not in attendance: Tom Mazurek & John Boersma

Please make sure your cell phones are turned off.

The meeting commenced at 4:04 p.m.

Regarding the minutes:

- To have one binder set aside just for minutes. Julie will take the minutes at this meeting and at each meeting a new group member will take that meetings' minutes.
- Need to be typed and emailed to everyone.
- Kate will write an article in the Lookout stating that all the updated information regarding the Community and Infrastructure Group will be posted on the Chamber website... she will provide the address.
- The minutes and the agenda will be placed on the website... it would be nice if we all review them first to make any corrections before submitting to the Chamber website.

Each person must raise their hand and be recognized by the chair (that would be Kate) before speaking. This will help keep the discussion flowing better.

There will be a time for public comment at the beginning and end of the agenda; the time limit is at the Chairwoman's discretion. If someone wants to spend a long time on a subject, then he/she will contact Kate to ask to be put on a future agenda.

Background Information

Regarding the strategic plan: about 2 years ago we pulled all facets of people together (lodging, fire department, medical, construction, etc.) and asked the questions: "What are the positive and negative forces that affect living and working in the Big Sky community, hence the list.

Meeting Length and time

There will be a time limit on each meeting – 2 hours every other week (2 days a month, 4 hours a month). It helps to set an end date so we can work backwards and plan. Next we need to define what our goal and mission are.

There are many questions we must ask ourselves as a committee and as a community.

- What is the issue? What needs must be addressed? Defining the issues will take about $\frac{3}{4}$ of our time.
- Define what a community is.

- What is infrastructure?
- Basically we need a master plan... Big Sky has no centralized government. There is no true outlet for people to go to. Especially for new residents who are not homeowners. This is basically half of the community. This is a big issue and some of us feel that many people leave B.S. because of this.
- What are voids? What makes this not a cohesive community?

Two mission statement suggestions:

To nurture, protect and enhance Big Sky as a community.

Define and evaluate current infrastructure (what exists), define short comings (& benefits) and define and evaluate solutions to address these shortcomings.

Please review, help enhance and modify this statement... bring your ideas to the next meeting.

To help define our questions we need to strip apart the issues of the infrastructure... strip apart the current situation and analyze the voids. The point is, there is no outlet for the community ... what are the drives here to make this a town?

We need to make sure we have an end result. We need a voice.

What is it we think we need? Why do we think we need it? And how do we get it?

History of BSOA

Carol Collins gave some background on the BSOA's efforts to have Montana law changed to allow for a community such as Big Sky to incorporate. Incorporation was being looked into for various reasons:

- ✓ More funding options through grants for the area
- ✓ Stronger voice at local, state and federal level as a "city"
- ✓ More local control

Current state law requires 300 residents per square mile for incorporation. Big Sky being in two counties is also an issue.

BSOA, working with a committee of community members, drafted a bill which would have allowed areas such as Big Sky (low density and more than one county) to be able to vote on incorporation. The bill was only enabling legislation – communities still would require a vote of the electors of the proposed area.

The enabling legislation had three areas that would effect current state law:

- Exempting the municipality from the density requirement
- Include provisions for municipalities which lie within more than one county
- Allow non-residents property owners the right to vote in the municipality (this was amended to allow the residents of the established municipality to vote on allowing non-resident property owners the right to vote subsequent to the establishment of the municipality)

The enabling legislation passed the Senate Local Government Committee and the full Senate but was defeated at the House Local Government Committee hearing. Some registered electors in the Big Sky did not support the vote for non-resident property owners. There was also some confusion as to whether passing the legislation would automatically incorporate Big Sky; what the benefits were and how taxes would be effected. Carol explained that the incorporation is not longer an active discussion.

Steve Johnson did some research... THANKS STEVE.

There is a local governance center at MSU. It has amazing information. Its main purpose is to help train elected officials do what they were elected to do. Many people don't necessary know what a public officials' responsibilities entail.

Two wonderful publications:

1. "Governing Montana at the Grass Roots"
56 counties
29 incorporated towns
2. "Montana Local Government Review"

You can purchase them at the resource center at MSU at Wilson Hall 1 – 156.

Another good idea is to contact the MPA – Master Public Administration – to speak at one of our meetings.

We briefly discussed the different options that may be worth investigating, which included becoming our own county; trying to incorporate only the area around the Meadows (Westfork and golf course) and then annex other parts of the community in later; or consolidating governments.

Assignments for next meeting:

Kate:

Will make tent cards with everyone's name.

Get binder for minutes

Talk to Steering Committee about how to keep public informed on our progress.

Write an article for the papers once she has spoken with the Steering Committee.

Dick:

Will send an email to Kate with Big Sky's current infrastructure from an article that Dick Barton wrote.

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 pm. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, Oct. 4, 2004 at 4pm, location to be determined by Kate.