



2018 ANNUAL REPORT

SUMMARY OF ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE LAST YEAR'S MEETING

Following are highlights of what we have accomplished since our last annual meeting. More details are provided following this summary.

CFBB spent nearly \$100,000 in 2017 to support the Bigfork Community and its infrastructure;

The CFBB is working hand in hand with the Bigfork Center For The Performing Arts and the Bigfork Community Development Foundation Trust in the purchase and development of a downtown parking lot;

Due to our expanding workload, we amended our by-laws to increase the number of Board members to 15;

Our membership is at an all-time high with 36 new members joining in 2017;

Moving forward on the expansion of the Bigfork Nature Trails System with assistance from PacifiCorp;

Regarding the Bigfork Rodeo, we met with the County Commissioners and requested that they overturn the denial of a Bigfork Rodeo by the Fairground Board of Directors. Working with the Chamber, we were able to get the Fair Board to reverse its objection to a PRCA sanctioned rodeo in Bigfork during the first week of July. Bigfork now has its own PRCA sanctioned **RODEO!**

MORE DETAILS ON OUR ACHIEVEMENTS OVER THE PAST YEAR

DOWNTOWN PARKING LOT

The CFBB is working hand in hand with the Bigfork Center For The Performing Arts and the Bigfork Community Development Foundation Trust in the purchase and development of a downtown parking lot. Nearly 1 acre of land has been purchased by the Theater Foundation on Grand and Lake Avenues. Rezoning and surveying of the property has been completed. Development of the lot will begin in early Fall and eventually include removing the existing buildings, paving, lighting, and striping for parking spots. The lot will add approximately 75 new public parking places. CFBB has pledged \$100,000.00 to support acquisition and development payable over the next 10 years.

BIGFORK NATURE TRAILS EXPANSION

CFBB has continued our efforts to expand and enhance the Bigfork Nature Trails system.

We have developed and presented to PacifiCorp specific plans on how we would like to see the trail network expanded. PacifiCorp is in support of the trail expansion and has expressed its desire to make this a team effort with CFBB and the community. Once all details are worked out, PacifiCorp will repackage our work and will submit an application to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for their review and approval of the planned expansion.

Given the regulatory review process and the need to raise funds, it is uncertain when construction will begin. However, the trail expansion concept has received the support of the State's Fish Wildlife and Parks Department, Flathead Land Trust and Montana Land Reliance and has overwhelming community support

In addition, we have constructed a new wood and rock entry way to the west side of the Nature Trail. We have repaved and sealed the road leading to the entrance, put in new signage to improve parking and safety and installed a donation box to help with the expenses of maintaining the trail.

We are also active participants in the County's efforts to update the Flathead County's Comprehensive Trails Plan. Our goal is to ensure that our Nature Trail expansion is included and seen as an asset to the entire valley.

We changed the name from the Swan River Nature Trail to the **Bigfork Nature Trails** to better brand it as a Bigfork amenity for our visitors and community users alike.

This July 4th, we are again providing the trail for a fundraiser by Grateful Nation Montana for their efforts to pay for a college education for the children of Montana soldiers that have fallen in Iraq or Afghanistan. The trail will also be used to support the Bigfork River Run/Walk Fundraiser to raise money for the Bigfork Cross-Country team and a run/walk fundraiser for Mothers of Preschoolers (MOPS).

BRIDGE STREET ONE-LANE BRIDGE

Design and engineering work by the State of our new one-lane is now underway. County Commissioners gave their final approval to the project and made a financial commitment to the State. CFBB played the leading role in successfully convincing the State and County to approve the rebuilding of our iconic one-lane bridge and walkway.

SLITER PARK

We continued to augment the County's efforts to maintain the Park. To do so, CFBB hires a private contractor to visit the park daily to empty trash cans, pick up trash, help keep the bathrooms clean and supplied throughout the summer months. We also will be donating to the County approximately \$3,500.00 to help offset their expenses as a condition of keeping the park open.

Through our persistent efforts, the County will soon be cleaning up the serious graffiti damage done to the Park's stage and signage.

BIGFORK ART AND CULTURAL CENTER

We are continuing to maintain the Art and Cultural Center which houses the Bigfork Art Center and a branch of the Flathead County Library. Because the BACC is such an important part of Bigfork's art and cultural offerings we have been offering financial assistance as they revitalize their organization.

This past year we also made major repairs to the building. We paid to improve the building sewer and drainage infrastructures, installed new skylights, reinforced stairways, and had air conditioning ducts installed to provide A/C for the upstairs meeting areas. We also continued to maintain Bigfork's Town Clock Tower at the entrance to the BACC.

DOWNTOWN PUBLIC BATHROOMS

We continued to maintain and improve the downtown public bathrooms located in the lobby of the BACC. This past year we installed diaper changing stations in the men's and woman's bathrooms.

YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN CFBB

To encourage involvement in and awareness of the Bigfork community, we are developing a CFBB youth "outreach and participation" program. Our goals are to encourage youth involvement in the community, help them understand what our various community groups do and show them how they can help the community through their volunteerism. They will also help us develop and administer our all-important social media activities. We are also considering having our monthly meetings on site at the School to encourage youth participation and awareness of how they can support the community.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

As Bigfork is an unincorporated community, the CFBB is devoted to building our community's cultural opportunities, economic base and infrastructure. In 2017

alone, we spent nearly \$100,000.00 to improve and maintain Bigfork and its current amenities.

This included, among many other things,

- Donated to Crown of the Continent Guitar Festival
- Maintaining and improving the Bigfork Art and Cultural Center
- Overseeing and maintaining the Town Clock
- Landscaping and upkeep of the town's entry way signs
- Paying rent for Sliter Park and paying to help keep it clean
- Maintaining downtown benches
- Keeping the community clean by installing and emptying downtown's decorative garbage cans
- Snow plowing sidewalks on Grand Ave.
- Weekly sweeping of downtown streets during the summer months
- Re-striping downtown parking spaces including handicapped parking areas
- Maintaining the "Historical Downtown Walking Tour" display and brochures
- Installing and maintaining several doggie pollution stations in town and on the river trail
- Maintaining several bike racks in downtown and on the River Trail
- Maintaining downtown security cameras
- Helping to keep Harry Horn Park clean and safe
- Wasp and insect eradication during the summer months
- Donated to Bigfork Retro Film Festival
- Donated to the Bigfork Youth Baseball program
- Provided financial support to the Bigfork 8th Graders who were finalist in the Junior Division State competition for Montana National History Day.

In addition to the above, the CFBB continued its financial support for several community activities.

We continued our Community Service Grants Program. The Program encourages our youth to become active in the community by undertaking service projects serving Bigfork. Previous grants have focused on recycling efforts, Cleaning Your Fork and Harry Horn Park, helping with the Festival of the Arts and assisting the Bigfork Elves in light bulb twisting for our holiday decorations.

CFBB also made donations to several groups including Bigfork Center for the Performing Arts, The Crown of the Continent Guitar Foundation, Nordic Ski Center, ACES After School program, to name a few.

ANNUAL AUCTION & FALL EXTRAVAGANZA

Last year's auction was very successful, thanks to one and all! This year will mark our 18th annual auction! It will be held at the Garden Bar, Thursday September 6th at 5pm. Last year we raised nearly \$35,000.00 to support our work. Mark you calendar now and join in the fun!!