



## **2017 ANNUAL REPORT**

### **BRIDGE STREET ONE-LANE BRIDGE**

After one year of effort, the CFBB was successful in convincing the State and County to approve the rebuilding of our iconic one-lane bridge and walkway. Members of CFBB participated in a series of workshop meetings with State and County officials in deciding how the bridge would be upgraded. Both agencies agreed with our position that the bridge should be rebuilt in a way that maintains its historical look while improving its load capacity and traffic and pedestrian safety. Engineering work is now underway by the State.

### **BIGFORK SWAN RIVER RECREATIONAL TRAIL EXPANSION**

CFBB has taken the lead to expand and enhance the Swan River Trail system. Our goal is to create a connected trail network between Bigfork to the west, the existing Swan River Nature Trail to the east and on the north and south sides of the Swan River. The addition of 6.2 miles on PacifiCorp property would consist of a natural surface hiking biking trail that would be a 3 to 4 foot wide trail that would result in a significant recreational amenity for the Bigfork community and its visitors. 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

Our proposed plan will be completed and presented to PacifiCorp by the beginning of June of this year. Depending on how our negotiations go with PacifiCorp, and of course generating funding, our hope is to have our first phase of trail expansion located on the south side of Swan River going down to the Hydro Plant completed late this year.

In addition, we are building a new entry way to the west side of the Nature Trail. It will be a wood and rock archway that will dignify this magnificent trail. In addition, we will repave and seal the road leading to the entrance, put in new signage and improve parking.

This July 4<sup>th</sup>, 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).

## **SLITER PARK**

We continued to make improvements to the Park. Our main effort last summer was upgrading the underground electrical system serving the stage and security lights. CFBB is also paying a private contractor to help the county keep the park maintained and the bathrooms clean and supplied throughout the summer months.

## **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. As funds become, available we will also be undertaking several building improvements.

CFBB contributed to and is also serving as the depository of donations for the development of the BACC's "Bigfork Documentary" project.

## **CHILDREN'S PLAYHOUSE BUILDING**

In August of 2016, we concluded or sale of our interest in the Children's Playhouse to the Bigfork Playhouse Children's Theater, Inc. Our sales price was well below our cost basis and investment in the building. This reduction in price was one of the largest "donations" ever made by CFBB to any single group.

## **YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN CFBB**

To encourage involvement in and awareness of the Bigfork community, we are developing a CFBB youth ambassador program, similar to, and in coordination with, the Chamber of Commerce's program. Through this program, a student from the school will serve as a youth representative to the CFBB. Our goals are to encourage youth involvement in the community and to help CFBB be aware of how we can support our younger citizens. They will also help us develop and administer our all-important social media activities.

## **COMMUNITY SUPPORT**

As Bigfork is an unincorporated community, the CFBB has been devoted to building our community's cultural opportunities, economic base and infrastructure. In 2016 alone, we spent nearly \$75,000.00 to improve and maintain Bigfork and its current amenities.

This included, among many other things,

## **COMMUNITY SUPPORT (continued)**

- 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
- Paying insurance for the "Bigfork Elves"
- 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

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 17<sup>th</sup> annual auction! It will be held at the Garden Bar, Thursday September 7th at 5pm. Last year we raised nearly \$40,000.00 to support our work. Mark you calendars now and join in the fun!!