



AGENDA – DRIVER TEAM MEETING

Wednesday, April 27, 2016 – 6:00pm

Backus Community Center – Room 103

Create A Uniformly Attractive County And A Means To Explore It

Members/Guests present: Patti Ballan, Joe Schwartz, Sonja Pelland, Ashley Korzinski, Shawn Mason, Marta Lindemanis, Cynthia Jaksa, Larry Davison, Nancy Rogenrud, Pam Oveson, Mattea Elhard, Dave Elhard, Doug Franchot, Wes Peterson, Ward Merrill

Members not present: Shannon Arnold, Janelle Feller

A. Members introduced themselves and shared why they were interested in this Driver. Lots of passion for the communities and a desire to make the area look better, more attractive and more welcoming. All team members seem to share a common passion, purpose and desire to follow-through on this Driver.

B. Guest members were introduced from the International Falls Residential and Commercial Advisory Committee aka “Blight Committee”, Cynthia Jaksa, Marta Lindemanis, Larry Davison, and Nancy Rogenrud. The committee discussed their current plan of action and expressed gratitude if members would support them at the next City Council meeting on May 16th, 4:30pm at the International Falls City Hall. To easily manage the community, they plan to divide the city into 5 parts and work one part per month. The committee has set a goal to host their first neighborhood cleanup by June 2016 and finish by October 2016. This is set up to help the elderly, disabled, and overwhelmed members of the community, the committee works with Kelly Meyers to obtain a list of individuals. Friends Garbage Service has agreed to all recycled materials and donate their tipping fees to the city.

B. Members talked about ideas to control blight throughout the county. Suggestions were made to work on getting tipping fees waved for all Voyage Forward projects. Members discussed plans already in place throughout parts of the community and how we could spread them to cover all of Koochiching County. We discussed the 2 week clean up held May 2nd-14th in Littlefork as well as Fort Frances. There was a very strong pull from all members to get every city throughout the county involved. Members discussed contacting local business for “white” material removal, debris removal, junk cars, etc. Members also reaching out to the Mission Covenant Church, who lead a community cleanup in International Falls. Members also discussed setting up an annual Clean Up Festival. This idea was well received.

C. Members discussed the MNDOT roadside planting project. When you partner with MNDOT, they will provide a professional landscaping design as well as the plants and materials, if your community provides the equipment and labor. Northome is taking advantage of this wonderful program. They plan to hold this event on June 6th 2016 with a reception to follow at their newly opened restaurant, the Shining Light Café.

D. Doug Franchot introduced some programs there may be funding available for. We discussed Green Step – Green Step is a clean energy project and will do an internship for data entry as long as it is applied in the person’s name.

E. Members recognized the main topics of the driver. Here they are listed in strategy order and members feel it holds a strong 1 year, 5 year, and 10 year plan.

1. Blight and Cleanup
2. Beautification and Scenic By Way
3. Community Involvement
4. Clean energy

Upon identification of this list, members decided it would be wise to break in to 2 separate groups: A blight and clean up group as well as A By Way and Signage Group. Ward Merrill has agreed to lead the signage group and Ashley Korzinski has agreed to lead the blight and cleanup group.

F. Reviewed the current stakeholders and suggested more of them to engage:

Ranier: Patti will invite Lindsey Goulet and Tom O’Connell from the Golf Course

Others included: Men’s Garden Club, City Beach Committee

H. The next meeting was set to be Wednesday, May 25 at the community building in Big Falls. Please watch your emails for meeting changes as some members expressed this date not working for them.

I. Other Business? - Please contact Ward if you have items for our next agenda.

J. Adjourn: 7:45pm

WHAT’S A STEWARD?

Stewards are ordinary people; people from all walks of life who care deeply about the community. Stewards are leaders who cross boundaries, take an integrated approach and build coalitions for action. They have 360-degree vision, recognizing the interdependencies between the economy, the environment and social equity. Stewards operate at the center of tough issues, not on the edges. They are risk takers. They are passionate and energetic. They are people of vision.