

AGENDA – DRIVER TEAM MEETING

Wednesday, June 8th, 2016 – 6:00pm

Big Falls Community Building

Create A Uniformly Attractive County And A Means To Explore It

Members/Guests present: Ashley Korzinski, Marta Lindemanis, Cynthia Jaksa, Mattea Elhard, Dave Elhard, Ward Merrill

Members not present: Shannon Arnold, Janelle Feller, Patti Ballan, Joe Schwartz, Sonja Pelland, Shawn Mason, Larry Davison, Nancy Rogenrud, Pam Oveson, Doug Franchot, Wes Peterson

A. Members introduced themselves to guest member: Ben Leonard

B. Guest speaker, Ben Leonard, was here on behalf of the Minnesota Historical Society. Ben discussed the plans on reopening the Grand Mound Center with the group. It was very interesting to hear all they have planned. They are talking about rebuilding the building on the center, but it is not the main focus at this time. Right now, they are working on getting programs in place to draw tourism, education, and aboriginal culture to the mound. They plan to staff the center, but to have the staff active and moving around within the community, not sitting at a desk at the Mound center. This is exciting to hear and will bring much history to our local youth! There are plans to label our Ground Mound site the MN Historical Society Head Quarters for the Region. The projected date for the reopening is 2018. Now, where does this tie in with our driver? Ben proposed that we tie in interpretive panels with the by way signage plans. We would highlight them in areas such as Franz Jevne, Manitou Rapids, and other aboriginal sites. Ben mentioned that the MNHS will work with us to plan an appealing and uniform signage structure, as well as having some funding to do so.

- A suggestion was made to get in contact with Ashley LaVigne at the International Falls Museum to get her on board. I (Ashley Korzinski) messaged her just now to see if anyone else has contacted her from the historical society. Perhaps I can get her to come to the next meeting??
- I also suggested to Ben that we do a Lunch and Learn feature on the reopening of the Grand Mound, he was very excited about it! He mentioned having time in July and October, but did say he was flexible to coming if another date worked better. Shawn Mason: I grabbed his contact info for you: Ben Leonard (507) 340-7463
ben.leonard@mnhs.org

B. Members talked about the outcome of the Blight Committee VS City Council and you will be happy to know that it was unanimously passed. The blight committee, led by Cynthia Jaksa, will begin their community clean up on June 25th. This is being operated in sections and volunteers are needed. I am including an attachment of their schedule below. They are in need of roughly 80 volunteers and 20+ pickup trucks and trailers. Friends Garbage is covering all tipping fees and providing garbage trucks. A big thank you to Wade Friend for his generosity.



City of International Falls Residential and Commercial Building Advisory Committee
Contact: ifallscleanup@gmail.com or Cynthia Jaksa @ 218-324-1545 for text and voice

CALL FOR NEIGHBORLY CLEANUP VOLUNTEERS

The City of International Falls is conducting a city-wide cleanup on the last Saturday of the months from June through September. The cleanups will occur on Saturday mornings from eight to noon. For the June 25th Cleanup we need to hear soon from folks who would like to participate as a volunteer. Contact the email or phone number above to register volunteers. Leave name, organization, phone number and email. We will contact you.

Receiving Garbage at Collection Site and Sorting

	East Ward CarsonLupie Park	Center Ward 1 Kerry Park	Center Ward II Armory	West Ward School Park Lot
Date	Sat June 25	Sat July 30	Sat Aug 27	Sat Sept 24
Collection Times	8-noon	8-noon	8-noon	8-noon
# of Coll site volunteers	5-8	5-8	5-8	5-8
Hours on collection date-4.5 hours	7:30 - noon	7:30 - noon	7:30 - noon	7:30 - noon

Residence Garbage Pickups to Collection Site

	East Ward	Center Ward 1	Center Ward II	West Ward
Date	Sat June 25	Sat July 30	Sat Aug 27	Sat Sept 24
Pickup times	8-noon	8-noon	8-noon	8-noon
Pickup Hours	8-noon	8-noon	8-noon	8-noon
# of Pickup truck Volunteers	20	20	20	20
Hours for Pickup Volunteers 4.5 hours	7:30 - noon	7:30 - noon	7:30 - noon	7:30 - noon

Distribute Flyers

	East Ward	Center Ward 1	Center Ward II	West Ward
Distribute Flyers Dates- Sat through Fri	June 11-17	July 9-15	Aug 6-12	Sept 3-9
# of Vol. Distributors	12-24	12-24	12-24	12-24
Total Hours for Distributing Flyers	30 hours	30 hours	30 hours	30 hours
# of Flyer Distributors 1 to 2 hours each	15-20	15-20	15-20	15-20

Phone Calls and Emailing to Set up Pickups for Residents

	East Ward	Center Ward 1	Center Ward II	West Ward
Phone calling to set up time and address for pickup volunteers - match pickup requests to volunteers-lists provided each volunteer for 5 hours of call time	June 19-24 Mon-Fri	July 18-22 Mon-Fri	Aug 15-19 Mon-Fri	Sept 12-16 Mon-Fri
	30	30	30	30

C. Members discussed the issue of the up keeping, or lack of, at the International Falls Cemetery. It saddens me to say, but the issue is funding alone. The cemetery simply does not make enough money on burials to afford the maintenance they would like to have. Unfortunately, the State of MN grants only so much a year and does not allow volunteers. I am not sure of all the details, but Ward and Cynthia seemed very knowledgeable on the subject should you inquire to know more, I tried the best I could to take notes on this.

D. Members discussed the by way signage a lot. Bear with me, my notes are all over the place on this one.

- We discussed using different themes for historical sites and trails. This is broken up into many discussions.
 1. Hwy 71 is recognized as the designated “Voyageur Trail” and perhaps tying that in.
 2. Some of our highways also run into “The Heart of the Continent” scenic by way.
 3. Geo Cashing and nature groups were discussed to bring in tourism. Such as bird watching, insect, animals, flowers, etc.
 4. Funding: National Geographic may supply funds to tie the signage in with “the heart of the continent”. Legacy grants was mentioned as someone to look into. Memorial donations? Paid for advertising?

E. Members recognized the driver’s next steps:

1. Securing grant dollars to come up with an initial COUNTY wide plan.
2. Determining how far our scenic by way will stretch and how many historical sites we will plan to highlight.
3. Who to contact to get the ball rolling.
4. Deciding on a theme: Big Falls is calling themselves “The heart of the wilderness” Northome mentioned “The edge of the wilderness” ETC
5. Firmly identifying stake holders and where we can get funding or donations. Again, mentioned where, The Chamber of Commerce, Koochiching County Historical Society, and the Convention and Businesses Bureau

H. The next meeting was set to be Thursday, June 30th at 6pm at Backus Room 103. We will plan to take time at this meeting to split into our 2 groups and find our directions.

- Ward: please try to locate the list of the groups.

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

J. Adjourn: 8:16pm