

Voyage Forward

Destiny Driver Meeting: Grow & Diversify Businesses & Jobs in Koochiching County
Wednesday, July 13, 2016

Minutes

Attendance: Allen Rasmussen, Paul Nevanen, Brian Rauzi, Mel Woods, Roma Korzinski

Chairman Paul called the meeting to order at 7:04 AM at the Chamber office.

Welcome and Introductions: Paul welcomed Brian Rauzi, a new member in our community and on this committee. Bio attached.

Continue Review of Newmark's Recommendations (Prioritize)

Entrepreneurship and Small Business Development: Paul reported Jenny Herman, SBDC Director, focuses on this form of business development. Newmark recommended via Jenny's office an Economic Gardening Initiative. Currently, there are two businesses participating in the program. Paul explained the other part of this recommendation is to get into the school system, and we are currently doing that via Jr. Achievement. Other efforts include Teen Enterprise, a business camp for teenagers, and the CEO's in the Classroom program.

Committee members discussed the importance of telling the story of area growing and successful entrepreneurs.

Business Recruitment: Newmark developed a list of industry targets, including a list of companies that might be a good fit for Koochiching County. Roma suggested we have another group that focuses on this recommendation, while another group focuses on business retention and expansion. Committee members discussed the importance of building relationships with people who are lured here by Rainy Lake, and have the financial wherewithal to stimulate development and/or be a private investor. Development of a relationship database was determined to be an important effort.

As it relates to business retention, Shawn explained the Grow Minnesota program the Chamber is involved in which requires a minimum of 12 business visits per year. This Voyage Forward driver could partner and elevate the number of business visits to 30 to 35 per year.

Action: Paul requested driver members review the business recruitment recommendations and be prepared to discuss in more detail at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 10, 2016

Paul adjourned the meeting at 8:10 AM.