



VOYAGE FORWARD COALITION
September 15, 2016 1:00 RAINY RIVER COMMUNITY COLLEGE
MEETING MINUTES

STEWARDS PRESENT: Mike Wellcome, Sheila Demenge, Myrna Meadows, Tammy Riley, Ward Merrill, Doug Skrief, Travis Glowasky, Sherril Gautreaux

I. WELCOME

Mike Wellcome welcomed stewards and turned the meeting over to Myrna Meadows for her to lead.

II. WEBSITE

Alysa, Myrna and Mike worked on the selection of website design hosts and have recommended Studio Gibbous who will begin transitioning files and recreating the website.

III. APPROVE BACKUS FISCAL AGREEMENT

Stewards reviewed the Backus Fiscal Agreement whereby Backus agreed to serve as the fiscal agent for Voyage Forward. An amendment to item #5 was suggested; Backus will not charge a fee if the amount of money to be managed is \$5000 or less.

A motion to accept the agreement with the amendment to item #5 was made by Meadows; seconded by Wellcome and unanimously approved. Mike will sign the agreement with all Coalition members listed.

IV. FUNDING PROPOSAL – WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

The Workforce Development Driver is ready to move forward with the workforce needs survey. The Team requested \$960 for a subscription to Survey Monkey and for marketing/promoting the survey. A grant in the amount of \$1000 was awarded from the partnership of Advanced MN/NHED (Northeast Higher Education District).

After discussion, the Workforce Development Team will submit a request for funding the one year subscription to Survey Monkey. A motion to purchase the subscription to Survey Monkey in the amount of \$300.00 upon receipt of the grant moneys was made by Wellcome; seconded by Skrief and unanimously approved. The request is attached.

Tammy and Sheila will provide the invoice information to Backus so we can accept the funding from NHED.

V. BUDGET

A budget which included line items from each Destiny Driver was compiled. Thank you to Shelia and Myrna for reviewing and editing the budget.

A motion to approve the budget document was made by Merrill; seconded by Wellcome and unanimously approved. The Coalition will submit the document to the Koochiching County Board for consideration.

Wellcome gave an overview of the initial funding history of Voyage Forward. It was noted that the hundreds of in-kind volunteer hours are not to be overlooked nor dismissed.

VI. AT-LARGE MEMBER SELECTION

Alysa Hackenmueller has submitted her resume and interest in serving as an at-large member for the “border region”

The Coalition will continue to try to recruit an additional at-large member from greater Koochiching County. Facebook will be used for outreach.

A motion to approve the selection of Alysa Hackenmueller as an at-large member of the Voyage Forward Coalition was made by Merrill; seconded by Wellcome and unanimously approved.

VII. COORDINATOR ROLE & SELECTION

This is a hold-over item from the last meetings. The group didn’t feel that the coordinator position needed to be tied to a particular type of Coalition member. The main factor in choosing a coordinator should be based on qualification. Meadows will draft a job description for the Coalition to review. Gautreaux has been serving in the role of Secretary by taking meeting minutes. It was suggested that she also serve as treasurer in the interim.

VIII. CHAMPION UPDATE

Each Driver Champion presented an update on their Driver.

- 1) Ward Merrill – Attractive Koochiching County. This Driver has not been able to meet since the last meeting.
- 2) Sherril Gautreaux – Tourism & Outdoor Recreation. This Driver reports progress on forming a local chapter of the Voyageur’s ATV Club whose goal is to connect communities with safe, legal, marked ATV trails. Pete Schultz has taken the lead on this initiative and has held meetings in l’Falls and Kabetogama. Another initiative is effective internet site representation for area attractions and businesses. A seminar on the topic will be held sometime in the Fall. It will be

hosted by I'Falls Chamber and CVB. Ben Leonard, outreach coordinator for the Minnesota Historical Society will attend their next meeting on 9/22.

- 3) Travis Glowasky – Cross Border Initiatives. This Driver helped to initiate recent seminars along with the 2 Chambers of Commerce on the Nexus Program and customs and immigrations procedures involved in crossing the international border. The group plans to host another seminar this year. Discussions regarding the cross border checkpoints are on-going. Glowasky is pleased with the collaborative efforts and input from elected officials.
- 4) Tammy Riley and Sheila Demenge - Workforce Development. This Driver is continuing to develop a survey to be distributed to area businesses to determine workforce needs. International Falls High School council members have been enlisted to assist with finalizing the e-mail contact list for local businesses.
- 5) Mike Wellcome – Economic Development Framework. The team met for the first time in August and discussed the feasibility of using the Voyage Forward logo across the county. Second meeting is scheduled for September 27th with a discussion on the importance of branding and developing a unified message.

IX. OPEN DISCUSSION

Ward Merrill had the opportunity to meet with Hugh Haller of the Camp Koochiching educational foundation regarding supporting and mentoring youth in the community. Haller and Merrill felt like this discussion has an excellent tie-in to the Voyage Forward initiative.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Coalition meeting will be October 12 at 9:00 am @ RRCC Room SC114.

XI. ADJOURN.

The group adjourned at 2:30.