



VOYAGE FORWARD – CREATE A UNIFORMLY ATTRACTIVE COUNTY AND A MEANS TO EXPLORE IT.

MEETING MINUTES – March 6, 2017

Present: Ashley LaVigne, Wes Peterson, Nancy Rognerud, Patti Ballan, Jenell Feller and Ward Merrill

Not Present: Ashley Korzinski, Mattea Elhard, Dave Elhard, Shannon Arnold, Joe Schwarts, Sonja Pelland, Shawn Mason, Larry Davison, Pam Oveson, Doug Franchot, and Marta Lindemanis

1. MINUTES - Members review the meeting minutes from 2/19/17. There were no corrections or additions.
2. VOYAGE FORWARD COALITION UPDATE – Ward Merrill
 - a. Co-chairs from each of the Destiny Drivers meet monthly to update each other on their progress.
 - b. Border Crossing Destiny Driver is making headway. This is a Federal and International concern so any progress needs to be celebrated.
 - c. Voyage Forward Website has been updated. It is being hosted by another entity but it is up and running.
 - d. BethAnn Slatinski, alcohol and prevention coordinator. spoke with the Coalition about the project that she is working on. She is working on a five-year project that is trying to reduce underage consumption. The Coalition asked a lot of questions and there were wondering if her efforts could tie into the Quality of Life Driver. It may be that the Youth should be a “stand alone” Driver.
3. BEAUTIFUCATION
 - a. Littlefork Cleanup is scheduled for May 2-14th. Jenell will contact Sonja Pelland to verify dates.
 - b. International Falls does not have a date scheduled for spring cleanup. It was suggested that it happen before Fishing Opener on May 14th.
 - i. Joe Schwartz is the Chair for the city clean-up committee. Jenell will contact Joe to see if a date has been set.
 - c. Tree Planting is another way to beautify the city.
 - i. Is it possible to buy a tree as a Memorial/Dedication?
 - ii. Can we move trees from one area to another instead of cutting them down?
 - iii. Does the City still ask if you would like to have a tree replaced on the boulevard?
 - iv. Has the City hired a consultant to develop a plan regarding tree planting within city limits? Patti Ballan will call Ted Brokaw and ask him questions i-iv.
 - v. Northome has worked with MNDOT to plant trees.
 - vi. When you enter International Falls – it looks like a city that has lost its confidence.
4. SIGNAGE

Journey to Success

- a. The Gateway Corridor plan was passed out. This was developed in 2008.
 - b. New signs are going up along the bike path between the Chamber of Commerce and Ranier. The Museum is working on the photographs and verbage that will go on the signs.
 - c. Dave Woodward with 106 Group will be speaking at the Koochiching County Museums lunch and learn event in the near future. He will talk about Heritage Tourism and Planning. The public is welcome to attend. The Annual Meeting of the Koochiching County Historical Society will be held in May. The public is also invited to this event, held at the Ranier Community Building, which includes a meal, guest speaker.
 - d. Where would the SIGNAGE that we are talking about go?
 - i. Welcoming sign at the Koochiching County line on 53, 71 and 11.
 - ii. Signs should be made of stone and wood
 - e. Where will we get the money for signage?
 - i. Small pots of money to do some planning
 - ii. Need money to design signage
 - iii. Federal Highway dollars have dried up
 - iv. Donations and in-kind labor
 - v. Ashley LaVigne mentioned Tech Soup and Grant Station as a place to get information and resources for non-profits.
 - f. Dan Schermerhorn served on the Tourism Destiny Driver and started taking pictures of public access points and putting them on Google Maps. He has literally put International Falls and Koochiching County on the map...Google Map. This is signage – just not the way that we had thought about it.
5. AND A MEANS TO EXPLORE IT
- a. Geo-caching is treasure hunt using GPS and clues. It is free to do gets people out and about.
 - b. Downtown Walking Tours are still being worked on. Some will be self-guided and others will be given by a docent.
 - c. Bog Walk – The Polar Polers are working to make the ski trail accessible for everyone year-round.
 - d. The Museum has historic photos up at businesses throughout the county. The Museum is willing to put them up at any location that is interested in having them.
6. Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 27 at 6pm at Backus.