

**VOYAGE FORWARD COALITION
MEETING MINUTES
MARCH 28, 2017 10:00 am
BACKUS COMMUNITY CENTER**

STEWARDS PRESENT: Mike Wellcome, Pete Schultz, Ward Merrill, Travis Glowasky, Sherril Gautreaux, Tammy Riley, Doug Skrief

I. WELCOME

- a. To approve the agenda. The following additions were requested to be made to the agenda:
Non-profit status, Spirit of Borderland attendance and vacant at-large positions.

A motion was made by Merrill; seconded by Schultz and carried unanimously to approve the agenda with the above additions.

- b. To approve the minutes of the previous Coalition Driver meeting.

A motion was made by Schultz; seconded by Merrill and carried unanimously to approve the minutes of the 01/10/2017 meeting.

- c. Review budget.

The account balance remains at \$1739.65. Schultz offered that the CVB is drafting a \$50 check for a window cling.

II. CHAMPION UPDATES

Tourism – The group continues to work on the ATV trail project. The Heart of the Continent Partnership has an upcoming meeting in April. The group continues to site locations on Google Maps and is in hopes that another workshop can be held on Google Maps this spring.

Quality of Life – The group continues to meet regarding a center for youth activities. The Koochiching Mom's Facebook page continues to be effective with 533 members.

Workforce Development – A subcommittee is currently analyzing the workforce survey data with a goal of June/July for a final report.

Beautify Koochiching County – The group's recent meeting focused on planning up-coming community clean-up efforts in I'Falls and Littlefork. Urban tree planting was discussed; the group will reach out to the I'Falls comprehensive plan folks for inclusion/information. The I'Falls Comprehensive Planning survey is on-line for input.

Economic Development/Marketing Partnership –The group is working on creating a single message for the Voyage Forward region and will meet again at the end of April.

Cross Border Initiative – The letters in support of OARS (Outlying Area Reporting Stations) reform were sent to our Federal legislation by the Kooch Co Board, Ranier and I'Falls city councils. In addition, The Journal published an article about the need for OARS reform.

Grow and Diversify Business – No one present to represent this Driver.

Attract and Retain Businesses - No one present to represent this Driver.

III. QUARTERLY MEETING

Wellcome received positive feedback from 2 communities that would like to host the quarterly meeting – Littlefork and Northome. A draft agenda was distributed for comment and suggestion. Riley suggested that the “host region update” be on the agenda prior to the “driver updates” in order to engage the community. The agenda should be driven by the host community. It was suggested to leave the times open rather than having a strict time schedule. Welcome and introductions should be the initial agenda item. It was suggested that the event be filmed by KCC-TV. It would be nice to have a screen and video projector to show the VF website. The guest speaker may be better suited for a later meeting rather than the initial one. Riley will draft a feedback questionnaire to be distributed at the end of the meeting. Merrill suggested that the community survey questions be reviewed and incorporated into the meeting. Wellcome will review the survey questions and bring a synopsis to our next meeting. Wellcome will reach out to Littlefork to ask if they would like to host the next meeting and ask for agenda input.

IV. STRATEGIC PLANNING

Riley distributed a well-drafted strategic planning document with completed modules for Sustain, Lead, and Facilitate. Items should be added to the document following each meeting. Each meeting should be driven by the priority outcomes identified in the prior meeting.

A motion was made by Merrill; seconded by Glowasky and carried unanimously to review the strategic action plan prior to each meeting and add any necessary items to the agenda.

An item on the Strategic Plan was to determine whether the “Spirit of the Borderland” initiative should be supported by VF. Riley, Ward and other will attend the kick-off on 4/25. Riley will report back to the coalition.

V. MARKETING

Wellcome plans on writing a commentary regarding VF progress to The Journal and other newspapers in the next month. He would like updates from each driver by the middle of April. Discussion was had about how best to get information about VF out to the public. It was suggested that a review of each driver’s progress be posted on the website and FB. The postings would be made every several days to continue to generate interest rather than doing a FB boost which costs money. Discussion was had about press releases to each radio station with driver updates. With FB posts, quality readers will click into the more detailed information on the website. Discussion was had about updated KCC-TV interviews that could be posted to You Tube. Priority outcome would be to have a commentary ready by the end of April with a snippet of each driver’s progress.

VI. NON-PROFIT CORPORATION STATUS

Schultz had recent conversations with a CPA about obtaining 501c3 status which may not be as burdensome as previously thought. Skrief suggested that our organization is in a natural progression as an entity. Riley agreed that the timing may not be right for seeking non-profit status.

A motion was made by Merrill; seconded by Skrief and carried unanimously to revisit the necessity of non-profit status in one year.

VII. AT LARGE POSITIONS

It was suggested that a website/FB posting be made asking for countywide participation in filling the 3 at-large positions. Wellcome will make this posting.

VIII. OPEN DISCUSSION

Riley suggested that we explore the possibility of using ITV at RRCC and link it to another school with ITV capabilities so that other communities could participate in the meetings without driving to I'Falls. She will look into the ITV accessibility at schools in the county and bring the information to the next meeting.

A suggestion was made to shift the coalition meeting times to later in the day. Agenda items for the next meeting were identified as 1) at large member update, 2) quarterly meeting update, 3) communication update, 4) budget update, and 5) Spirit of the Borderland report.

IX. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next Coalition meeting will be April 27 @ 2:00 pm @ RRCC.

X. ADJOURN.

The group adjourned at 11:50.