



AGENDA – DRIVER TEAM MEETING

Wednesday, February 8th, 2017 – 6:00pm

Backus Community Center – Room 103

Create A Uniformly Attractive County And A Means To Explore It

Members/Guests present: Patti Ballan, Ashley Korzinski, Nancy Rogenrud, Mattea Elhard, Dave Elhard, Ward Merrill, Jenell Feller, Ashley LaVigne

Members not present: Shannon Arnold, Joe Schwartz, Sonja Pelland, Shawn Mason, Larry Davison, Pam Oveson, Doug Franchot, Wes Peterson, Marta Lindemanis

A. Members reintroduced themselves and shared why they were interested in this Driver. All team members are still onboard with common passion, purpose and desire to follow-through on this Driver. We welcomed new member, Ashley LaVigne. Ashley is the Executive Administrative Assistant at Koochiching County Historical Society and can offer great value to this group.

B. Members retouched on ideas to control blight throughout the county. PER PREVIOUS MEETINGS: *Suggestions were made to work on getting tipping fees waved for all Voyage Forward projects. Members discussed plans already in place throughout parts of the community and how we could spread them to cover all of Koochiching County. We discussed the 2 week clean up held May 2nd-14th in Littlefork as well as Fort Frances. There was a very strong pull from all members to get every city throughout the county involved. Members discussed contacting local business for “white” material removal, debris removal, junk cars, etc. Members also reaching out to the Mission Covenant Church, who lead a community cleanup in International Falls. Members also discussed setting up an annual Clean Up Festival. This idea was well received.* Many ideas for the festival were brought up. Organizing some sort of a recycling program for funds? Donations? Setting up a food and beverage area with local organizations in need of a fundraiser and ordering plastic reusable souvenir cups for the drinks. Offering a weigh-in prize of some kind, or a trash trophy, if you will, to the winning community. Members further discussed putting together a Wheelie Run of some sorts to get the local trails cleaned up and presentable for this season’s use. An idea was also brought up to eliminate the outrageous garbage disposal fees and propose the costs to be taxable. **PLEASE NOTE: If we are going off last year’s dates, we need to discuss the county clean up with Littlefork members ASAP.**

C. Members discussed the MNDOT roadside planting project. When you partner with MNDOT, they will provide a professional landscaping design as well as the plants and materials, if your community provides the equipment and labor. Dave Elhard provided us with the following contact information: Todd Carroll – MNDOT

D. Members discussed local signage. There was a need expressed to push for better National Park signage. However, because the park cannot legally advertise for themselves, this could be

an obstacle. Someone mentioned getting the Friends of the Park Board on board with us at some point. Perhaps someone has a “friend” they can invite to a future meeting?? The group discussed a need for unified signage for every town throughout the county. Featuring native rock and timber. Boasting solar lighting, with each sign having a medallion, sculpture, or piece of history adorning the top to represent each individual community. Ashley LaVigne mentioned a walking tour she is in the process of forming, and Ashley Korzinski suggested adding photos and articles to the historical downtown buildings, but also making them QR linked to add more enjoyment to the walking tours and other visitors. **I have seen this in Hibbing MN, I will find the photos to show the group.**

E. Geocaching was also discussed briefly. This is a topic I feel is worth being discussed further, as well as brought up in the Attract and Retain driver group.

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

G. Adjourn: 7:50pm

WHAT’S A STEWARD?

Stewards are ordinary people; people from all walks of life who care deeply about the community. Stewards are leaders who cross boundaries, take an integrated approach and build coalitions for action. They have 360-degree vision, recognizing the interdependencies between the economy, the environment and social equity. Stewards operate at the center of tough issues, not on the edges. They are risk takers. They are passionate and energetic. They are people of vision.