



Destiny Driver Team Meeting
Create a Uniformly Attractive Koochiching County and a Means to Explore It.
March 27, 2017
Minutes

Present: Nancy Rognerud, Marta Lindemanis, Doug Franchot, Ashley LaVigne, Cynthia Jaksa, Jenell Feller and Ward Merrill.

1. **Minutes** (3/6/17) – no corrections or additions. Nancy made a motion to accept the minutes. Marta seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.
2. **Voyage Forward Coalition Update** – Ward reported that the group met on March 14th. The city has hired consultants to develop a comprehensive plan. The consultants met with the Voyage Forward Coalition and reported that they had never been in a community that had done “this much leg work”, in reference to VF Vision and VF Destiny Drivers.
3. **City of International Falls Comprehensive Plan** - The City has sent out a short survey – www.envision-IF.org. It deals with annexation and zoning preferences. Doug mentioned that the average person may not have been prepared to take the survey. Many may not understand the pros and cons of annexation or zoning issues.
4. **Beautification** - The city of Littlefork will have their spring clean-up May 1-12th. They will be gathering brush, branches and leaves. They will not collect garbage. International Falls is planning to have a city-wide clean-up on June 17 and September 23rd. They will collect everything except Hazardous Waste. Big Falls usually has a clean-up day in May. They choose a day to clean-up the park, ditches, etc. Earth Day is in April and could be the impetus to plant trees, clean-up a park, etc. Ward suggested that VF promote clean-up events throughout the county.

Cynthia reported that communities are cooperatively building Solar Farms. Doug said that it was through University of Minnesota Extension. Individuals buy-in and reap rewards. Currently there is a bill to reduce energy credits allowed for using solar energy. Cynthia and Doug will do some research on Solar Farms.

Patti Ballan reported, in writing, that the city does not have an annual plan for planting trees. The city has been saving funds for future planting as needed. This year the city will plant trees along Aspen Way. The city no longer does “Boulevard Planting” at the request of residents. Patti reported that trees may be purchased as memorials and the city will plant in a

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.

location requested, if space is available. She also reported that trees can be transplanted if needed/requested. The city uses Sjobloms for this service. It was suggested that the Beautification Destiny Driver should put together a proposal for tree planning/planting. Doug and Jenell will look at this issue.

- 5. Signage** – Gateway Plan was created prior to MN DOT approval. The plan was mentioned by Mayor Anderson as recently as Thursday.

The group discussed getting welcoming signs on the main highways that enter into Koochiching County. There was also discussion of getting signs at the entrance of cities in the county. These signs would be stone, wood and metal. The signs throughout the county would be of similar design. Big Falls has an example of a sign that could be considered as a template.

Is the HWY 53 Task Force still in existence?

Is there any money available from the Scenic Byway movement?

- 6. "...and a Means to Explore it"** Ashley reported that David Woodward would be speaking at the Koochiching County Museum's Annual Meeting on May 18th at the Ranier Community Bldg. The meeting is open to all and will cost between \$20 and \$25 for the meal. Mr. Woodward will also be the guest at a "Lunch and Learn" on May 19th.

The museum is looking for pictures of the inside of downtown buildings. Go to Facebook page "International Falls – Memories of Home" to submit photographs.

The kiosk's leading to Ranier on the bike route are being worked on.

Ashley is still working on developing a downtown walking tour. She is also working with Berne Johnson and Mike Williams to develop a self-guided tour of Rainy Lake. The tour would be GPS guided from Rainy Lake to Kettle Falls and pointing out the historic sites.

Gary Kaunonen is producing "Out in the Borderland" for KCCTV.

Dan Schermerhorn is working hard to map sites of interest on Google Maps. This is a volunteer effort but an important one. It literally puts International Falls on the map.

Where do these efforts cross over with CVB efforts?

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 pm

The next meeting will be held on May 1st at 6:00 pm at Backus.

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