

Voyage Forward

Journey to Success

“Quality of Life” Destiny Driver Committee

Notes on Meeting April 7, 2016

- I. Welcome and Introductions: Attending were Diane Adams, Dianne Briggs, Tara Buller, Deb Lagen, Isaac Meyer, Danielle Schermerhorn, Ariel Schmit, Douglas Skrief
- II. Brief Review of Voyage Forward and the Quality of Life Driver.
- III. Defining “Quality of Life”: Committee participated in an exercise in imagining what “quality of life” priorities might mean for individuals of different ages from different communities in Koochiching County. Concerns ranged from good schools, health care, activities for kids and home care to summer jobs. Consideration of multiple sectors of stakeholders led to wide-ranging brainstorming.
- IV. Committee Structure and Champions Role: Committee showed consensus in supporting Douglas Skrief and Dianne Briggs as Champions with Ariel Schmit offering assistance.
- V. Outcomes: Low-hanging Fruit and Wishing on Stars: Committee members discussed a number of areas that might be given more immediate attention. Topic areas included: Potential for a Boys and Girls Club or similar drop-in center if community support warrants; Reimagining senior centers as multigenerational activity centers; Establishing an Active Living Center incorporating fitness, culture and wellness; A Community Foundation to capture current wealth in the county; An arts and Culture Commission for cities and the county; and working with Voyageurs National Park.

A growing concern over available daycare for pre-schoolers was voiced. This has serious economic impact in attracting and retaining young families to the area. Possible avenues of addressing the issue included approaching local large businesses to partner with a provider, with the business providing space and covering a minimum number of slots. Inviting GreaterMN to present to the community on related topics during the day and in the evening was suggested.

Resources included examples of community centers in Perham and Detroit Lakes; Boys and Girls Clubs there as well as Deer River. Impediments included transportation to opportunities and attitudes of protectiveness of the status quo.

- VI. Current Resources, Data, Studies: Committee will track the release of the Youth Engagement Survey to be released mid-month. Committee will consult data sources as focus is determined.
- VII. Potential Stakeholders and Stakeholder Forum: General discussion pointed to a range of potential stakeholders. The Committee members concluded that at least one more general discussion meeting of the Committee was in order before inviting stakeholders.
- VIII. Other: 1) Announcement of Wednesday April 13 Market Area Profile release at Backus Community Center from 6 to 8 p.m.; 2) Note of the “Cool and Creative Get Together” in Chisholm, an Iron Range initiative to enhance “quality of life opportunities” on April 7
- IX. Next Meeting: April 21 at 5:30 p.m. Location to be announced.