



## **Advantage Alexandria All - Stewards Meeting**

**October 9, 2008**

**7am to 8:30am - Douglas Machine**

**Attendees:** Julie Critz, Rick Banke, Tam Bukowski, Terry Quist, Greg Klepetka, Cindy Bigger, Jason Murray, Jeff Restad, Virgil Batesole, Tom Jacobson, Nancy Klepetka, Margaret Kalina, Corliss Stark, Mark Grandgenett, Tom Wacholz, Kevin Kopischke, Stan Finnestad, Reed Becker, Kris Willert, Linda Roles, Mark Illies, Pat Kalina

### **1. Team Updates:**

#### **a. Understanding Assets**

- Pat Kalina handed out the completed Community Assets report and provided a brief explanation of the work the Assets Committee had completed.

#### **b. Buzz/PE – Survey Summary**

- Jason Murray provided a brief overview of survey statistics and a handout of this information. The survey time-period has ended with a total of 1022 surveys being completed.
- The EDC staff will work on compiling some statistics based upon age/location/demographics within the survey results.

### **2. Issues of the day:**

#### **a. Should we change the name of the initiative to address the regional initiative?**

- After a discussion on the “Advantage Alexandria” name and the initial reaction that it has on people who do not connect themselves with the Alexandria community, it was decided that the group would email suggestions for different name options to Jason or Pat. Possible thoughts: Advantage Alexandria Area or Advantage Alexandria Region.

#### **b. Can we unite our region based on what we know?**

- When asked this question by Jason Murray, the group responded overwhelmingly that “Yes,” we want to unite our region – we know we have a long way to go still and there is lots of work to do.
- Discussion included the challenge of drawing more outlying people & communities into the stewardship group or conversation, and making sure that the Destiny Drivers reflect the whole region. The group felt it was important to make sure that we have 5-6 people representing Glenwood/Pope County at the Stewardship retreat on Oct. 30<sup>th</sup>.

**c. How do we move forward to address the survey issues, specifically:**

- **Wage** – Jason shared information on comparable wage rates from other regional centers throughout MN – the Alexandria area placed in the middle of most employment categories (a few on the high paying end, a few on the low paying end). The group asked if information could be gathered in relation to the cost of living and healthcare wage statistics.
- **Environment** – The group expressed concern for the maintenance of our lakes/water ways and their importance to the area.
- **Drug/Alcohol use** – A long discussion took place on the issue of drug & alcohol use throughout the region and the impact that it has on families, schools, communities, etc. As a follow-up to this discussion, multiple members agreed to pull together drug/alcohol statistics to share with the group.
- **Younger Workforce** – Pat shared brief information on a study he is in the midst of, gathering information on the average age of employees throughout the region in each industry sector. Final information and handouts will be shared at the Stewardship Retreat.

**3. Team Operations:**

- a. **All Stewards Meeting on Regional Drug/Alcohol Use: Friday October 24, 7am @ Douglas County Public Works.**
- b. **Stewardship Retreat, Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Galeon Community Living, Osakis.**

*“Stewards are more than leaders...they are special leaders who are committed to the long-term well-being of our communities. They 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**.”*