



September 18, 2008 Advantage Alexandria Stewards Meeting Minutes
Douglas County Public Works - Alexandria

Attendees: Pat Kalina, Corliss Stark, Nancy Klepetka, Greg Klepetka, Linda Roles, Tam Bukowski, Kris Willert, Kevin Kopischke, Chad Coauette, Stan Finnestad, Jason Murray, Mike Schreiner, Tom Jacobson, Tom Wacholz, Reed Becker, Ben Oleson, Rick Banke, Julie Critz, Shari Laven, Marty Schultz, Coni McKay, Mary Eaton

- **Welcome and Review of Agenda:** Kevin Kopischke
- **Discussion of upcoming meeting dates:** Jason Murray
 - o Buzz Committee + interested members survey results review: **September 30th 12:00-1:30pm @ AAEDC (lunch included)**
 - o Next large group Stewards meeting: **October 9th 7-8:30am @ Douglas Machine**
 - o Stewards retreat: **Thursday, October 30th – 9-3pm at Galeon in Osakis**
- **Team Updates:**
 - o Assets Committee:
 - The Assets committee met and received information education throughout our area from Terry Quist (Dist. 206) and Kevin Kopischke (ATC).
 - The Community Assets report will be finalized at the next Assets meeting and emailed to the entire group prior to the 10/30 meeting.
 - o Creating the Buzz/Public Engagement Committees:
 - An overview of the Glenwood meeting was given by those who attended: A successful meeting with good information exchanged about what the Alexandria area needs to do for the Glenwood area to thrive.
 - The electronic survey will remain active until the afternoon of September 26th.
 - The Chamber will send out a final Weekly Broadcast reminder to members to participate
 - ATC will soon be releasing their internal newsletter with a reminder to staff to participate
- **Issue of the day: Regional Education:**

- District 206 Highlights (Julie Critz): Julie provided the Stewards with an “Indicator” report of the successes of District 206 along with an explanation of the information
 - A group discussion followed with questions and comments about District 206 and surrounding Districts, also on comparisons with “like” communities.
- ATC Highlights (Kevin Kopischke): Kevin provided the Stewards with an overview of current ATC accomplishments and statistics along with a comparable listing of retention, graduation, and graduation & transfer rates for ATC and other 2 year institutions.
 - A group discussion followed with questions and information about the presented statistics, future construction/growth projects possible at ATC, and enrollment statistics
- **Other**
 - Topics of discussion within the group:
 - Based upon current survey results, the group thought that it was concerning that too large of a percentage of survey respondents thought that the area is not “getting better” in the areas of: Safety, Natural Environment, Economy, and A Place to Live/Raise a Family.
 - Responses could be slightly skewed based upon respondent interpretation
 - How can we address the upcoming changes in out-state MN (demographics) and how can we be proactive in planning for the survival and growth of rural/regional center communities?
 - There will be increasing responsibilities of regional center communities to support and strengthen smaller communities.
 - Marketing the area to the age demographic looking to move out of the metro area to raise a family could be beneficial
 - In relation to final survey results, what information should be distributed to the community and when?
 - The October Retreat was chosen as the time to determine what to roll out and when to begin the process.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30am