



Wednesday, March 2, 2011

7:00 am to 8:15 am

Alexandria Technical & Community College

Attendees:

Mark Grandgenett, Tam Bukowski, Marty Schultz, Todd Roth, Pat Kalina, Virgil Batesole, Sue Jung, Kris Willert, Margaret Kalina, Jason Murray, Corliss Stark, Stan Finnestad, and Tom Wacholz

AGENDA

1. December meeting feedback & Destiny Driver changes

- The group discussed the feedback given by Stewards following our December meeting which indicated a desire to let go of any Destiny Drivers without champions and to move meetings to an every-other month timeline.
- Destiny Drivers removed at this time:
 - o Access to regional out-of-school time programming.
 - o Neighborhood block parties.

2. Strategic discussion on current community challenges and issues

- The group discussed current and future issues facing the community and region and identified the following items as potential areas for the Stewards to focus on:
 - o Affordable Housing – Corliss shared that the United Way’s Community Impact Coalition has a small group focusing on this issue that may fit well with the Stewards.
 - o Homelessness in our community – Corliss shared that based upon a January survey, 81 people in our community were identified as homeless.
 - o Transportation improvements between Alexandria and Glenwood – The Glenwood leaders meeting brought this forward as an area of concern and desired improvement for the region.
 - o Local economy/economic challenges locally
 - Tourism: Keeping Alexandria on the front of visibility for events and tourism to strengthen our local economy
 - Regional air show at the Alexandria airport to increase use of the facility increase tourism
 - o Zebra Mussels – The group discussed how the Zebra Mussels infestations may overpower the efforts of stocking walleyes in our regional lakes. The idea of

having an interested Steward join the County's newly-formed Zebra Mussels Committee was discussed.

- Community Conversations: Bringing together elected officials and leaders of County, Cities, Townships, School District, ATCC, etc to discuss issues facing the community and individual entities –
 - Funding cuts/changes for municipalities and other governmentally funded entities
 - Convention Center
 - Regional airport
 - Sales Tax options for regional benefit
 - Major projects affecting multiple entities
 - Shared information and concerns from Stewards/community members
 - I-94 exit project

The group was encouraged to review these items and contact Jason or Pat with any additions or changes for the list. Please keep the following two questions in mind:

Can the Stewards play a role in these issues?

Can the Stewards act at the center of these issues?

3. League of MN Cities – Community Conversations program

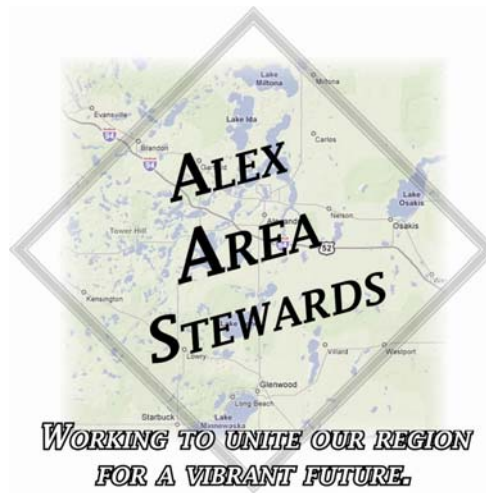
Marty Schultz shared information with the group about the League of MN Cities Community Conversations program.

- The Alexandria City Council has submitted an application to LMC to host a series of these meetings locally.
- LMC would like to meet with community groups during their regularly scheduled meetings to discuss the following items:
 - What city services should be provided
 - How city services should be delivered
 - How city services should be paid for
- Information gathered from these meetings will be utilized state-wide
- LMC would like to have a 90 minute conversation with each group – potentially at a future Stewards meeting – likely sometime in April.
- Marty will notify the group when LMC announces their selected communities for these conversations.

4. Future Stewards meeting timeline

Due to the possibility of including a League of MN Cities “Conversation” in our next meeting, a specific meeting date and time were not selected at the meeting. Following the announcement of the “Conversation” host communities, a meeting time will be emailed out to the group.

“Stewards are more than leaders...they are special leaders who are committed to the long-term well-being of our communities. Stewards cross boundaries, take an integrated approach, and build coalitions for action. They have **360 degree vision**. Stewards operate at the **center of tough issues, not on the edges**. Stewards are **risk-takers** and are **passionate and energetic**. They are **people of vision**.”



OUR SHARED DESTINY

Through collective action, the Alexandria region will be a progressive regional community, growing in prosperity while remaining true to our community values:

- An innovative community, known for its leading-edge businesses, education, and governance;
- The leading regional center in the upper Midwest for world-class, global manufacturing, especially in the areas of automation and machine control;
- A magnet for talent of all ages;
- A respected leader in the management of our natural resources;
- A welcoming community, embracing diversity of age, race, gender, creed and economic status; and
- A UNITED regional community, committed to working together toward our common destiny.

Updated Destiny Drivers – 3/2/11

Stewardship

- Form a Regional Collaborative to create a culture of cooperation and communication. **Champion: Stewards**
- Increase volunteerism region-wide by 20%.
Champion: United Way (Corliss)
- Address regional poverty by improving awareness and understanding, and by enhancing economic conditions
Champion: United Way (Jessica & Corliss)

Livability

- Enhance our existing Central Lakes Trail trailheads, in collaboration with key stakeholders, to better integrate the system as a feature of each of the connected communities.
Champion: Mark Grandgenett & Tam Bukowski
- We will consistently stock up to 500,000+ walleye fingerlings in the regional lakes on an annual basis.
Champion: Rick Paulsen

Prosperity/Economy

- The Alexandria area will establish a new industrial park by 2011.
Champion: AAEDC
- Support the startup, expansion, and growth of businesses each year in the Alexandria region.
Champion: AAEDC

Talent

- Build a new high school with a regional auditorium for Alexandria area students and communities by 2014.
Champion: Terry Quist & Julie Critz
- Regional manufacturers, economic development partners, higher education, and K-12 will create a model system for career pathways to develop, attract, and sustain a highly skilled workforce.
Champion: Chad Coquette & Kris Willert

Other Initiatives

- Douglas County Fairgrounds Taskforce
Champion: Fairgrounds Taskforce
- Affordable Housing Taskforce
Champion: