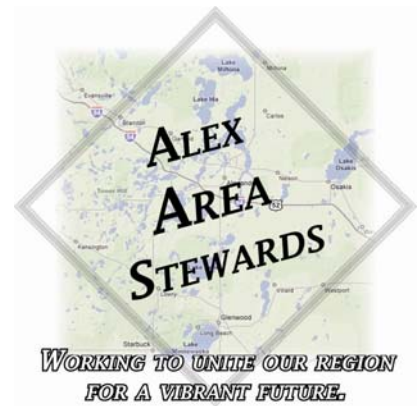


All-Stewards Meeting Notes

Tuesday, March 30, 2010

7:00 am to 8:15 am

Alexandria Technical College – Room 208



Attendees:

Chad Coquette, Todd Roth, Cindy Bigger, Tom Wacholz, Joani Neilson, Nick Andvick, Tom Jacobson, Marc Illies, Rick Banke, Linda Roles, Kris Willert, Pat Kalina, Shari Laven, Janelle Petermeier, Virgil Batesole, Julie Critz, Jason Murray, Jeff Restad, Robert McCrory, Mark Grandgenett, Nancy Klepetka, Greg Klepetka, Stan Finnestad, Anthony Zimny, Corliss Stark, Tam Bukowski, Ben Oleson, Marty Schultz

Guest Presenters:

Dale Buchholz & Dwayne Samuelson

1. Future of the Douglas County Fairgrounds (Dale Buchholz & Dwayne Samuelson)

The Douglas County Ag Association (Fair Board) will reach the end of their long term lease of portions of the Fairgrounds property in 2035 and would like to start the conversation to plan for the future of the Fair. Dale Buchholz and Dwayne Samuelson of the Fair Board presented to the Stewards to begin the conversation process and to request any assistance from the group.

The Fairgrounds is currently located on about 120 acres, portions of which are owned by Douglas County, the City of Alexandria, and Douglas County Ag Association. The majority of the Fair buildings are located on the City's property, and the Ag Association's property is located in the west parking area of the grounds. While the lease agreement with the County and City still has 25 years remaining, the Fair Board is at the point where putting up additional buildings with 40-50 year life spans will be hard to justify due to the properties uncertain future.

Cindy Bigger informed the group that the City of Alexandria's RCC Board is in the very early stages of discussing the possibility of building an events center next to the current RCC facility. Bigger suggested that the RCC Board and Fair Board should increase their communication and work together for planning.

Request for the Stewards:

The Fair Board would like Stewards to help discuss and plan for the future direction of the Douglas County Fairgrounds. They would like to gather representatives of all stakeholders and potentially have a neutral group (possibly made up of some Stewards) to help facilitate discussions on the future of the property and the Fair.

The Fair Board currently has no specific plans or desires to relocate the Fairgrounds. Other Counties have moved their Fairgrounds and it is a major undertaking and would be very expensive.

2. Destiny Driver Updates:

a. Packaging Machine Manufacturers Consortium - PMMC (Chad Coquette & Jason Murray)

PMMC is made up of 5 packaging machine manufacturing companies from throughout the region, and is working to develop an awareness for and appreciation of career opportunities in the manufacturing field. The group is working currently with ISD 206 middle school and high school students (with the hope that if the program is successful in the pilot stage it can be grown into other districts) and is working to brand the region as a knowledge cluster for packaging machine manufacturing.

b. **Central Lakes Trail Trailhead Project (Mark Grandgenett)**

The group has been adding interested individuals to their list of members and will be meeting with a high ranking representative of the MN DNR on potential funding and increased involvement by the DNR in the near future.

c. **Community Collaboration (Marty Schultz)**

A group of Blandin Leadership graduates is currently interviewing community leaders to assess what services area citizens really want their local government to provide. With budget cuts to government entities, the ability to fund all current programs is becoming more and more difficult. Attendees briefly discussed the ideas for cutting the state budget presented by the Association of MN Counties.

d. **Industrial Park Committee (Jason Murray)**

The Industrial Park Committee continues to make progress and is looking at a formal presentation to on this project to the Stewards tentatively in May or June.

e. **Neighborhood Block Parties (Tom Wacholz)**

Tom encouraged the group to get active with planning their neighborhood block parties/gatherings.

3. **May Stewards Retreat**

A May Stewardship Retreat has been tentatively scheduled for Tuesday, May 25th from 10:30-1:30pm at ATC room 208. A confirmation email and request for RSVP's will be sent out in the near future.

4. **Brandon Small Group Stewardship Meeting**

Invitations to a small group regional stewardship meeting have been mailed to about 15 Brandon area leaders. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 15th from 11-1pm at the Brandon Community Center. An email request for Stewards to attend will be sent out next week as Brandon leader RSVP's come in.

5. **Other Items:**

Cindy Bigger – U of M Extension is working on developing a pilot program to map local points of interest in Douglas County and are looking for volunteers who would be interested in helping to identify and plot these points of interest within the online program. More information will be emailed out to the Stewards.

“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**”.