

Alex Area Stewards – Spring Mini Retreat

Tuesday, May 25, 2010
Alexandria Technical College



Stewards Present:

Margaret Kalina, Chad Coquette, Kevin Kopischke, Corliss Stark, Todd Roth, Julie Critz, Linda Roles, Sue Jung, Marc Illies, Stand Finnestad, Jason Murray, Kris Willert, Nancy Klepetka, Greg Klepetka, Virgil Batesole, Ben Oleson, Rick Paulsen, Cindy Bigger, Janelle Petermeier, Terry Quist, Jeff Restad, Tam Bukowski, Reed Becker, Patrick Kalina

Special Guests/Facilitators:

Dave Hengel and Cliff Tweedale – Headwaters Regional Development Commission/Center for Community Stewardship

Overall Stewardship Initiative Discussion

- What did group members how to accomplish so far when we originally began this Stewardship initiative? (Group ranking on 1-10 scale) Detailed discussion was had on each item.
 - o Regional collaboration (3-5)
 - o Creation of a defined vision for the area (8-9)
 - o “Intentional” goals (8)
 - o Unity throughout the broader community (?)
 - o Shared conversations (3)
 - o An organization or venue where issues can be discussed (5)
 - o Address community needs/Real accomplishment (7)

Destiny Driver Review

- Stewards broke into small groups to discuss the current Destiny Drivers and to identify which Drivers to review for future activity and potential initiatives to add.
 - o Drivers to Review:
 - Assist in the startup or growth of 12 new or existing businesses:
 - Clarification on measurement tools on this Driver are needed
 - 100% access to after school programming
 - Questions of what is underway throughout the community and what accessibility challenges there are to overcome
 - Decreasing poverty for all
 - Measurements and progress questions
 - Career pathways & Workforce attraction Drivers
 - Should these two be combined into one?
 - o Potential Drivers to Add:
 - Affordable housing
 - Runestone Events Center
 - Decreasing industrial land costs for business attraction and growth
 - Community beautification
 - Ethnic/Economic Diversity
 - Regional Airport/Road Systems
 - Youth development – Economics and education (May be a component of reducing poverty)

- Current Destiny Drivers Comments:
 - After small group discussion and review, it was determined that significant progress has been and is continuing to be made on all of our Destiny Drivers. A number of people commented to the group that when they were first reviewing the Drivers their thoughts were that maybe one or two were making progress, but that after hearing from individuals directly involved they felt that great progress had been made on all.

- Recommendations and thoughts for the Cliff & Dave:
 - The Alex Area Stewards group has made great strides so far and we should be proud of what has been accomplished.
 - Celebrate the successes that have been had so far – both internally and with the community through press releases and announcements through local media sources. This will help to keep people interested and engaged.
 - The goal of the Stewardship initiative should be to move from working together in response to an incident to working together as a habit.
 - It is easy to align people on a project, but much more difficult to align them on a strategy. Successful project completion doesn't mean success in the strategy.
 - Keep overall regional collaboration to a second generation issue and focus first on building communication and collaboration within the smaller Alexandria community.
 - Be willing to work patiently on these drivers and the overall movement. It is not realistic to expect that we can accomplish everything in the short time frame that we have been working.
 - Look for leading indicators on how we can be successful and that progress is being made – don't just celebrate the accomplishments when they are done.

Future meeting information:

- Next Stewards Meeting(s)
 - Focus on the Destiny Drivers that were identified as needing to be reviewed by the group. Future meeting times will be broken down to include updates and discussions on each Driver identified as needing attention and also to have updates from Driver Champions on all Destiny Drivers.
 - Next meeting time/location will be emailed out in the near future.

- Stewards Celebration
 - Corliss Stark offered to spearhead the organization of a Stewards Celebration for late June. Information on date, time and location will be emailed out in the near future.