



Meeting Minutes – Steering Committee

Date: April 25, 2017

Time: 10:30 a.m. - Noon

Location: Prior Lake City Hall

Steering Committee Members:

Kirt Briggs	X	Jamie Thelen	X	Bethany Tjornhom	X
Jon Ulrich		Jane Victorey	X	Jane Wiley	X

Working Group Chairs:

Mike Waldo (H)		Bob Coughlen (H)	X	Darren Kermes (W)	
Michelle Choudek (W)	X	Kami Thompson (E)	X	Bob Crawford (T)	X
Josh Johnson (T)	X				

Staff Members:

Tracy Cervenka	X	Brad Davis		Lisa Freese	X
Jake Grussing	X	Kathy Nielsen		Barb Dahl (W)	X
Brad Larson (T)	X				

Discussion of Questions:

- If this effort were to solve the issues of one demographic group, which demographic would have the biggest positive impact on the sustained economic vitality of the County?
- Should the project be realigned to focus on one or more demographic group?
- If so, how could that realignment be structured?

The group discussed these items, including the following points:

- Housing Work Group felt that birth-5 and the 18-24 age groups would be a good community effort;
- Focusing on the youngest kids, getting them ready to read would be most effective long-term. Could also have a focus on 18-24 year olds;
- The Workforce Development Group felt that data patterns indicate 15-24 year olds would be a good group – and would touch people across all economics;
- Even if a segment/demographic becomes the focus, that the initiative would not exclude others – any opportunity that arises would be considered;

Scott County is a place where people are stable, connected, educated, and contributing

- Focusing on one demographic will eventually show a rippling effect;
- This would be an opportunity to specialize rather than commoditize;
- If there is a focus, would need to keep in mind the branding of continuous improvement;
- Focusing on one demographic brings a huge opportunity to involve the community;
- Focusing on young families also affects young kids;
- There is benefit to looking collectively at one segment of the population to begin to make incremental changes in the community;
- If do focus on one segment, be clear this is the FIRST focus;
- Suggestion to identify three so can see the plan;
- If focus on one group – make it clear it is a focus, not to exclude others;
- Need to think about how it would look – to bring all together to discussion 18-24 year olds;
- The Work Groups, other than Transportation, feel they understand where their biggest needs are.

Jake summarized the discussion, saying there does not seem to be a consensus at this time.

Letters of Support:

The group reviewed and discussed the request for a letter of support for Work at Youth Competitive Grant and the Housing Tax Credit Program from the Steering Committee. There was discussion on the authority and need for the Steering Committee to be nimble enough to respond to such requests. There was consensus to approve signing of both letters.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 23 from 10:30-Noon.