

**SPECIAL BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE
CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM
JULY 15, 2013
4:30 P.M.**

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. CONSENT AGENDA
 - A. Minutes (page 1)
- III. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. 2014 Budget – to be distributed at the meeting
 - 1. Crow River Trail Guards (page 2)
 - 2. Aquatic Invasive Species
 - 3. Initiative Foundation (page 5)
- IV. OLD BUSINESS
- V. INFORMATIONAL
- VI. ADJOURN

*****Please contact Renee Eckerly if you can't attend the meeting.*****

Voting Members: Jean Soine, Belinda Ludwig, Elliot LaBeau, Kay McDaniel, and Renee Eckerly.

This agenda has been prepared to provide information regarding an upcoming meeting of the Paynesville Budget & Finance Committee. This document does not claim to be complete and is subject to change.

BARRIER FREE: All Paynesville Budget & Finance Committee meetings are accessible to the handicapped. Attempts will be made to accommodate any other individual need for special services. Please contact City Hall (320) 243-3714 early, so necessary arrangements can be made.

REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE/COUNCIL ACTION

COMMITTEE/COUNCIL NAME: Budget & Finance Committee

Committee/Council Meeting Date: July 15, 2013

Agenda Section: Consent Agenda

Originating Department: Administration

Item Number: III - A

ITEM DESCRIPTION: Minutes

Prepared by: Staff

COMMENTS:

Please review the attached minutes from the February 19, 2013 Special Budget & Finance Committee meeting. The minutes will be emailed out prior to or distributed at the meeting.

ADMINISTRATOR COMMENTS:

COMMITTEE/COUNCIL ACTION:

Motion to approve the minutes from the February 19, 2013 Special Budget & Finance Committee meeting.

CROW RIVER TRAIL GUARDS

327 Augusta Avenue
Paynesville, MN 56362
320-250-0464
tom@trailguards.org

".....a profound program that touches the lives of youth, its community, and it works."

Dear Renee Eckerly,

Last year the Trail Guards was fortunate enough to gain awareness from the Gala, thrown by the Community Foundation. We were also selected to participate in a study conducted by a graduate program at UMD which evaluated our structure and goals, to see if we are accomplishing what our goal and mission are. Proudly, the results were quite positive.

One of the students who evaluated the majority of the data wrote the following in a letter:

We all have a chance to be part of something bigger. There is not much that holds truer to this than being part of the Crow River Trail Guards. The more I learned about the Trail Guards through the evaluation, the more I believed in the value of the program. To the point that when the project wasn't completed by the end of the semester, I volunteered to stay involved to see the evaluation through, pouring myself into the world of the Trail Guards. I am honored to share their stories and provide evidence to the effectiveness of the program and what it brings to the community of Paynesville.

The data I reviewed for the evaluation was from focus group interviews, and open ended questionnaires directed to: community members, participants, their parents, as well as past participants. After we had gathered the information, I analyzed the data to find what outcomes were being achieved as a result of participation in the Trail Guards. The results were impressive. Participation contributed to the following outcomes in its youth participants:

- * environmental awareness, sensitivity and connectedness*
- * place attachment*
- * procedural knowledge in park/trail stewardship*
- * self-awareness of personal skills and strengths*
- * increase in participants self-worth and self esteem*
- * personal and social self-efficacy*
- * sense of belonging and acceptance*
- * team work and cooperation*
- * problem solving*
- * sense of community and civic responsibilities*



After discovering that the Trail Guards was achieving these outcomes, I reflected on how remarkable it is that this program started with the basic idea – connecting kids with the outdoors, by cleaning and protecting the nature trail. This program is molded to the needs of its youth participants and finds success as a result.

For participants, this program has meant new experiences – maintaining a park, meeting new people, learning new skills, working to achieve goals, bike and canoe trips as well as having an opportunity to travel to a foreign country.

For their parents, it has meant observing their children finding a love for the outdoors and seeing them become more outgoing and developing a sense of self-confidence.

For community members, it has meant witnessing examples of the positive impact the program has on these young kids, as well as watching the beautification of what used to be a run down, over grown park which the community can enjoy again.

This program is truly a treasure to the community of Paynesville. Not only does it benefit the youth participants, it also benefits the entire community. Through the evaluation, I saw the impact on the kids, and the significance that the nature park has for its community through its use for graduation photos, walking dogs, and community events.

As an evaluator, I learned from participants, their parents, and community members, what Trail Guards truly means to the people it reaches. I learned that what started as a simple thought to get a project done, can be built up to what it is today; a profound program that touches the lives of its participants and its community, and it works!

I feel honored to have been a small part of something much, much bigger.

Jessamy Schwartz

Master of Environmental Education Candidate - UMD

As you can see, Trail Guards is indeed successful in accomplishing its desired outcomes for the young participants, as well as providing a treasured natural recreation area for our community. Whether you are a longtime supporter, are just learning of our program, or fall somewhere in-between, please send a donation so we can continue the good work with the kids—as well as the community.

Your contributions are honestly and deeply appreciated.

Sincerely,

Crow River Trail Guards Board

“I made a difference; I learned what tiny things someone does can change something bigger.” - Past Participant of Crow River Trail Guards

www.trailguards.org

From a 2011 Paynesville Press *Trail Guard* Column:

There is one thing that has become so routine no one really notices except me. It's something that sets the stage for a successful morning, and means much more than it might appear. I'm referring to the initial morning greeting.

I'm not talking about our "opening circle," a time for officially getting things started in an orderly fashion. That's when we talk about our rules, lay out the morning plans, make announcements, and give each child a voice and identity as they introduce themselves and answer the "question of the day."

This is before all that. For years I've made a special point of greeting each and every person who shows up--moving around the tables and through the group, waiting for that moment between the chatter, making direct eye contact, greeting each by name, and making at least one positive comment or asking at least one question certain to bring a positive response.

It's not about a generic "hello." It's about honoring each and every child and adult who comes to us. It's not about praising them for some great achievement or being full of energy and vigor, for scoring the winning run in softball, or for doing or being anything special at all. It's about acknowledging each one of them unconditionally as a living, breathing individual who comes to us with their own joys, trials, accomplishments, fears, challenges, and secrets that are no less important than our own. Tom Koshiol

----- cut here please -----

Yes! I support the Trail Guard mission, and your commitment to youth, community, and the outdoors.

Comments:

\$1000 \$500 \$250 \$100 \$50 \$ _____ Other

Name _____ Address _____

City, State _____ Phone Number _____

Please Include Your Email Address _____

Please take me off your mailing list.

How could youths better learn to live than by at once trying the experiment of living?"
Henry David Thoreau

4



Renee Eckerly
City of Paynesville
221 Washburne Ave
Paynesville MN 56362-1642

June 28, 2013

JUL - 1 2013

Dear Ms. Eckerly and members of the Paynesville City Council,

Your partnership and support is beyond important to us. It's essential. As you know, the Initiative Foundation directs all of its resources to stimulate business growth, quality jobs, and a climate for economic success in Central Minnesota. We see many positive signs in the regional economy, and we believe that 2014 will be a prime year for business start-up, expansion and hiring.

In pursuit of those goals, we are maintaining a laser-sharp focus in our community investments:

- *Proactive efforts that engage leaders to solve problems and capitalize on opportunities*
- *Smart programs that help nonprofits achieve financial stability and greater effectiveness*
- *Well-timed loans that help companies expand operations and add living-wage jobs*
- *Targeted grants that support quality of life amenities and workforce development*

Next year, we will invest more than \$3.5 million in local efforts that benefit hometowns across the region. The City of Paynesville has made significant financial investments to the Foundation since 1997, and we are again asking for your continued support.

We respectfully request a renewal of your annual contribution by allocating \$100.00 to the Initiative Foundation in your 2014 budget.

As you know, the Initiative Foundation is a sound financial investment with a measurable ROI. For every local dollar contributed, the Foundation has returned \$8.67 back to Stearns County in grants, business loans and scholarships. See the enclosed fact sheet for examples of local impact.

After your budget is finalized, could you please return the tear-off card below in the enclosed envelope? Again, thank you for your continued support of our work in the City of Paynesville and throughout Central Minnesota. Please contact us anytime with questions or to request a staff presentation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Gaalswyk".

Kathy Gaalswyk
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Kilian".

Matt Kilian
Vice President for External Relations



ifound.org
320.632.9255

405 First Street SE
Little Falls, MN 56345

Equal Opportunity Lender,
Provider, and Employer

Initiative
Foundation
at work in

STEARNS COUNTY

Our Mission: Unlock the power of central Minnesota people to build and sustain thriving communities.



\$1.6 MILLION
in local donations to the Initiative Foundation.

\$13.8 MILLION
returned to Stearns County in
grants, loans, and scholarships.

Return on Investment

For every local dollar contributed, the Initiative Foundation has invested **\$8.67** back into Stearns County. All endowment contributions are matched by The McKnight Foundation.

Economic Impact 1986 to present

- Awarded 747 grants totaling **\$5.1 million**
- 138 loans totaling **\$8.6 million**
- Secured **2,102 quality jobs**
- Leveraged **\$36.4 million** in private business financing



Initiative
FOUNDATION

405 First Street SE
Little Falls, MN 56345
ifound.org | 320.632.9255

STEARNS COUNTY INVESTMENT HIGHLIGHTS

For a full listing of Initiative Foundation investments in Stearns County, contact us at 877.632.9255.

Grants Thriving Economy, Thriving Communities

Anderson Center, St. Cloud	Management training for business leaders
BestPrep, Greater St. Cloud	Business mentorship & financial literacy for students
Boys & Girls Clubs of Central MN, St. Cloud	Career development program
Casa Guadalupe Multicultural Community, Cold Spring	Latina entrepreneur program
City of Avon	Water quality improvement through stormwater filtration
City of Cold Spring	Transportation planning
City of Eden Valley	Community center/library improvements & business retention/expansion
City of St. Cloud	Cultural diversity site
Communities Connecting Cultures	Staffing support for cultural liaison
Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation	Workforce development program
Junior Achievement, St. Cloud	Entrepreneur education & mentorship for students
St. Cloud Area Family YMCA	Feasibility study for aquatic center
Stearns-Benton Employment & Training Council	National Career Readiness Certification (NCRC)

Business Financing Local Ownership, Quality Jobs

Automotive Parts Solutions, Rockville	Automotive parts supplier; 15 initial jobs
Concept Processing, LLC, Melrose	Hormone-free dairy processing; 4 initial jobs
DeZurik, St. Cloud (equity investment)	Water valve manufacturing; 416 initial jobs
eBureau, St. Cloud	Data & analytics provider; 35 initial jobs
Green Power Technology, LLC, Waite Park	Winter concrete technology; 8 initial jobs
HealthNorth Medical Supply, Cold Spring	Retail home health care; 6 initial jobs
Little Saints Day Care, St. Joseph	Childcare center; 10 initial jobs
MicroBiologics, Inc., St. Cloud (equity investment)	Microorganisms for laboratory testing; 74 initial jobs
Multiple Concepts Interiors, Inc., Waite Park	Home flooring, lighting & decor retailer; 4 initial jobs
Netgain, St. Cloud	Healthcare technology provider; 24 initial jobs
RotoChopper, St. Martin	Industrial grinding & chipping equipment
Two Rivers, Holdingford	Custom stainless steel manufacturing; 41 initial jobs
Willow Tea, St. Cloud	Tea shop & military uniform alterations; 2 initial jobs

Charitable Funds Activating Generosity

Big Fish Lake Association Fund | Edeburn Family Fund | Granite Equity Partners Fund | Jane & Patrick Mitchell Foundation | Nicholas P. Koenig H.E.R.O. Foundation | THRIVE Fund (early childhood mental health) | Birch Lake Endowment Fund

Community Action The Power of Partnership

Engaged citizens in strategic planning and awarded grants to improve quality of life, economic vitality, and opportunities for families. Cities include St. Cloud, St. Martin, Avon, Eden Valley, Holdingford, Cold Spring, Sartell, Belgrade, Kimball, St. Joseph, Melrose, Rockville, and Paynesville.

Regionally trained leaders from 363 nonprofit organizations in effective management and financial sustainability, including Rural Stearns Faith in Action, African Women's Alliance, Opportunity Manor and Helping Hands.

Assisted 20 lake associations to develop

management plans and awarded grants to address water quality, invasive species, shoreland restoration and septic systems.

Formed coalitions in Melrose, St. Cloud and Sartell to improve early childhood care and education, including the Thrive Coalition for children's mental health.

Placed full-time VISTA (a national service program to help reduce poverty) members within nonprofits including Casa Guadalupe, Anna Marie's Alliance, Kids Against Hunger, Central MN Re-Entry Project, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Minnesota and Stearns-Benton

Employment & Training.

Assisted in launching Greater St. Cloud Community Priorities and the Greater St. Cloud Development Corporation, focusing on business recruitment and expansion.

Worked with St. Cloud Neighborhood Association to engage residents and revitalize core neighborhoods.

Partnered with St. Cloud State University to support Small Business Development Centers and launch a Microlending Fund to provide start-up capital to entrepreneurs.

