

City of Ramsey
Agenda
City Council Work Session
Tuesday February 21, 2012
Immediately following Public Works
Lake Itasca Room 7550 Sunwood Drive NW

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Topics for Discussion**
 1. Consider Participation in the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Program
 2. Consideration of Membership in Twin Cities Gateway Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB)
- 3. Future Topics for Discussion - *See Attached Calendar***
 1. Review Future Topics/Work Session Calendar
- 4. Mayor/Council/Staff Input**
- 5. Adjournment**

CC Work Session

2. 1.

Meeting Date: 02/21/2012

By: Patrick Brama, Administrative Services

Title:

Consider Participation in the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Program

Background:

Staff had the opportunity to meet with Master Sergeant David Denton on Friday February 10th regarding establishing a Beyond the Yellow Ribbon (BTYR) program for service members and their families in the Ramsey community. In short, BTYR aims to organize and market resources available for U.S. service members and their families to include prayer groups, available meeting spaces, gift package programs, discounted or donated services, etc.

The proposed Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program would be a multi-city program that would include the cities of Ramsey, Anoka, Andover, and Champlin. City participation would include:

- Assistance in coordinating a kick-off event for the program (tentatively scheduled for late March, location TBD)
- Assistance from the City communicating the kick-off event to the various local businesses and organizations
- General support from the City via the use of meeting rooms, communication mediums, and council members willing to speak at various events

Master Sergeant David Denton, United States Army, will be present at the work session to discuss the BTYR program and provide more detail regarding the kick-off event.

Attached to this case is a document that provides additional background on the BTYR program.

Notification:

NA

Observations:

NA

Recommendation:

NA

Funding Source:

Limited staff time and administrative services budgets for production of communication materials.

Council Action:

Consider and direct staff with regard to participation in this new multi-city Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program.

Attachments

Beyond The Yellow Ribbon

Form Review

Inbox	Reviewed By	Date
Kurt Ulrich	Amy Dietl	02/16/2012 03:55 PM
Heidi Nelson	Heidi Nelson	02/16/2012 04:22 PM
Patrick Brama	Patrick Brama	02/16/2012 04:28 PM

Form Started By: Patrick Brama Started On: 02/16/2012 03:31 PM

Final Approval Date: 02/16/2012



Beyond the Yellow Ribbon

Deployment Cycle Support Fact Sheet

Sep 16, 2011

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is a comprehensive program that creates awareness for the purpose of connecting Servicemembers and their families with community support, training, services and resources.

We do this by:

1. Creating awareness through the Yellow Ribbon Community Campaign and synchronizing sustainable community support networks.
2. Connecting and coordinating organizations, agencies, and companies to provide resources and support to Servicemembers and their families.
3. Delivering a series of formal Yellow Ribbon Training events to Servicemembers and their families before, during and after deployment.
4. Providing an opportunity for Minnesotans to support Servicemembers and their families.

Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is united to bring Servicemembers all the way home.

The Yellow Ribbon Community Campaign is made up of the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Network and the Yellow Ribbon Recognition Program.

- Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Network: Sustainable relationship between military personnel and key community leaders, resource providers and volunteers within defined areas throughout the community that provide locally accessible resources that meet baseline needs.
- Yellow Ribbon Recognition Program: Governor's recognition program to recognize communities who create action plans, throughout defined areas within the community, which demonstrate sustainable commitment to Servicemembers and Military Family Members.
 - Yellow Ribbon outreach is designed to increase the awareness of the challenges Servicemembers and especially, families face as a result of the deployments. Minnesota does not have a large military presence and the facilities and services that are available on active duty installations are not available to our veterans.
 - To meet the needs of Servicemembers and families, many communities are organizing their efforts.
 - A common theme is that Minnesotans want to support the troops but don't know how. The Yellow Ribbon Outreach creates awareness and creates a network of support within the community. In so doing, all Minnesotans have the opportunity to serve.
 - The gateway to find your local Yellow Ribbon Network is through a Family Assistance Center. All location information is at: <http://www.btyr.org/family-assistance-centers>
 - After September 16, 2011, 95 entities will have been proclaimed Yellow Ribbon individually or as a group. Included in that total are: 71 cities, 15 companies, and 8 counties.
 - December 2008 Farmington became Minnesota's first Yellow Ribbon City.
 - Marvin Windows and Target Corporation became Minnesota's first Yellow Ribbon Corporations in June, 2009, 3M became a Yellow Ribbon Corporation in September, 2009.
 - On January 5, 2010 -13 more entities became Yellow Ribbon...
 - Yellow Ribbon Cities: Hugo, Stillwater, Woodbury.
 - Yellow Ribbon Counties: Washington, Isanti.
 - Yellow Ribbon Churches: North Heights Lutheran Church, Arden Hills; St. John Neumann, Eagan.
 - Yellow Ribbon Companies: Cub, Stillwater; Disabled Veterans Rest Camp of Washington County, Hugo; Baskfield and Associates, Rogers; Faelon Partners LTD/ Today's Business Radio LLC, Golden Valley; Minnesota State Colleges and Universities, headquartered in St. Paul and on 32 public colleges and universities on 54 campuses across Minnesota.
 - Yellow Ribbon Campus: Rasmussen College.
 - July 2010, in a private Welcome Home Ceremony, Montevideo was proclaimed.

– On September 22, 2010 -18 more proclamations representing 35 entities.

-Yellow Ribbon Cities: Community partnership of Bayport, Bayport Township, Oak Park Heights, and West Lakeland Township; Central MN Consortium (Cold Spring, Richmond, Rockville, Sartell, Sauk Rapids, St. Augusta, St. Cloud, St. Joseph, and Waite Park); Crookston; Duluth; Hastings; Lake Elmo; Lakeville; Mahtomedi; Spring Lake Park; South St. Paul; Willmar.

-Yellow Ribbon Counties: Brown County; Southeast MN (Olmsted Co. and Rochester)

-Yellow Ribbon Companies: Capella University; Dakota County Technical College; Globe University/ MN School of Business; Rochester Community and Technical College; St. Cloud State University

– On August 23, 2011, eight more proclamations representing 13 entities.

-Yellow Ribbon Cities: Cottage Grove, Eagan, Inver Grove Heights, Lower St Croix Valley (Afton, Lakeland, Lakeland Shores, Lake St. Croix Beach, St. Mary's Point), Rosemount, Richfield, Plymouth

- Yellow Ribbon Company: Inver Hills Community College

– On August 31, 2011, three more proclamations representing 9 entities.

-Yellow Ribbon Cities: Albert Lea, Owatonna and Winona Region (Goodview, Lewiston, Minnesota City, Rollingstone, St. Charles, Utica, Winona and Winona County)

– On September 11, 2011 the city of Marshall are proclaimed a Yellow Ribbon City.

– On September 16, 2011 the Counties of Jackson, Martin and Watonwan, and all the cities within them are proclaimed Yellow Ribbon. Cities include: Jackson Co.; Alpha, Jackson, Heron Lake, Lakefield, Okabena and Wilder. Martin Co.; Ceylon, Dunnell, Fairmont, Granada, Northrop, Ormsby, Sherburn, Trimont, Truman and Welcome. Watonwan Co; Butterfield, Darfur, St. James, La Salle, Lewisville, Madelia and Odin

– Metropolitan Council proclaimed Yellow Ribbon Company on Nov. 9, 2011 at their council meeting.

– Dozens of Communities are working towards becoming Yellow Ribbon

The Beyond the Yellow Ribbon Wellness – readily available, confidential resources for service members and families.

- Programs under the umbrella include; Family Assistance Centers, Military Family Care Initiative, MN National Guard Youth Programs, Operation Military Kids, Military Family Life Counselors, Military One Source, Transition Assistant Advisors, Medical Transition Assistant Coordinator, the American Red Cross, Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Strong Bonds Enrichment Retreats, State Family Programs and unit Family Readiness Support Assistants.
- Other resources provided include; community outreach, building employment partnerships, education for service members on employment tactics and opportunities, information on benefits like education and grants, connection to military family events and outings.

Yellow Ribbon Training Servicemembers and Families

- Minnesota initiated the Yellow Ribbon Reintegration events based on MG Larry Shellito's vision that this generation of veterans should be treated with respect and have resources available to assist them in their transition from war to a civilian life and career. This vision was the inspiration for the national law. Minnesota has developed a comprehensive program which addresses the needs of service members and families before, during and after deployments.
- We welcome Service Members and families from all components to participate in our events.
 - Training includes; Family Preparation Academies, Family Reintegration Academies, Initial Reintegration for service members, 30-day and 60-day Reintegration for service members and families, and 90-day and, new in Oct. 2009 - one year training for service members.

Information is available at www.BeyondTheYellowRibbon.org or by calling 651-282-3825.



Beyond the Yellow Ribbon

Q & A that come into DCS

Oct 27, 2011 last updated

Q: I want the address of a Servicemember to send a care package to?

A: We cannot give out names/ addresses of Minnesota Servicemembers at home or deployed. If you'd like to support the troops, go to www.BeyondTheYellowRibbon.org, and click on the Make a Difference banner on the home page. Click the flyer to get several ideas of how you can help military families here in Minnesota, as well as those deployed.

Q: How can I support the deployed troops?

A: Ask a Servicemember what he/she needs while deployed, they'll tell you take care of my family. Go to www.BeyondTheYellowRibbon.org, and click on the Make a Difference banner on the home page. Click the flyer to get several ideas of how you can help military families here in Minnesota, as well as those deployed. You can also contact your local Family Assistance Center to get networked with your local Yellow Ribbon network.

Q: How do I learn about events & deals for military families?

A: Go to www.BeyondTheYellowRibbon.org and click on the big yellow "join our mailing list" button. Sign up to receive updates on events & deals, and mid week, each week you'll be emailed what is coming up for military families that weekend. To see a complete list of all events & deals schedule for the next several months visit: www.BeyondTheYellowRibbon.org/events-a-deals.

Q: Can I place an event or deal on the events & deals page?

A: If your event or deal is for military families or veterans, and is for a specific date or time frame, email a flyer or website link with all the details and contact information to patrick.loch@us.army.mil or dajon.schafer@us.army.mil. If your discount is general, and long lasting (for example 10% off all tickets all year), register your discount on the Military Family Care Initiative website. Go to www.BeyondTheYellowRibbon.org and click on the Military Family Care Initiative on the home page.

Q: How can I volunteer my services?

A: Go to www.BeyondTheYellowRibbon.org and you'll see the "Make a Difference" banner on the home page, click the flyer. The flyer will instruct you in signing up for the Military Family Care Initiative and how to let your area Family Assistance Center know that you are willing to volunteer.

Q: How can I find my local Yellow Ribbon Network?

A: Go to www.BeyondTheYellowRibbon.org and you'll see the "Join a Yellow Ribbon network in your area button." You can also contact your local Family Assistant Center, which will be well aware of networks as they emerge throughout the state.

Q: What is the Yellow Ribbon Community Campaign?

A: Yellow Ribbon Community Campaign is designed to increase the awareness of the challenges Servicemembers and families face as a result of deployments. The campaign calls for Counties, Cities and Companies to ask themselves, "What can I do to support military families in my immediate community?", and then to create a sustainable Action Plan. As Yellow Ribbon entities are proclaimed across the state, we are building 'Fort Minnesota'

By the end of the year more than one hundred entities will be proclaimed Yellow Ribbon, recognizing their support to Servicemembers and their families.

Q: How come I don't qualify for a deal on your events & deals page? Is Beyond the Yellow Ribbon just for Guard members?

A: While Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is funded primarily by the National Guard, BTYR is inclusive organization and works very hard to invite all branches to our reintegration events and share events and deals from hundreds of supporters for all military families in MN. Occasionally, some of the organizations that we share information on have their own set of eligibility criteria they need to follow.

Q: What is the timeline for the starting of BTYR?

A: 2005 – Adjutant General, Major General Larry Shellito says he doesn't want returning Guard Servicemembers to feel like he did coming home from Vietnam, hires Chaplain Morris.
2006 Jan- Reintegration events begin
2008 June– Minnesota is first state to sign "The Minnesota Military Family and Community Covenant"
2008 Dec – Farmington is proclaimed the first Yellow Ribbon City
2009 June – First Yellow Ribbon Companies are proclaimed

Q: I'm a veteran/ Servicemember looking for a job where do I start?

A: Start at the MN Workforce Center. Veterans have priority of service. There are resources available to help identify career goals, create resumes, and improve interview and network skills to prepare for employment. Visit www.positivelyminnesota.com to connect with your local MN Workforce Center.

In order to establish your goals and plans another initial step is to complete a GPS LifePlan. The MyMilitary GPS LifePlan helps veterans and Servicemembers set goals and design plans that will lead them to the success they desire. www.gpslifeplan.org/mnscumilitary

Both resources can be found at : www.BeyondTheYellowribbon.org/employment-search-programs.

Q: We'd like to hire a veteran, where do we get our job posting listed?

A: MinnesotaWorks.net and Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces are inclusive resources for employers and Servicemembers looking for new employment opportunities. You can link to them and other avenues that promote veteran employment at: www.BeyondTheYellowribbon.org/employment-search-programs.

MinnesotaWorks.net: A system operated by the Minnesota Department of Employment & Economic Development (DEED) for job seekers who want to connect. Veterans looking for jobs can post their resume for employers to review, and also browse upwards of 60,000 job openings listed by validated employers. Veterans can use MN Workforce Centers to get help with resume writing and networking. MN Workforce Centers - jim.finley@state.mn.us

Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces: Created to provide America's employers with a direct link to some of America's finest employees - Servicemembers and their

families. Through this partnership, Servicemembers can leverage their military training and experience for career opportunities in today's civilian job market with national, regional and local employer partners. Employer Partnership of the Armed Forces- renee.chase1@usar.army.mil

Q: I'd like to make a donation. Can I do this online?

A: Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is a government organization, we do not accept donations.

There are many nonprofits around the state that support our mission. I would recommended donating to any one of the fine organizations listed at: www.btyr.org/organizations-that-help

There are also several Yellow Ribbon networks that are established as 501C3 nonprofits in communities to include Washington Co. and the city of Hugo. You can link to them through our website: www.btyr.org/yellow-ribbon-community-campaign

Q: How can cities get signage for Yellow Ribbon events?

A: The YROC or local unit can request Yellow Ribbon banners through VIOS, (instructions in the community outreach folder on sharepoint). Make sure the art is 'generic' enough to use for more than one event.

Each FAC has a community kit that is available for events. It includes a table cloth and 3 event banners that pitch YRRP & FACs.

There is also one 10' x 15' BTYR canopy tent that will be available for checkout from DCS supply.

If you want to purchase your own things recommend there are a couple resources that DCS has used www.BeyondTheYellowRibbon.org/yellow-ribbon-community-campaign

Q: What is TAG's intent with Beyond the Yellow Ribbon ?

A: Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is one of the Adjutant General's top six priorities. The ultimate objective of Beyond the Yellow Ribbon is to improve the wellness and resiliency of service members, their employers and military family members. We will do this by building and maintaining partnerships with civilian and governmental agencies and leveraging those relationships in providing the best service, training and support to our service members and military families. Finally, we will increase the military service member and their family's awareness of Federal, State and local resources available to them during periods of deployment and reintegration.

CC Work Session

2. 2.

Meeting Date: 02/21/2012

By: Aaron Backman, Administrative
Services

Title:

Consideration of Membership in Twin Cities Gateway Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB)

Background:

During the last two months the Economic Development/Marketing Manager has been having discussions with Scott Davy, the new General Manager for the Ramsey Comfort Suites, regarding the City of Ramsey joining the local convention and visitors bureau or CVB. Destination marketing organizations, such as CVBs, promote a city or region in order to increase the number visitors and thereby increase the economic activity of the area. Currently over 100 communities in Minnesota are members of a CVB.

The Twin Cities Gateway is a CVB that markets 9 communities and 22 hotel properties in the northern portion of the Minneapolis-St. Paul metropolitan area (See attached website map). Twin Cities Gateway or TCG's website is www.tcgateway.com. Its legal name is Minnesota Metro North Tourism Board and its d/b/a is Twin Cities Gateway. In 2008 a number of the communities east of the Mississippi River broke away from the Visit Minneapolis North CVB to form their own organization. They wanted to focus more narrowly on tourism and do so with less administrative costs. The idea was to create a non-profit corporation, funded by the local option lodging tax, that would market the region's strengths: sports venues (e.g. the National Sports Center or NSC), convention space and proximity to outdoor amenities and the Twin Cities. The aim is to draw leisure and business travelers who will take lodging in the member cities' hotels and spend their travel dollars in restaurants and entertainment venues.

Today the Twin Cities Gateway CVB represents the communities of Anoka, Blaine, Coon Rapids, Fridley, Ham Lake, Lino Lakes, Mounds View, New Brighton, and Shoreview. Its \$650,000 budget is funded by a 3 percent sales tax collected by the 22 lodging properties. Those funds are forwarded on to the member cities and then transmitted (less a 5% administrative fee for the city) on to TCG. Another financial benefit for the member cities is a yearly amount (currently \$2,000, plus a proportionate amount based on lodging tax revenue) provided for any local festival selected by the City Council (such as Happy Days).

TCG focuses more on tourism and sports destination and less on the meeting & convention segment. It operates on a much more lean manner than other local CVBs. Whereas other CVBs may spend 50 to 70% of their resources on administrative overhead, TCG allocates only 25% on overhead. The lionshare of TCG's resources is used for marketing activities, such as Internet ads, online social media apps, regional destination marketing, etc. Fewer resources are allocated for hard-copy visitors' guides since 70+% of visitors get their information online.

Being a member of the CVB would allow for the City of Ramsey to expand its promotion of events (e.g. Game Fair), venues (e.g. Fountains of Ramsey, The Links at North Fork Golf Course, Rum River Hills Golf Course), unique resources (e.g. Rum River Central Regional Park and Mississippi West Regional Park), and to do so in a cost effective way. Attached are samples of TCG promotion on its website.

From a practical standpoint, by being a member of Twin Cities Gateway, Comfort Suites would not have to pay rebates or commissions to the NSC (non-member hotel properties have to pay a 10% commission). Since the NSC is the world's largest amateur athletic complex and receives millions of visitors a year, Comfort Suites sees an opportunity to pick up sports-related overnight stays. In summary, membership in TCG appears to be a benefit for the hotel, the City's festival, and overall marketing efforts for the City of Ramsey.

Recommendation:

The EDA considered the City of Ramsey's membership in the Twin Cities Gateway CVB at its February 9th regular meeting. On a 6-1 vote the EDA is recommending to the City Council that it consider and approve membership in the Twin Cities Gateway CVB. Staff recommends that the City Council consider membership in Twin Cities Gateway and direct staff to develop a draft Ordinance for future consideration.

Funding Source:

In 1983, the Minnesota Legislature passed the Local Option Tax. The law was passed such that 95% of all proceeds from a local option lodging tax must be used to fund a local convention or visitors bureau for the purpose of "marketing and promoting the area as a tourism or convention area." The remaining 5% could be retained by the taxing authority for its administrative costs.

Any community desiring to join Twin Cities Gateway, is required to adopt a lodging tax (up to 3.0%). This is a statewide requirement for any city wishing to join any CVB organization. This would be added to the current sales tax paid by customers. Both management and the owners of the Comfort Suites are supportive of the City joining the CVB and implementing this revenue change (See attached letter). It is estimated that this would generate approximately \$24,000 based upon last year's gross revenues. Following discussions with the City Attorney, implementing the lodging tax would not require a public hearing, but would require adoption of an ordinance by the City Council. A simple majority of the Twin Cities Gateway Board of Directors must also approve the admission of the City of Ramsey into the CVB (See attached by-laws and Board Directory).

Council Action:

City Council consider membership in Twin Cities Gateway and direct staff to develop a draft Ordinance for future consideration.

Attachments

- [Comfort Suites Letter](#)
 - [Twin Cities Gateway Website](#)
 - [CVB Community Info](#)
 - [CVB Sample Community Info](#)
 - [CVB By-Laws 1.18.11](#)
 - [CVB Board of Directors](#)
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Form Review

Inbox
Kurt Ulrich

Reviewed By
Jo Thieling

Date
02/16/2012 04:36 PM
Started On: 02/16/2012 02:26 PM

Form Started By: Aaron Backman

Final Approval Date: 02/16/2012



BY CHOICE HOTELS

February 8, 2012

Aaron Backman
Economic Development/
Marketing Manager
City of Ramsey

Aaron,

My name is Scott Davy. I am the new General Manager of the Comfort Suites in Ramsey, MN. I have been in the hotel industry for the past 15 years and most recently as the General Manager for two properties in Austin, MN. While in Austin, I served on the Board of Directors for the Austin Convention & Visitors Bureau (CVB).

As a GM, one of the key decisions that can significantly help the future of Comfort Suites is an investment in the local CVB. In this area of the Twin Cities that organization is Twin Cities Gateway CVB. It covers nine North Metro communities, including Anoka and Coon Rapids, and 22 hotel properties. All have joined to increase occupancy rates, enhance margins and to better market their communities and hotels.

Management and the ownership group of Comfort Suites of Ramsey hereby request that the City of Ramsey join the Twin Cities Gateway CVB. We also understand this entails approving a 3% lodging tax that would be paid by our customers. We understand the you have had a opportunity to discuss membership with the Steve Markuson, Director of Twin Cities Gateway and that he is supportive of Ramsey joining the CVB. We further understand that the CVB Board must also approve of the City joining.

Among the benefits for Comfort Suites would include no commissions paid regarding visitors with NSC events, interactive website, online calendar of events, advertising & sponsorship opportunities, etc. Among the benefits for the City would be a funding source for a local festival of your choice and a 5% admin fee on all lodging tax revenues generated in the City.

Best Regards,

Scott Davy
General Manager
Comfort Suites Ramsey



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Featured Event

The Seasons Dinner Theatre at Majestic Oaks

The Seasons Dinner Theatre at Majestic Oaks. Tickets on sale now!



28° F

Cloudy wind: WNW at 5 mph

Welcome to Twin Cities Gateway

Get away from it all without going too far!

The Twin Cities Gateway is a travel destination like no other in Minnesota. The Twin Cities Gateway is a group of nine communities adjacent to Minneapolis and St. Paul, located on the northern edge of the Twin Cities. The Twin Cities Gateway offers easy access to all the fun and excitement of metropolitan life while retaining small town charm and a sense of community.

Take in a Twins or Vikings game by travel just minutes to Minneapolis; enjoy a concert, Minnesota Wild game or museum visit with travel to St. Paul just a few miles away and then retreat to the peace, quiet and comfort of the Twin Cities Gateway communities. This is what Twin Cities tourism offers you.

If you're from Minneapolis or St. Paul, enjoy a quick Twin Cities weekend getaway by looking no further than the Twin Cities Gateway. You'll find world-class golf, abundant recreational opportunities, stunning natural surroundings and quality accommodations to fit any budget, all in a friendly and fun environment far removed from the stresses of urban living.

In short, we offer the best of both worlds – urban activities, outdoor recreation and small town charm. What more could you ask for your next vacation, or getaway?

Take a tour of the Twin Cities Gateway communities: [Anoka](#), [Blaine](#), [Coon Rapids](#), [Fridley](#), [Ham Lake](#), [Lino Lakes](#), [Mounds View](#), [New Brighton](#), and [Shoreview](#) or use our interactive map to find points of interest.

Find lodging specials or search for accommodations conveniently displayed by brand, location, price or amenities.

Search for things to do on our events and attractions pages.

Whatever you do, come back often, because weThe Twin Cities Gateway is a travel destination like no other in Minnesota. The Twin Cities Gateway is a group of nine communities adjacent to Minneapolis and St. Paul, located on the northern edge of the Twin Cities. The Twin Cities Gateway offers easy access to all the fun and excitement of metropolitan life while retaining small town charm and a sense of community.





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ANOKA

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[Anoka Hotels](#)

[Map](#)



Anoka

Travel to Anoka, MN, the "Halloween Capitol of the World" for fun attractions, events and activities. Anoka is home to numerous interesting attractions. Anoka's historic downtown boasts an array of eclectic and unique shops, restaurants and services, all surrounded by beautiful city parks, trails, and neighborhoods. Anoka is also proud of its Enterprise Park located on the west side of town brimming with large manufacturing, machining, and distribution businesses, providing employment for over 2,500 people. The largest private employers in Anoka are Federal Cartridge Company and Pentair Custom Products which employ another 2,500 people.

The city-owned Greenhaven Golf Course & Banquet Center and the Anoka Aquatic Center provide hours of seasonal entertainment, while the Anoka Senior Center provides meals and fun activities for seniors all year long. Plus, events such as

Photo Slideshow



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Twin Cities Gateway Things to do

The Twin Cities Gateway area is a great travel destination with various exciting attractions. You have the offerings of things to do in Minneapolis, things in St. Paul, the Mall of America and more just a short drive away. You also have very exciting attractions options in the Twin Cities Gateway communities including Adventure Seaplanes, golf, shopping, aquatic centers, the National Sports Center and more.

Browse the things to do in Twin Cities below. You can sort by category and view more details at the attractions' websites. Click on the images for an expanded view of the things to do in Twin Cities.

We invite you to explore our site and learn more about the Twin Cities Gateway communities and the lodging options available. We hope you have fun in our communities and enjoy our Twin Cities attractions.

[All Attractions](#) | [Community center](#) | [Shopping](#) | [Travel](#) | [Recreation/sports](#) | [Golf courses](#) | [Parks](#) | [Arts/entertainment](#) | [Events](#) | [Nature](#) | [Twin Cities Area](#)



Brunswick Zone XL

11351 Ulysses St. NE
Blaine, MN 55434

Brunswick Zone XL is extra large fun. Endless lanes for bowling, a giant game room, lazer tag, billiards, and a super-size lounge to relax with friends or catch the big game. It's a different kind of family entertainment center with something for everyone. If you want BIG fun, get into the good times at Brunswick Zone XL. At This Location: 38 Lanes 4 Billiard Tables 4 Dart Boards Event Rooms Game Zone Arcade Lazer Tag Bar & Grill Bumper Cars

Category: Recreation/sports
Phone: (763) 561-2230
Email Us
Hours: Monday - Thursday 11a - midnight, Friday 11a - 1a, Saturday, 9a - 1a, Sunday 9a - 1a
Open: Open all days of the week



Bunker Beach Water Park

Intersection of CSAH 14 and Foley Blvd
Coon Rapids, MN 55433

Bunker Beach now features six towering waterslides, a 900' lazy river, leisure pool with climbing wall, a zero-entry pool with a water play structure, a creative sand play area, and as always, Minnesota's largest outdoor wave pool! Large open areas for sunning and relaxing are scattered throughout the water park. Concession options, changing rooms, and a metro-area location, make Bunker Beach a perfect family destination.

Category: Recreation/sports
Phone: (763) 767-2895
Email Us
Hours: 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Open: First Saturday in June - Labor Day

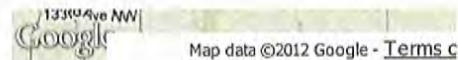


Bunker Hills Golf Club

12800 Bunker Prairie Drive
Coon Rapids, MN 55448

Category: Golf courses
Phone: (763) 755-4141
Email Us
Hours: 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Open: January 1 - December 31





Bunker Hills Regional Park
CSAH 14/Main Street and Foley Boulevard
Coon Rapids, MN 55344

The 1,600-acre Bunker Hills Regional Park offers a wide spectrum of recreation opportunities including swimming and water slides at the Bunker Beach Water Park, horseback riding at Bunker Park Stables, a playground, biking, hiking, golf, camping, archery, picnicking, and cross-country skiing. Bunker Hills is also home to the Anoka County Veteran's Memorial. The Bunker Hills Activities Center offers meeting and banquet facilities and is host to the Anoka County Parks and Recreation Department headquarters. All motorized vehicles are required to purchase a vehicle entry permit to the regional parks. Annual permits are available for \$25, good for one year from date of purchase. Daily permits are available for \$5 per day. The annual permit is honored at all Anoka County Regional Parks as well as regional parks in Washington and Carver counties.



Category: Parks
Phone: (763) 757-3920
Email Us
Hours: 6 a.m. - 1/2 hour past sunset



Bunker Park Stable
550 Bunker Lake Boulevard NW
Andover, MN 55304

Since 1995 we have provided a full range of riding programs and activities to the public, kids and adults, of every ability and skill level. Just wander our website or give us a call to discover the array of horse-related activities you can find here. There is something for everyone! Horseback riding is great outdoor fun and a rewarding lifetime sport as well. We are committed to giving you a fun and safe horse experience. Our horses and ponies are well trained ... and our staff is, too!



Category: Recreation/sports
Phone: (763) 757-9445
Email Us



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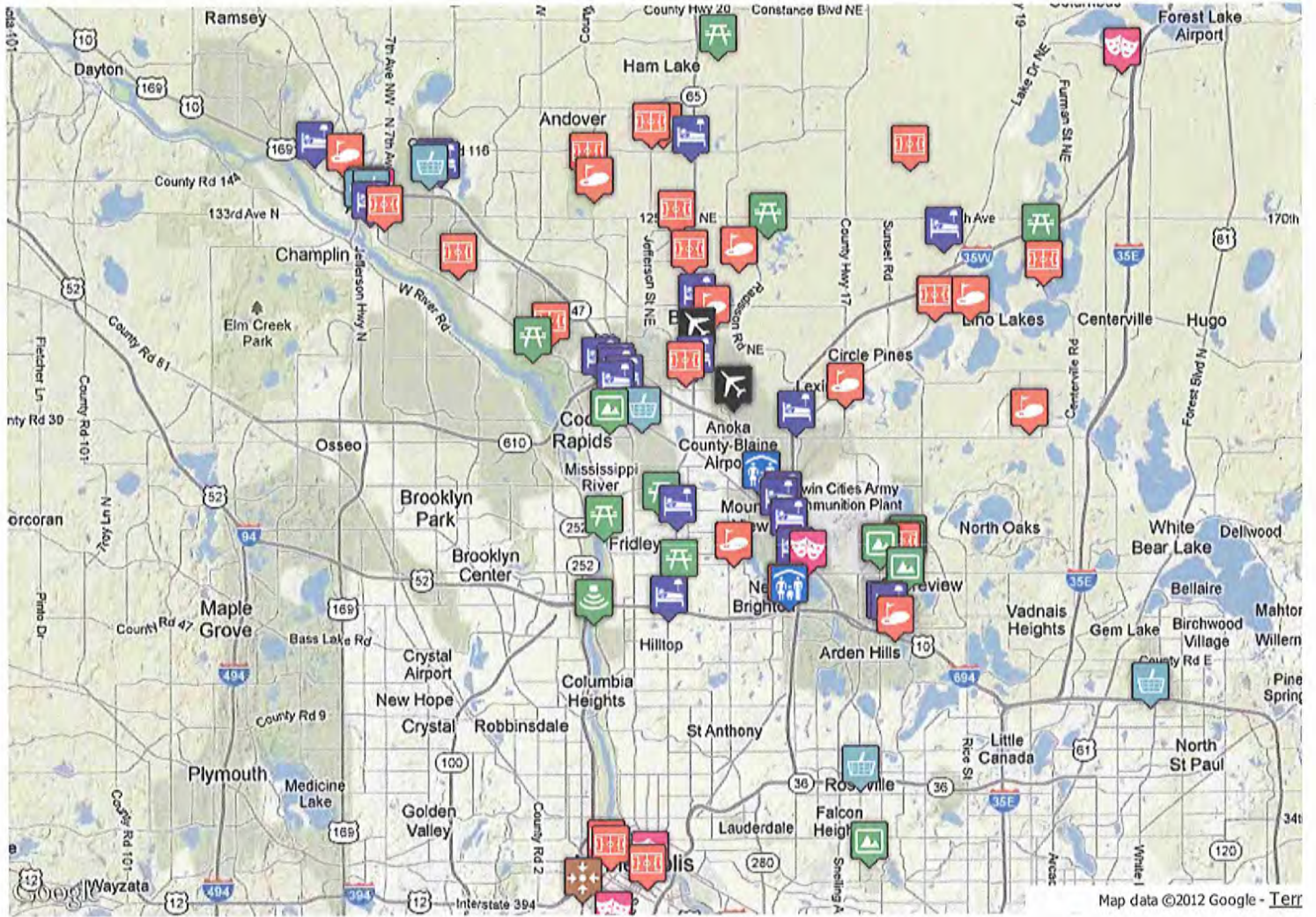
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Twin Cities Gateway Area Map

**By-Laws
of**

MINNESOTA METRO NORTH TOURISM

ARTICLE I - OFFICE

The principal and registered office of the Corporation shall be located within one of the cities whose lodging tax funds are administered by this Corporation and is hereby located at 10801 Town Square Drive in the City of Blaine, Minnesota, 55449.

ARTICLE II - NAME

The Corporation is established as Minnesota Metro North Tourism and shall do business under its assumed name, hereinafter to be identified as Twin Cities Gateway, or Twin Cities Gateway Visitors Bureau.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERS

Section 1. Members of the Corporation

The Members of the Corporation shall be the Cities of Anoka, Blaine, Coon Rapids, Fridley, Ham Lake, Lino Lakes, Mounds View, New Brighton and Shoreview which have passed a Lodging Tax Resolution for collection of Lodging Tax under Chapter 469.190 of the Minnesota Statutes and whose funds from such taxes are administered by this Corporation.

Section 2. New Members

Additional cities may be added as Members upon a majority vote of Board of Directors and municipal approval of Lodging Tax Resolution for collecting Lodging Tax under Chapter 469.190 of Minnesota Statutes.

Section 3. Funding

On the 15th day of each month, a Member City shall remit to the Corporation, for funding the Corporation, 95% of the lodging tax payments received by the Member City, less refunds, in the preceding month.

ARTICLE IV – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1. Board of Directors.

A. The Board of Directors shall be proportionately represented, based on the percentage of lodging fee contributions contributed by the Member City during the preceding year. Each Member City shall have at least one Board Member. For each additional 10%, or portion thereof, above the initial 10% of the overall contribution will entitle the Member City to one additional representative. The first Board Member appointed by the Member City shall be an elected or appointed municipal representative of that Member City. The second Board Member selected by the Member City will be from that community’s lodging industry. Any additional representatives shall be selected at the Member City’s discretion. The term of any Board Member appointed, or selected by a Member City shall immediately cease, without further action, upon the date of termination of membership of that Member City in the Corporation.

B. Member Cities added after the approval of these By-Laws will be allowed one (1) Board Member until the end of the first calendar year after being added and then the terms of Section 1. shall apply

Section 2. At Large Board Members.

The Board of Directors will also select four (4) additional At Large Members. At Large Members shall represent the lodging industry, organizations, or businesses from the Member Cities. At Large Board representatives shall be elected at the Board of Directors' Annual Meeting to be held during the month of March of each year.

Section 3. Nomination of At large Candidates.

Candidates for election to the Board of Directors At Large positions may be nominated by any Board Member. Names of candidates for election shall be submitted to the President, Secretary, Executive Director, or designated agent of the Corporation by first day of March each year.

Section 4. Ex-Officio Representation.

The National Sports Center shall be provided an Ex-Officio position on the Board of Directors. All Ex-Officio Board Members will receive notices of meetings and minutes. Any Ex-Officio Board Member may participate in discussions and serve on committees. Ex-Officio Board Members may not vote as a Board Member. The Board of Directors may add additional Ex-Officio Board positions upon a majority vote.

Section 5. Board Responsibilities.

The government and policy-making responsibilities of Twin Cities Gateway shall be vested in the Board of Directors, which shall control its property, be responsible for its finances, direct its affairs and establish policy. It shall be the obligation of the Board of Directors to insure representation on the Board and its committees from all appropriate stakeholders within its service area.

Section 6.. Resignation of Board Member.

A Board Member may resign at any time by giving written or electronic notice of his or her resignation to the President or designated agent of the corporation. The resignation is effective when received by the Corporation, unless a later date has been specified in the notice.

Section 7.. Removal of Board Member.

A Board Member may be removed from office, with or without cause, by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board Members present at a duly held meeting; provided that not less than five (5) days' and not more than thirty (30) days' notice of such meeting stating that removal of such Board Member is to be on the agenda for such meeting shall be given to each Board Member.

Section 8. Replacement of Board Member.

In the event of the death, removal or resignation of a Board Member, a successor to fill the unexpired term shall be appointed by the affected Member City in the manner prescribed in Section 1. The Board of Directors shall appoint a successor to vacant At Large positions.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

Section 1. Composition.

The officers of this Corporation shall be President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 2. Election of Officers.

Officers shall be elected annually for terms of one (1) year by the Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting of the Members to be held in March each year. Any elected officer term may be extended by a vote of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Vacancy.

A vacancy in an office because of death, resignation or removal may be filled by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VI – DUTIES OF THE OFFICERS

Section 1. President.

The President shall be chief executive officer of the Corporation, shall have overall supervision of the business of the Corporation, and shall direct the affairs and policies of the Corporation, subject to such policies and directions as may be provided by the Board of Directors. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors, as well as at Executive Committee meetings.

Section 2. Vice President.

The Vice President shall exercise and perform the duties of the President, in the President's absence and/or inability to serve. The Vice President shall also have such powers and shall perform such duties as may be assigned to him/her by the President or the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Secretary.

The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the members, Board of Directors and Executive Committee. The Secretary shall keep proper minutes of such meetings, give all required notices, keep membership records, and shall perform such other duties as may be assigned by the Board of Directors.

Section 4. Treasurer.

The Treasurer shall have charge and custody of all funds of the Corporation. The Treasurer shall keep an accurate account of all receipts and disbursements, deposit all monies in the name of the Corporation in such banks or depositories as the Board of Directors shall designate, disburse funds of the Corporation as directed by the Board of Directors and perform such other duties as may be assigned by them.

ARTICLE VII - COMMITTEES

Section 1. Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee shall be appointed by the Board of Directors and shall consist of the Officers set forth above and three (3) additional members elected annually. The

Executive Committee will consist of no fewer than four (4) municipal representatives of the Member Cities, who may or may not be officers of the Corporation and at least one (1) lodging facility representative. The Executive Committee will function and carry out Board duties and responsibilities between Board of Directors meetings, subject to the direction and control of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Others.

Other Committees may be appointed by the President, and/or the Board of Directors as needed.

ARTICLE VIII – EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Board of Directors shall determine the most appropriate way to handle the day to day operational needs of the Corporation. This may be through the hiring of an Executive Director or a contract with a qualified individual, company, or contractor. Such person or entity shall be responsible for the day-to-day functioning of the Corporation and may be entrusted with the duties and responsibilities of any of the officers, as determined by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE IX – MEETINGS

Section 1. Annual Meeting.

A meeting of Members of the Corporation shall be held during February of each year at a time and place set by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Regular Meetings.

The Board of Directors shall meet at least quarterly at a time and place selected by the President of the Corporation.

Section 3. Executive Committee Meetings.

The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President and at such other times that the business of the Corporation requires.

Section 4. Notice of Meetings.

Notice of Board of Director Meetings, along with the agenda, shall be distributed to each member at least five (5) days before the meeting date. Notice of Executive Committee meetings, along with the agenda shall be distributed to committee members at least three (3) days prior to the meeting.

ARTICLE X – NOTICE OF MEETINGS

Section 1. Notice.

Whenever, under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, the Articles of Incorporation or these By-Laws, notice is required to be given to a Member, a Board Member or a member of a committee, such notice may be given in writing by depositing it in the United States Mail (first class postage prepaid) or by electronic mail (e-mail) or by facsimile for transmission addressed to such person as his or her address appears on the books of the Corporation or at his or her

business address. Notice shall be deemed at the time it is deposited in the United States mail or sent by e-mail, or facsimile. Such requirement for notice shall be deemed satisfied, except where written notice is required by law, if actual notice is received orally or in written form by the person entitled thereto as far in advance of the event with respect to which notice is given as the minimum notice period required by law or these By-Laws.

Section 2. Waiver of Notice.

Whenever any notice is required to be given by Minnesota Statutes, the Articles of Incorporation, or these By-Laws, a waiver thereof in writing signed by the person or persons entitled to such notice, whether before, or after the time stated therein, shall be deemed equivalent thereto. Attendance by such a person at a meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice of such meeting, except when the person attends a meeting for the express purpose of objecting, at the beginning of the meeting, to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened. Neither the business to be transacted at, nor the purpose of, any regular or special meeting of the Members, Board Members or committee members need be specified in any written waiver of notice unless so required by statute. Any meeting of Members of the Board of Directors or of a committee of the Board shall be a legal meeting without any notice thereof having been given if all Members, all Board Members or all committee members, as the case may be, are present.

ARTICLE XI – SPECIAL MEETINGS

Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called by the President, and shall be called upon written demand of any three (3) Board Members addressed to the President, to the

Secretary, Executive Director, or designated agent stating the object or purpose thereof. Notice of such meeting shall be mailed or electronically transmitted to each Board Member at least three (3) days before the date on which the meeting is to be held. The notice shall state the time, place and purpose of the meeting. The same provisions shall apply to Special Meetings for Members of the Corporation.

ARTICLE XII – QUORUMS

A majority of all board members, as the case may be, shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of transacting business at any annual, regular or special meeting. The board members present at the meeting at which a quorum is present may continue to transact business until adjournment, notwithstanding the withdrawal of enough Directors to leave less than a quorum.

ARTICLE XIII – ELECTRONIC & PROXY VOTING

On certain issues from time to time the Members or Board Members may be asked to vote electronically. If a vote is not received by the requested deadline, that Member's or Board Member's vote shall be considered a non-vote. All electronic voting shall be submitted with one of the following signature formats: /s/ Printed Name; Electronic Signature; or scanned signature block.

A Board Member, Officer, or committee member may vote by Proxy on agenda items only if the authorization for a Proxy vote is provided to the President, Executive Director, designated agent, or another Board Member prior to the meeting in which the vote(s) will be taken. Voting privileges will be waived if Proxy vote authorization is not received prior to the start of the meeting.

ARTICLE XIV- ACTION WITHOUT MEETING

Unless otherwise restricted by Minnesota Statutes or the Articles of Incorporation, any action of Members, Board Members, committee thereof, or a designated agent may be taken without a meeting if a written consent thereto is signed by all members, all Board Members or committee members and such written consent is filed with the minutes of the meeting of Members, Board Members or committee, as the case may be.

ARTICLE XV - CONTRACTS, CHECKS, DRAFTS, BANK ACCOUNTS, ETC.

Section 1. Contracts- How Executed.

Except as otherwise provided in these By-Laws, the Board of Directors may authorize any officers, the Executive Director, or designated agent serving in this capacity, or any firms representing the Corporation to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of or on behalf of the Corporation. Such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. Unless so authorized by the Board of Directors, no officer shall have any power or authority to bind the Corporation by any contract or engagement or to pledge its credit or to render it liable peculiarly for any purpose or for any amount.

Section 2. Bids.

The Corporation must exercise a bid or request for proposal process on projects which exceed dollar amounts determined by the Executive Committee and approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Loans.

No loan shall be contracted on behalf of the Corporation and no negotiable paper shall be issued in its name unless authorized by the Board of Directors. When so authorized, any two (2) officers of the Corporation may execute and deliver promissory notes or other evidence of indebtedness of the Corporation, and as security for the payment of loans, advances, and liabilities of the corporation, any mortgage, pledge, or transfer real or personal property held by the corporation.

Section 4. Checks, Drafts.

All checks, drafts, or orders for the payment of money issued in the name of the Corporation shall be signed by two (2) or more officers of the corporation in such manner as authorized by the Board of Directors.

Section 5. Deposits.

All funds of the Corporation shall be deposited to the credit of the Corporation under such conditions and in such banks, trust companies, or other depositories as the Board of Directors may designate.

Section 6. Annual Budget

The annual budget of estimated income, income expense and capital expense shall be approved by the Board of Directors and submitted to a Member City's city council on or before the 1st day of October of the year proceeding the effective date of the budget. Such budget shall

detail specifically the uses to which monies shall be spent to carry out the purposes of the Corporation. Actual revenues generated may vary from the amount anticipated in the budget and for this reason the budget may be modified by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the Board of Directors without prior consent of the Member Cities.

Section 7. Financial Summary

A summary report of the financial operation of the corporation shall be made by the Treasurer at least annually to the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE XVI - OFFICER REMOVAL – RESIGNATION

Section 1.

Any officer may be removed either with or without cause by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the whole Board of Directors.

Section 2.

Any officer may resign at any time by giving written or electronic notice to the President, Secretary, Executive Director, or designated agent of the Corporation. Such resignation shall take effect on the date of the receipt of such notice or any later time specified therein.

ARTICLE XVII - BY-LAWS AMENDMENTS

Amendments to these By-Laws may be adopted by Board of Directors at any meeting of the Board called for the purpose, and upon a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote. At least ten (10) days' notice shall be given to Board Members together with a copy of the proposed amendments.

ARTICLE XIII - FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Corporation shall begin on January 1 of each year and end on December 31 of each year. It shall be the responsibility of the Board of Directors to adopt a budget for the forthcoming fiscal year. It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Director, designated agent, or Treasurer to refrain from engaging in or completing any action of any kind whatsoever which may result in the Corporation exceeding total budgeted expenditures for that fiscal year without first advising the President regarding the nature of the probable excess and having secured from the Board of Directors authorization to proceed.

ARTICLE XIX INDEMNIFICATION

To the full extent permitted by the Minnesota Nonprofit Corporation Act as amended from time to time, or by other provisions of law, each person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suite or proceeding, wherever and by whomsoever brought (including any such proceeding, by or in the right of the corporation), whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, by reason of the fact that he or she is or was a member, director or officer of the corporation, or he or she is or was serving at the specific request of the Board of Directors of the corporation as a Board Member, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, shall be indemnified by the corporation by the affirmative vote of a majority of the Board Members present at a duly held meeting of the Board of Directors for which notice stating such purpose has been given against expenses, including attorneys' fees, judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection

with such action, suit or proceeding; provided, however, that the indemnification with respect to a person who is or was serving as a Board Member, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise shall apply only to the extent such person is not indemnified by such other corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise. The indemnification provided by this Article shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such person and shall apply whether or not the claim against such person arises out of matters occurring before the adoption of this provision of the Bylaws.

ARTICLE XX - FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING AND REPORTING

The Officers of the Corporation and particularly the Executive Director, or designated agent shall adhere to all requirements set forth in Minnesota Statutes 477A relating to funds received from city lodging taxes, as well as the respective cities' accounting and reporting requirements.

ARTICLE XXI – BOOKS AND RECORDS

The corporation shall keep correct and complete books and records of account and shall also keep minutes of the proceedings of its members, Executive Committee, Board of Directors and committees having and exercising any of the authority of the Board of Directors and shall keep at the principal office a record giving the names and addresses of the members entitled to vote. All books and records of the corporation may be inspected by any member for any proper purpose provided reasonable notice has been given prior to the inspection.

XXII-WITHDRAWAL

A Member City may withdraw from membership in the Corporation at the end of a calendar year by providing written notice to the Corporation by June 30 of that calendar year. A Member City cannot be a member of the Corporation if it no longer has a Lodging Tax Resolution for collection of Lodging Tax under Chapter 469.190 of the Minnesota Statutes or whose funds from such taxes are not submitted to the Corporation in the manner prescribed in these By-Laws.

By: Al Stauffacher

President

Date

**TWIN CITIES GATEWAY
Board of Directors Directory**

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Al Stauffacher / President

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Debra Skogen / Secretary

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TWIN CITIES GATEWAY BOARD DIRECTORY

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CC Work Session

3. 1.

Meeting Date: 02/21/2012

By: Jo Thieling, Administrative Services

Title:

Review Future Topics/Work Session Calendar

Background:

Attached is the list of future work session topics.

Funding Source:

N/A

Council Action:

For review - no action necessary.

Attachments

Future Topics/Calendar

Form Review

Inbox	Reviewed By	Date
Kurt Ulrich	Jo Thieling	02/16/2012 04:36 PM
Form Started By: Jo Thieling		Started On: 02/16/2012 04:23 PM
	Final Approval Date: 02/16/2012	

**Work Session Calendars
2011**

Month	Date	Topics for Discussion
February	28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Redistricting (TG/JT) • Consider Community and Business Event Participation (Jo) • Customer Request Management (CRM) Proposal (Kurt) • Review Fire Station 2 Project (Dean K.) • Discuss Sunwood Drive Realignment Financing (Brian?) • Discuss Federal Legislative Consultant Proposals (Kurt) • Discuss City Space/Booth at Game Fair 2012 (Heidi)
March	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews for Boards and Commissions (Colleen)
March	13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review Proposal from Podawiltz Development for Town Center Gardens 3rd
Others on List – including 2011 Strategic Planning Items		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Residential Uses Permitted by State Statute (Tim G.) • Update Animal Ordinance (Tim G.) • Discuss Leash Law (JW) • 167th & 47 Water Services Extension/Master Planning • Review pilot programs (e.g. volunteer programs – low maintenance options) • Build on outdoors/sportsmen’s market (e.g. stock pond/lake) • Develop community center/indoor sports complex • Old Town Hall relocation • Strategic Action Plan Update • Seek grant funding for transportation projects and service delivery • Complete US 10/ County Road 83 interchange design – pursue funding • Establish position on TH #47 South of Bunker to Highway #10 <p><u>Public Works</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review plan for US Highway #10 pedestrian overpass and connection with Municipal Center ramp • Consider opportunities for four-wheeler & golf cart use • Review Project Management Issues (e.g. 151st & 167th Projects)
March 6, 2012		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews for Boards and Commissions