**Coalition for a Healthy Greater Grand Forks**

**Meeting Minutes for October 14, 2015**

**I. Welcome & Introductions**

* Meeting began promptly at 2pm with introduction of attendees

**II. Video and Discussion: Blue Zones Project** (https://www.bluezones.com/)

* A TedTalk video was played, highlighting the efforts of the Blue Zones program to bring community-based collaboration and sustainable change to municipalities
* Estimates for a 3 year programmatic collaboration with Blue Zones are approximately $1.5 million annually
  + Questions arose regarding the value of such expenditures, or if such an endeavor can be undertaken independent of a consultant. Further discussion examined a cost/benefit structure, and possible income/grants that could be derived as a result of the work of Blue Zones.
  + Additional dialogue addressed whether past efforts within the community mirror the ideals of Blue Zones, rendering their need questionable.
* Healthy Choices group previously brought in a member of the Blue Zones project, partnering to examine possible opportunities and resources for Grand Forks. A Blue Zones member will also be speaking at the University of Minnesota – Crookston.

**III. Agency News**

* Hornbacher’s grocery store has shown interest in utilizing the NuVal system in its newly opened Grand Forks site (https://www.nuval.com/)
* Meeting of Bicycle Safety Group – Fort Collins model for bikeability and walkability may serve as a quality template
* SafeKids Grand Forks is working with Discovery Elementary School to research student walkability and bikeability patterns
  + Dr. Aaron Kennedy of the University of North Dakota is also examining feasibility of bike repair stations around town
  + Many of the poorer bike-path areas are being repaired for bicycle travel, including the bridge under Washington Street
* The Boathouse on the Red has closed for the season, with efforts being made to finish river access downtown (Boathouse will be located North of Demers)
  + Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant trail and dock system being sought – funding has been applied for to assist in costs for trail and dock system
* Federal funding has provided additional opportunities to engage UND students and community members in understanding “Nine Laws You Should Know”
* Dr. Grant Tompkinson has been hired by the University of North Dakota Department of Kinesiology and Public Health Education. Dr. Tompkinson has a distinguished background in physical activity and obesity research.
  + Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant trail and dock system being sought – funding has been applied for to assist in costs for trail and dock system
* Healthy Choices has prepared five (5) mini grants in support of events focusing on employee wellness
* Questionnaires were distributed to parents of youth hockey players regarding concession interests, and found greater support for healthier options

Meeting adjourned at 3:06pm