



MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PARTNERS

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### **Minutes of Membership Meeting October 5, 2005**

The group was welcomed to Heaven's Valley Lodge by Jim and Cheri Eddy Crigler who also explained a bit about the facility and the options available for rental.

The meeting was opened by Herdie Baisden, Board Member –at-Large with about 11 members present. Members introduced themselves and their businesses.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes of the September meeting were reviewed and approved as recorded.

**Treasurer's Report:** Not available as Larry was not present.

### **Committee Reports:**

Sign-up sheets for all committees was circulated at the meeting, it is very important that we get committees active and planning for 2006, so all members should indicate the one on which they plan to serve next year.

**Membership:** Carol Wiersma and Herdie spoke to items on the agenda regarding membership. First, it is important that all members be aware that we are currently without a President-Elect and also short one Member-at-Large position on the Board. These need to be filled and it was requested that all consider serving. Additionally this is the time when committees are formed for next year.

A second item was that the Board wanted to ensure that members realize that according to our Bylaws, unless a business is a member in good standing [meaning they have paid their membership for that year] they cannot vote on issues presented to the membership. This can be a bit confusing given the time of year when memberships are renewed, but should be an awareness for all; additionally, a business has only one vote regardless of how many members of the business are attending the meeting.

Finally, we reminded members once again of their membership benefit to have a page on the website and let them know the password.

**Birding:** Mary DeRoos passed out copies of the minutes from the last birding meeting and outline for the meeting that was held prior to the membership meeting. Mary stressed the need for a representative from each of the communities to participate in the meetings to make the next year's events successful. As noted in the minutes from last month, there will not be one

singular event scheduled, however, there will be a focus on the weekend of May 12 – 14, 2006 as a significant birding weekend in the area and the plan is to coordinate that there be a number of events occurring that weekend.

Note that there will be a Birding Meeting prior to each membership meeting so that people don't need to commit to another day for a meeting – so please each community have a representative available.

**Garage Sale:** There have already been calls regarding the dates of the Garage Sale in 2006, so the Board wanted to confirm to everyone that it is May 5, 6 & 7. The group discussed the title of the Garage Sale and consensus was that we should now call it the 100 Mile Garage Sale; however there was strong opposition to using the phrase “World’s Greatest Garage Sale”.

**Marketing:** The status of the travel planner was discussed by Herdie, noting that the Marketing Committee has has numerous meetings and discussions regarding the proposal as per the vote from the membership at September’s meeting. The plan at this point is to again approach Rivertown and determine what is possible if they would use bright white paper on the inside of the planner. The intention is that there would be no increase to MVP and that the ad rates would be the same as proposed, it is assumed by Marketing that this will probably mean a decrease in the number of copies they would print, but the exact results will be determined upon further discussion with Rivertown.

In order to stimulate businesses getting in their renewals and new ones joining, the membership suggested that a press release go out to the publications of the various communities regarding the new planner year. Harry Roberts agreed to write the release and review with committee members and it will be sent out as soon as things are finalized with Rivertown – hopefully by next week.

**Up and Down the River:** A variety of activities occurring yet – even with later fall.

Minutes recorded by: Carol Wiersma, Secretary