



MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PARTNERS

www.mississippi-river.org

Minutes of Membership Meeting December 7, 2005

Meeting was called to order by Jim Grandy following holiday socializing with about 44 members present.

Carolynn Klees welcomed the group to the AmericInn and provided the “goodies” for the evening’s eating pleasure.

Members introduced themselves and there were several new members for us to welcome.

Reports:

Secretary’s Report: For the November meeting there were no changes noted and the minutes were approved as written.

Treasurer’s Report: Larry reported that there have been 94 businesses/individuals/groups that have thus far submitted their membership applications. The financial report was presented and approved as stated.

Committee Reports:

Marketing: Jim Grandy reported that he has talked with staff from Rivertown Publishing and there are now about \$40,000 in ad. sales so that should mean the organization will not be liable for the travel planner. The date for final ad copy to Rivertown Publishing is December 21. There was some concern expressed from members that there had been missed appointments by Rivertown staff people want to be sure they have an opportunity to get their ad in this year Carol Wiersma agreed she would follow up with Rivertown Publishing.

Harry Roberts passed out copies of the articles he has written for the travel planner regarding fishing, scenic vistas, and scenic back road tours in the area and requested that he receive feedback so that he can then forward to Rivertown for inclusion when the travel planner is published. Because Harry didn’t have copies available for everyone the group asked that they be emailed to all members.

Nominating: Jim Grandy reported that Mike Kennedy will be unable to head the Nominating Committee for 2006 due to recent surgery and asked that other members step up to that role. Pat Mutter and Kathy Silverthorn have agreed to head the committee. We will vote for new officers at the February meeting, Jim asked that all members consider how they could be involved in the organization and pass their name to the Nominating Committee; also needed are Town Captains for a number of locations. Carol Wiersma indicated that the Committee sign-up sheets were out and asked that

members put their name on the list[s] where they would like to be included. [Committees include: Gardens, Membership, Marketing, Garage Sale, and Birding]

Birding: Mary DeRoos reported that more members from more communities are needed for the committee to plan the Birding and Nature Festival scheduled for May. The next meeting of the committee is January 9 and Mary would like to see representatives of all the communities present for that meeting as well as commitments for the type of activity they will be sponsoring as the marketing for the event will begin after that meeting.

Up and Down the River:

Alma: Jim Grandy reported on the WI Great River Birding Festival that was held to formally introduce the new free birding brochure being published in collaboration between WI Dept's of Natural Resources and Tourism. The brochure includes birding in western Wisconsin from the St. Croix River to the southern border along the Mississippi so includes all the MVP area since the birds don't know Wisconsin from Minnesota. The books will be available from the State of WI as well as out at visitor centers, etc.

Larry Nielson and "Captain Rusty" let the group know that they will have a paddlewheeler boat they will be plying the waters of Lake Pepin this summer. The boat will be docking at many of the towns on the Lake and offers an opportunity for another means of travel for tourists; they will also have scheduled trips.

Soar with the Eagles will be held in Wabasha again in March – other communities are invited to participate.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

Minutes recorded by Carol Wiersma, Secretary