



MISSISSIPPI VALLEY PARTNERS

www.mississippi-river.org

Minutes of Membership Meeting June 1, 2005

Meeting was called to order by President Jim Grandy at The Historic Anderson House in Wabasha - 20 members present. Individuals introduced themselves and their businesses.

Teresa and Mike Smith welcomed everyone on this date that is their 14 month anniversary of ownership! Some information Teresa noted about their business:

- The Anderson House will be 150 years old in 2006.
- They are currently open 8am – 8 pm serving all three meals
- On June 16 they will have one of their special meals – this one a “Beer Bash”
- June 22-25 is the next Murder Mystery Theatre which they do about once a month
- They have a Sunday brunch and do catering by request.
- They still have the cats – found that to be an expectation of the public!

And after the meeting anyone wanting a tour can do so....

Secretary's Report: Carol had the minutes of the May meeting available for all, there were no changes, it was moved, seconded and approved to accept the minutes as they stand.

Treasurer's Report: Larry stated he has received payments from two businesses for their ads in the Planner. Payment has now been made to Brown Printing for the balance of the Planners as decided at the May meeting so the balance is low [see report]. There were no questions and the report was moved seconded and approved to stand as presented.

Committee Reports:

Marketing:

Planner status: The balance of the planners are currently being printed. Jim and Dave Speeding have volunteered to use their trucks to pick up the boxes at the publishers so MVP doesn't need to also pay for shipping. Jim expects the planners can be picked up in the next week. Jim Gehrke has still not provided a copy of the PDF file for inclusion on the website and it seems less likely that will occur. Also, it is unlikely he will do the video that had been part of the original agreement. There was discussion regarding the possibility of legal action but no definitive plans were formulated.

Planner storage: Jim solicited the group for locations of pallets of planners of about 14,000 each – looking to have them available in both Wisconsin and Minnesota. Those who said they could take a pallet include: Dan Fedie in Pepin,Carolynn Klees in Wabasha, Sarah Kreofsky in Kellogg, Winona somewhere, Harry Roberts at Frontenac, and Carol Wiersma at Stockholm. Jim stressed that we then need to get the planners out and into circulation. Regarding the Air Show and planner distribution – Pierce County Partners in Tourism had a booth there and handed them out.

Committee Timelines: Jim reminded everyone again that if a committee has items to be addressed that they please contact the Board. Currently the Board meetings are held the Wednesday 2 weeks prior to the membership meeting.

A reminder that if anyone knows of a publisher that may be interested in doing the planner next year to get that name to a Board member or member of the Marketing Committee in the next 3 weeks as they will be reviewing the companies to which we will submit RFPs.

Welcome Center: it opened this past weekend and was staffed by Donna Krebsbach & Edna Hovde. They had about 60 – 65 people sign in each day and there was a lot of interest expressed. Businesses are encouraged to either drop off or send their brochures so we can have everyone represented. If you wish to send them: Larry Hovde, Box 407, Pepin - and he will take them to the Visitor Center. The books for each town are not being used according to Donna & Edna and we would like to look at a more interactive means for visitors to get to know us. Suggestions included a collage from each town for the walls; more visual types of presentations – possibly powerpoint if we could obtain the means. Also it was suggested we look at setting up a corner for kids while their parents are getting information. Any suggestions/implementation of ideas is appreciated. In addition, if anyone can provide any of the items noted on the wish list sent out in the email with the agenda for this meeting, it would help “spruce up” the center.

Membership Committee: Jim expressed his concern that member businesses are not taking advantage of the website and getting their pages listed. The Board is discussing with Voila the possibility of having an on-line page in the Membership section that each business member could complete and then Voila staff would place on line. In the mean time, if you have your information, please forward it to Carol [carol@the-goodapple.com] and she will get it to the webmaster. A suggestion for next year is that MVP include the Air Show on the website and invite them for membership.

New Business:

August is the kick-off for 2006 membership and the Board would like to make that meeting a fun event. The meeting will be at Maiden Rock Apples in Stockholm starting at 6:30 with a potluck picnic; we will have a meat entre’ and beverages available.. This is your opportunity to bring potential members to get to know about MVP – please invite someone. A flyer will be done and emailed or sent out to the membership that you can use for inviting guests. MVP Questionnaires – The questionnaires sent out are still trickling in; the Board has requested the adhoc committee to do a review and come back to the Board with suggestions/recommendations.

Around the Lake:

- Wabasha is having a fishing tournament for Father’s Day, and another in August.
- Winona has the Dakota gathering this weekend, Steamboat Days June 15-19, and the Shakespeare theatre will begin the latter part of June.
- Maiden Rock has Summerfest June 18.
- Stockholm – the Barn Dances are now being held at Maiden Rock Apples the first Saturday of the month through September.
- Lake City has Water Ski Days later in the month.

Mary DeRoos has available a *Washington Post* article that was done in April regarding the upper Mississippi region and very positive and pleasant.

Winona is changing the name of the VCB – it will now be known as “Visit Winona”.

With no further business, it was moved, seconded and agreed that the meeting be adjourned.

Next meeting at Alma.

Minutes recorded by Carol Wiersma