



Celebrating Blues Music in the Greater Madison, WI Area

Present: Board: Jack Frazee, Violet Moran, Tim Davis, Vicki Kalkopf
Members: Shari Davis, Dave Speers, Susie Launder, Vivian Schmelzer,
Susanne Way, Carolyn Price

Treasurer's Report: Due to previous absences, Vicki reported on the numbers for August, September and October. August income was \$550 including memberships, the Clyde Stubblefield bench dedication, the Fitchrona Booze & Blues Fest and raffles. Expenses were \$400 including the storage unit. September income was \$207 including donations and expenses were \$217 again including storage. October had \$425 in income from memberships, raffles and sponsorship and expenses were \$358 including storage and the annual ASCAP fee. The MBS bank accounts are currently at \$6989 in checking and \$1140 in savings.

As a side issue, the bill from Madison Parks for the Clyde Stubblefield bench plaque was never received. *Tim will ask Kate to check with Stephanie Franklin.* Vivian asked what the savings account was for and Violet commented that it was to reserve money for an event such as the Picnic. Vivian also asked about ASCAP and was told that it is a national organization which collects royalty fees when an organization puts on music covering other musicians work. It was also noted that Christine Johnson had mentioned that our Dane Arts grant of \$993 has never been received. *Jack will follow up with Dane Arts.*

OLD BUSINESS:

Rescheduled Bowling and Blues: Due to the NFL changing the time of the Packer game and few signups, the new date will be 2/23. Bowling will be 2-4 pm, after the Badgers basketball game. *Jack will confirm this schedule with Julie.* Shari reported 7 confirmed celebrity bowlers and many other possible. Ken Olufs told Shari that the PA they will use belongs to Tom McCarty who will take it with him when he leaves. If a jam is planned for later, another PA will be needed. The Birdgod Blues Band will play (2) 50 minute sets.

Membership Table & 50/50 raffle at Tate's Blues Jam: The next date will be Thursday 11/14. *Julie is expected set up and Shari & Violet will help following their meeting for the Clyde Stubblefield Scholarship Committee. Shari & Violet will confirm with Julie.* We will have membership materials at the MBS table and \$1 discount drink tickets for members.

Ad Hoc Events Committee Report: Violet extended the charter of the Picnic Feasibility Committee to consider many events so the committee name was changed. Three meetings were held on 10/8, 10/28 & 11/6 at first brainstorming including bargaining ideas from Chris Kalmbach, then Jack Frazee getting the agenda on track for event specifics and finally evaluating several event ideas and venues.

Venues included the Eastside Club, researched by Kate Hardy. While the basic numbers looked promising, there was skepticism about attendance on a Sunday. Also Jack Frazee felt that MBS event insurance may be necessary despite the Eastside Club already insuring events held on its property. Susie discussed details on the Keva Sport Center which would



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have enough room for a large event. A \$2000 rental would provide space for up to 5000 people though there is no shade available.

Kate's research into Turner Hall and Common Ground was difficult as getting information and connecting with the venues proved difficult. Another possibility is the Madison Circus space which has a very large space with suitable PA and good sound conditions for music, however they have no built in food service or bar. Carolyn also recommended Buck & Honeys on Broadway (not Sun Prairie) who are looking for blues bands as well as the Tasting Room, also on Broadway.

In summary, the committee recommended 1) No Picnic type event until 2021 so that more advance funds could be saved up and 2) two medium size events could be held in 2020 such as Wild Women, possibly at the High Noon with Joyann Parker and an MBS Fundraiser event similar to Eastside Club "Wine On The Water" events which Vivian Schmelzer has organized in the past. The board agreed that the Picnic should be postponed until 2021. *Julie will be asked make an announcement on Facebook and the MBS website.*

The board voted to explore initial plans for the Wild Women event in the spring of 2020. This will probably be in March avoiding the Blues Cafe and March Madness. Susie will coordinate the possible Wild Women event. Vivian will be the contact person for the High Noon. Following information on the date, venue and performer(s) as well as the associated costs, the board may vote by email to go ahead if all looks good. Future fundraiser events will be pursued as details become fleshed out.

Related news includes other blues-related events held by others with whom we could coordinate. The Eastside Club will hold Blues and BarBQ on August 15 and would like some help from MBS with publicity. They are also planning a Blues On The Lake event next summer. *Vivian will contact them about the two blues events and will coordinate with Julie.* We are already working with the Majestic Theater on their Wisconsin Blues Fest on January 11 for which we will receive \$1 for every ticket sold. Jack also wondered if we might consider an MBS bus trip to the Blues Cafe in Rothschild in March. *Jack will discuss this with Julie.*

Discussion of Bylaws Revisions: Tim provided an updated copy of the proposed bylaws revisions with clarification of three separate areas: 1) Nominations and Elections, 2) Non-Discrimination wording and 3) A proposed Advisory Council. Tim felt that while the 2nd and 3rd areas were not controversial, changing the 1st to two year terms and other changes could discourage new board members. Tim suggested that voting on these areas be separate. The board voted in agreement with this. Members will be given a new writeup at least 10 days before the Annual Membership Meeting in December which explains the ideas of each and indicates that you may vote for or against each separately. *Jack will come up with wording to describe the Nominations and Elections changes and Tim will update the proposal file and forward to Dave to send to members.*



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Annual Membership Meeting: Following the idea that combining some good blues music and providing food at the meeting will encourage more attendance, the board voted to have the Annual Membership Meeting separate from the December 9 board meeting and try to find a venue and gig that would work in December. Ideas included meeting at the Brink and then going to the Raine Stern album release at the High Noon. Aaron Williams 12/20 or Bill Roberts Combo 12/21 are probably too close to Xmas. The Coliseum Bar and the Lakeside Coffee House were also suggested. The board voted to have a separate meeting in December and that *Violet and Susie will research and recommend a date, gig and any possible cost within 1 week.*

NEW BUSINESS:

Membership Recruiting & Participation: This has been a subject of concern for some time as we search for prospective 2020 board members. It was most recently discussed at the Events Committee Meetings where there were some specific recommendations including finding committee chairs, setting up a Membership Committee and getting information to members about other members. Tim pointed out that the bylaws specify that the Secretary is responsible for the general membership and may recruit an additional member to manage membership records and communicate with members. This implies that Tim and Dave are automatically part of any Membership Committee. The board voted to create an official Membership Committee which will address recruitment, participation and retention. Initial committee members are Dave and Violet.

It was suggested that members should know who the other members are and how to contact them. Dave noted that anonymity is promised to members when they sign up and that any change to this should be done as an optional “opt-in” choice. Shari suggested that we make up a batch of MBS pins to help people recognize each other at shows.

A membership email (or snail mail for non-email members) is planned to help members connect and solicit ideas. As is done on the membership form, members can be asked about special interests and goals for MBS, info about themselves and how they might like to participate. Membership incentives ideas include show discounts, networking with fellow members, meet up groups, recognition of volunteers, board members and committee chairs, perhaps on Facebook or the MBS website, possibly including interviews.

In the Events Committee meetings, there was a suggestion for a get-together for members and musicians. This would be a roundtable discussion like the one held successfully a few years back at the Knuckledown Saloon which helped musicians with social media exposure. The new meeting would try to improve connections between members and musicians by getting to know each other, learning what we expect from each other and talk about how we can do MBS fundraisers to benefit all parties.

Potential new location for storage: MBS has decided to move out of the climate controlled storage warehouse to a regular unit and save significant rent. Kate Hardy found an available unit nearby at a substantial reduction. The board voted to move to this warehouse.



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Geographical area for the Live Blues Alert: In response to Julie's question about what geographical area the Live Blues Alert should consider, attendees agreed that about a one hour drive was good for normal shows. That would be down to the Illinois border to the south and maybe western suburban Milwaukee (but not Milwaukee proper) to the east. Larger shows and festivals (like Blues Cafe in Rothschild, NYE in the Twin Cities & Crossroads Blues Fest) could be listed at the discretion of the compiler. MBS band members can send email to calendarsubmit@madisonbluessociety.org to have their shows added.

OTHER BUSINESS:

MBS domain emails: Tim reported that after having problems with the new MBS domain emails forwarding, that all is fixed and working. Gmail does not allow multiple recipients in forwarding which all of our domain emails use, if only for backup. Tim Payne let Tim know the solution was forwarding "filters."

Tim also commented that the MBS emails members@madisonbluessociety.org and board@madisonbluessociety.org should get relevant emails CC'd to them. If replying to a membership email, you can CC the former. If you are including the board in any email, you can simply send it to the latter. Also, users of these two accounts can log in to Gmail directly and check. *Tim will send instructions to Dave, Vicki, Jack & Violet on how to do this.*

MBS tax filing: Tim Asked Jack if the tax filing for 2018 had been completed. Jack said that he has asked Tina of Precise Accounting to ask for an extension. Tim and Kate will help Jack get the details of all 2018 expenses and income completed.

The **Next Board Meeting** will be **December 9, 2019 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM** downstairs at the Village Lanes 208, Owen Road, Monona.

Minutes submitted by Tim Davis, MBS Secretary

Catch up on *past minutes* on our website! <https://www.madisonbluessociety.org/minutes>

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