



INFORMAL Meeting Minutes – 2020, April 27

*Celebrating **Blues Music** in the Greater Madison, WI Area*

NOTE: This was a “virtual” meeting held via Facebook Messenger. Since there was no 10-day notice to members, this was an INFORMAL meeting and no official business could be voted; however, group discussion helped to continue progress on various items. A future board meeting will be tried using Zoom which may be more practical for larger groups.

Present: Board: Shari Davis, Vicki Kalkopf, Tim Davis, Phyllis Becker
Members: Julie Ethridge, Dave Speers, Kate Hardy

Treasurer's Report: Vicki reported briefly that we have \$8269.71 in checking and \$1140.15 in savings. Julie has some checks from Bowling and Blues. Shari has some cash and a check from the last raffle and donations at the Tate's Jam on 2/20. These will be sent to Vicki via US Mail. Membership forms will be mailed to Dave.

OLD BUSINESS:

EVENTS PLANNING:

Wild Women 2020: Shari said that there is nothing new to report. We are considering options for a venue and a much later date, possibly September but we need to consider conflicts with other events. Julie noted that there is a festival planned for 9/19 & 20 in Thiensville. We may contact the Winnebago to see what options exist. Tim noted that the capacity of the Winnebago is only 99. Phyllis noted that the Chain of Lakes Fest in Waupaca is in early October. Phyllis also wondered if we should consider the River Stone Event Center near Ft. Atkinson.

Eastside Club Event: Since Ken attempted to connect with ESC recently at a Jimmys show, we have not renewed our connection. Robyn at ESC tried to contact MBS late last year regarding cooperation on their August Blues event and their summer series. Kate noted that we have information on holding an MBS outdoor event at ESC that looks promising though indoor event costs there are quite high.

Other Events: Shari suggested that an event could be held at the VFW on Cottage Grove Road which has a nice stage area. Phyllis wondered if we could partner with another group such as vets to help promote to a larger audience.

Website and Facebook: Julie needs help with gathering information about shows to promote. Tim suggested renaming our report the Virtual Blues Alert as shows these days are

virtual. Tim also noted that there are many recordings appearing of old shows with artists that are rarely heard. Some of these might also be good for supporting the blues.

Volunteers: Julie would like to get going on recruitment of future officers as well as getting started with the Advisory Board added in the recent Bylaws update..

NEW BUSINESS:

Merchandise: As we have no events at this time, some wondered if we might consider selling our T-shirts or Solo cups online. Tim noted we tried this awhile back, that the website setup was time consuming and that we had zero orders. Vicki noted that packaging and mail would add costs.

Member contact: Kate and Shari suggested more contact with members during the stay-at-home order would help us all. Asking how members are doing, getting their stories and possibly videos would keep everyone connected. Kate wondered if someone might coordinate a text message to members and Shari volunteered but requests collaboration help.

Blues Calendar: Kate recommended that MBS consider making a blues calendar as was done many years ago. Each month could highlight a local artist or band. Tim suggested that a monthly email to members could include a calendar highlight to help with member contact. Shari thought that we might be able to put a printed calendar together for Xmas.

Compilation CD: Kate noted that we also tried to put together a compilation CD together in the past which highlighted local artists and bands. Information from back then is dated and it's not clear what current costs might be and whether this could raise funds for MBS. Shari felt that some of her connections might make this work.

We're hoping to hold the **Next Board Meeting on May 18, 2020 from 6:00 to 8:00 PM** using **Zoom** conference software. Several of us will meet this way to test out the system and help information will be sent to members who are not familiar with Zoom.

Minutes submitted by Tim Davis, MBS Secretary

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