



## Monthly Meeting Minutes – 2020, December 14

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

**Present:** Board: Shari Davis, Kate Hardy, Vicki Kalkopf, Tim Davis, Steve Lendborg  
Members: Dave Speers, Steve Porter, Eric Heiligenstein, Jim Nelson

**Treasurer's Report:** This update includes transactions through 12/7 Membership Meeting as Vicki expected to report at that time. Income of \$466.08 included memberships \$184.38, donations \$156 and calendar sales \$125.70. Expenses of \$1159 included storage \$55 and \$1104 for calendar printing and mailing costs. Bank balances are now \$7470.57 in checking and \$1140.21 in savings.

Issues continue with the storage unit management. Despite always paying in advance, the account was marked past due again. Vicki went to the office, straightened it out and got the late fee forgiven. As we are on auto-pay, our credit card statement always shows proper payments. Despite a new website for the storage unit with online payments, their billing system remains flaky. Hopefully the kinks will be ironed out soon.

### OLD BUSINESS:

**2021 Board Members:** Members for next year were welcomed and preferred email addresses gotten. Jim Nelson will be changing to a new email for MBS business. *Tim will get the [board@madisonbluessociety.org](mailto:board@madisonbluessociety.org) email address set up to forward to all new board members soon.*

**2021 Blues Calendar:** Calendars have been selling well and a second printing of 100 was done. As sales are now slowing down a bit and Christmas is getting near, we should investigate additional sales pitches and possibly alternative sales locations. Dave has sent out emails to local Blues Societies and *will send emails to past MBS members soon.*

Kate wondered if we might consider sales at music venues such as the Harmony. Tim suggested Mad City Music and *Shari will contact Dave Benton.* Shari also suggested Sugar Shack but Kate said their space is very limited and very crowded already. *Shari also suggested Chief's and will contact them to see about the possibilities.* Steve suggested Willy Street Coop as they are supportive of community efforts but Kate said their information area is generally for free handouts and there is no salesperson there.

### NEW BUSINESS:

**Projects for 2021:** All agreed that the calendar project had turned out well and would like to

do a 2022 MBS Blues Calendar. Shari noted that with the schedule pressed at the end, a 2022 calendar project should be started earlier!

The local artist compilation CD project that was talked about last spring, was brought up as a possibility for next year. Eric commented that beside challenging licensing issues, it is not clear how much demand there is for CD's, rather than streaming which is taking over the music market. With BMI and ASCAP fees so high, Eric wondered what local artists have a licensed song available. Many artists would likely want some compensation for their contribution. Kate also noted that sales would be challenging without open music clubs. It is unknown when openings might happen. Shari suggested that in light of complications, this project should be tabled for now.

The idea of holding any live events in 2021 is appealing but very uncertain, even with Covid-19 vaccines becoming available. Dave wondered if we might consider a late season event at the East Side Club. Previous contact with them and figures from Kate suggested that this could be a very good event with a great location and few demands on the MBS budget or volunteer resources. However, there are concerns about scheduling any event in 2021 without appearing reckless as some 2020 music events have seemed. Shari felt that it was premature to consider any in-person events at this time.

Dave wondered if we might consider sponsoring streamed shows. Shari commented that Hanah Jon Taylor is doing a few streamed jazz shows at the Coda and is open to this idea. It was noted that Blythe Gamble had done a streamed show at Cargo Coffee. Shari also mentioned that the Atwood has video facilities. Eric wonders how the venues get paid. *Shari will check into the Coda.*

**2021 Fundraising:** Shari said that she had received an email from Dane Arts which mentioned the arts grant deadline of February 1, 2021. After some discussion, it was determined that the time to gather budget and project information as well as manpower to meet this deadline was not possible. We will keep in mind a future Dane Arts grant cycle expected six months in the future. Vicki said that we last received \$993 from Dane Arts and Shari noted that this was for the 2018 Blues Picnic.

Tim suggested that we may be able to consider a Madison Arts Council grant. Tim noted that Bob Israel has done grant applications in the past and may be able to help. *Shari will forward the Dane Arts email to the board.* Other fundraising opportunities include GoFundMe as was done recently for blues education resulting in tuition for guitar lessons with Bill Roberts.

**Budget Meeting:** Shari noted that we have not had a budget meeting for some time and that we should have one to prioritize our goals. These include support which has lapsed such as donations to Madison Public Libraries. Kate suggested adding budget discussions as an agenda item to the January meeting.

**ASCAP:** Vicki mentioned that the last ASCAP fees were last paid in November 2019 so we'll need a report for 2020. This should be simple as there were few live shows requiring ASCAP fees.

**Miscellaneous:** Vicki noted that with the upcoming change of Treasurer, we should find the credit card and the old storage key from Ken Olufs. *Shari will look through the stuff Ken gave to see if they can be found.* Dave mentioned that Ken still has the guitar that he was getting musicians to sign.

The **Next Board Meeting** will be a Zoom Virtual Meeting on **January 11, 2021** in three segments **from 6:00PM to 6:40PM, 6:45PM to 7:25PM & 7:30PM to 8:00 PM.** Email links for each of the three meetings will be sent out on or close to the meeting date.

Minutes submitted by Tim Davis, MBS Secretary

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