



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

Meeting Minutes

August 13, 2018

Village Lanes

Monona, WI

Attendance: Present: Peter Gill, Christine Johnson, Shari Davis, Julie Ethridge

Absent: Chris Kalmbach

Call to Order: President Christine Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.

Treasurer Report:

Treasurer Peter Gill is still reconciling the revenue and expenses from the Annual Picnic but estimates that we have approximately \$7400 combined in our checking and savings accounts. [Note: This does not include the grant money we were awarded from MAC and Dane Arts, which hasn't been received yet.] He will email his final treasury report to us. The Picnic lost approximately \$2000 even with cutting our expenses to the absolute minimum necessities.

Picnic Evaluation:

It is determined that we cannot continue the Picnic with the model we have now. Peter reported that he is working on a summary of the revenue and expenses for the last 4 years. He noted that since 2015 the revenue was better, but expenses have increased at a much greater rate for things like insurance and park rental including permits.

We determined that we need to explore a few different options for the future of the Picnic because it is not sustainable with this model.

Julie and Peter were tasked with writing a summary or reverse business plan showing the status of the Picnic. A historical narrative as well as options for the continuance of the Picnic would be included as well as Peter's financial comparison. After distributing this report to our members, a listening session(s) will be set up to get member input.

It was also determined that we need the input as well as commitment from members/volunteers to sustain the Picnic and that a Picnic Committee needs to be established so that the Board can work on more governance issues like board development and long term projects. Current bylaws should be examined to see if they need changes to strengthen the structure, progress, and governance of MBS.

It was also determined that we need to provide more casual social events to interact with members. Julie has proposed a Bus Tour to the Chain O Lakes Blues Fest in Waupaca on October 6, as well as a Bowling-and-Blues event. After more discussion about these events, it was unanimously agreed that the bus tour was a great concept, but the timing was off as we needed to have 40 people sign up in about a 3 week period to make it financially viable. Julie had received quotes from 4 bus companies and the least inexpensive one allowed cancellation 30 days prior to the event (Sept 6). With that date being only 3 weeks away and including Labor Day, the Board agreed that the concept was a good one, but we needed a another festival/location to lessen the risk of losing money. The board was tasked with looking for other locations for a bus trip.



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Regarding the bowling event, Shari Davis motioned that we proceed with the Bowling Event as proposed. Peter Gill seconded the motion. A vote was taken and the motion carried. Julie Ethridge will contact Schwoeglers and confirm space and will put together a timeline.

The Board discussed the next Membership meeting and agreed that November would be better than December. A November 8th date was preferred. It was determined that we would look into having it at the new DreamBank in the Spark building, 821 E. Washington Ave.

The board decided to offer a few very casual social events throughout the year to meet members and to provide fun opportunities for members meet each other. Upcoming opportunities discussed included:

October 19

High Noon Saloon -The Jimmys, Madtown Mannish Boys, and Cash Box Kings – Christine will see if we could have a table there.

September 25

Flix Brewhouse – Showing of the Blues Brothers and a drinks in their bar before/after.

Peter motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM. Shari Davis seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Julie Ethridge