

MABS BOT MEETING
Wednesday, Sept 17, 2008
Landmark Inn Boardroom, 6 pm/6:30 pm

Attendees

Terry Klavitter: President
Elizabeth Letts: Vice President
Sue Schenk Drobny: Secretary
JoAnne Maki: Treasurer
Tom Buchkoe: PR, absent
Dave Crum: Vendor guy, Fest Grounds
Wayne Dickinson: Sponsors, Grants and Development
Marshall Killian: Educational Outreach
Larry Letts: Events Chair
Walt Lindala: Blues News and Promotions
Mark Maki: Archives
Mark Stonerock: Fest Director

Others in attendance: April Lindala, Jim Drobny, Willie Maxwell

Terry welcomed everyone and asked that someone move to approve the agenda. Dave so moved, Mark 2nd. Suggestion the months be revised first, agreed, all in favor. Stony moved we approve the minutes from August, Mark 2nd, all in favor.

Public Comment: none.

Officers Reports:

President: Terry congratulated Mark and everyone on hosting another tremendous Fest event, he'd heard a lot of positive remarks, and said we are constantly learning and improving. He also said as group we seem to be hitting a plateau, feeling burned out, frustrated, and how do we get more people involved in the organization? Asked what we need to do to keep motivated, we need to think ahead, and questioned Secretary on who is up for election in January.

Vice President: Elizabeth updated the membership list with new members that signed up at the Fest. Some have also been taken off the list after she has tried repeatedly to contact them to renew. Now stands at 132 members. Discussion on honorary and sponsor members, should they be separate listings and receive emails? She has ideas to increase membership, will bring those up at the next meeting.

Secretary: Sue reported those up for election in January include JoAnne and Sue, who in the by-laws cannot return as Treasurer and Secretary, and Dave, Marshall, Elizabeth, Walt and Stony.

Treasurer: JoAnne handed out many pages of financial reports, attached to the paper copy of these minutes. Checking balance: \$26111.58, Money Maker \$2145.46. About even with last year's treasury at this time. Still big bills to pay from the Fest (City, portajohns, electrical).

Wayne requested we create a budget for the 2009 Fest that compares exactly what was spent on items this year, with what gets spent next year on the same items. Stony and JoAnne to work on that format. Dave moved we approve the monthly financial report, Sue 2nd, all in favor.

Standing Committees:

Educational Outreach: Marshall has tried to contact area band directors about Blues in the Schools, heard from Marquette and Negaunee only. Terry said we need more people on this committee to be effective. Walt said Ed Outreach also should include public involvement, for example, films at the Library on Blues History, hire a musician to perform a concert AND play at some area schools, fund a Public Radio program on the blues. Walt, Marshall, Willie and Mark interested in this committee (although Willie said he will be moving out of the area in October). Willie suggested we get people more involved by running contests and offering small prizes—small cash amount, or CDs. Will decided where/when to meet after tonight's meeting.

Blues News and Promotions: Walt said there are a lot of photos out there on the Fest. Next Blues News will include a lot of them, get articles to him by Oct. 15. Discussion about having a DVD made of the photos for a 5th anniversary item, or see if TV6 could do a video by interviewing several of the Fest notables, and add photos.

Events: Larry will see Fruitland Jackson this weekend to discuss an event/educational opportunity in Marquette with him. Stony said Watermelon Slim is interested in coming back to play. Walt said all venues for an event are probably booked through Christmas, think farther out. Ideas about volunteer/sponsor thank you party or just a concert were put forth...Stony said the Fest budget includes \$1000 to hold a volunteer/sponsor thank you party, and will be looked into. Eliz thought a volunteer sign up party next year would be a better idea. Stony to look into the Lagniappe on a Saturday for a thank you party. Larry to look into acts/venues for a UP200 Friday night event (Feb 20), will need committee to help out. Let him know if you are interested.

Merchandise: Elizabeth and Tom are working on creating photos of t- and sweat shirts from Fest to get an ad in the Blues News and on the web page.

Fest: Stony commented it does not appear we made too much profit, if any, and we will have a Fest meeting on this. April has passed the PR torch to Walt, Walt is passing the Entertainment Committee head to someone as yet unnamed, and will mentor this person. Frazier Boathouse can be used again for workshops, may try to get more Youth involvement in 2009. Questions on Parks fee bill—more than last year, and we centralized tables and trash cans this year—Stony is talking with the City on this. Mona already has volunteered to head up the fence setup crew for 2009---THANK YOU!!! Will have a new position as golf cart/artist transporter next year. Need new banners, who has connections with a firm so we could trade a sponsorship, perhaps? Terry to contact the NMU office of Communication and Performance Studies to see if they would like a couple of interns to follow our meetings this year. **Next Fest meeting, Monday, October 6, 6:30 pm at the Stonerock's Loveshack, potluck, DVDs of Melvin Taylor and Skip Town, along with other general discussions on Fest ideas.** Mark Maki thanked Walt and April for their work in helping bring big blues name acts to Marquette that five years ago he would have said would never have happened.

Terry thanked Stony for his Fest Directorship work, and Stony thanked everyone for helping out to make the Fest run smoothly.

Old Business: Terry tabled discussion on the grant the Marquette Arts Council will receive if it can match funds in order to purchase a tent to cover a stage at the Lower Harbor Park.

New Business: Terry feels we need a fall/winter strategic planning meeting (s) and create a 5 year plan.

Wayne said Marge Dickinson had a good idea about donating to a charity for Tab Benoit in New Orleans. Displaced Musicians Fund was discussed. Walt felt we should be donating locally more—music programs, library, PR 90. Terry thought it could be in conflict with us asking for sponsors. No motions made.

Good of the Order: April looked into a grant Nikki Nason had told her about, Michigan Arts grant, May 1 deadline. Will look up on line, Nikki may help us apply for it.

Dave suggested we reduce admission to the Fest to members, to generate both membership and Fest attendance. Discussion on how this could affect budget, if this did not work. Need more benefits to being a member...

Larry: Fremont Blues Fest this weekend, north of Milwaukee.

Stony: he and Walt are suggesting a road trip to Chicago sometime this winter (January? when the free Blues Bus shuttle will take you to all the Blues dives in town). Anyone interested? Get a bus?

Next social: Friday, September 26 at Aubree's Pizza at 6 pm. Not only is it JoAnne's birthday on the 25th, Aubree's donated MANY pizzas backstage at the Fest, so we say "thanks!" to them, and Happy B-day to our Treasurer!

Next Fest Meeting: Monday, October 6, 6:30 at Stonerock's Loveshack, potluck, DVDs, general discussion.

Next BOT Meeting: Wednesday, October 15, 6/ 6:30 at Landmark Inn.

Next LSCP Business After Hours: Wed, Oct 8, Michigan Works! at Upfront & Co, 5-7 pm.
Wed, Oct 15, Rec Room and Tri Star Celebrations, location TBA, 5-7 pm.

Sue motioned we adjourn, Stony 2nd, all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Sue Schenk Drobny
MABS Secretary

Paper attachments: VP report, financial reports