

**MABS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Wednesday, Feb 18, 2009

Members Present: Terry Klavitter, Deb Duquette, Larry Letts, Jerry Peterson, Walt and April Lindala, Tom Buchkoe, Dave Crum, Mark Stonerock (Stony), Bill Perron, Marshall Killian.

Welcome:

- Terry asked to make sure that all board members have submitted their correct email to him.
- Agenda for Feb 09 was approved unanimously. Minutes from Jan 09 were approved unanimously.
- There was no public comment.

Officer Reports:

President (Terry):

Stony and Terry met with Gayle LaJoye about the tent and stage issue. Terry then met with the Peninsula Arts Group and other groups that may use the tent and commented that no other groups were visibly supportive with the exception of the Hiawatha group as they would not be paying to use the tent. Gayle would like to rent the stage and tent to off-set the cost. April adds that there is not a planned charge to set up and tear down the tent as this will be built into the rental fee. Terry then emailed Nikki Nason from the Peninsula Art Council, that the tent may not be a good set up for us, but that we would consider it if the price was right (this was an informal comment).

Terry met with the new incoming officers to discuss the transition of office. Deb is moving the records into the computer age and requests that any forms being used repeatedly, as well as copies of the bylaws and contracts be submitted to her so that they can be scanned into the laptop. There was much discussion regarding how to increase membership and involvement with the society.

Vice-President (Wayne):

Although Wayne was absent by excuse, he did send a report which outlined that we currently have 98 active members. Six memberships are due for renewal in February. Over the past year 25 members have not renewed and Wayne plans on contacting each of these people via email or letter to ask that they consider renewing. Wayne is also exploring setting up an internet renewal, but needs to contact Nathan regarding this. Jerry Peterson comments that it would be helpful if we had a goal for our membership number.

Secretary (Mark):

Stony has gone through Sue's formats of past minutes and feels confident that with Dawn's typing ability he can get the minutes out. Currently however, he is trying to transfer the membership email addresses into his computer. Deb has hopefully helped resolve this issue. Stay tuned.

Treasurer (Deb):

Deb has expanded on the use of quick books as she is very comfortable with banking in this manner. She comments that the most recent expenditures were the hotel cost for Kilborn Alley Blues Band, \$500 for the On the Spot Blues Band, which covers the cost of playing at the volunteer party as well as the donation for the band to attend the International Blues Challenge in Memphis, TN. Most of her other checks were deposits to the artists that have committed to playing for the festival. A complete report was submitted and will be included in the file.

The financial account was accepted. The motion was made by April, seconded by Larry and approved unanimously.

Committees:

Educational Outreach (April):

April tried to contact Dr. Matt Ludwig from MGHS and Mike Letts from NMU regarding Blues in the Schools. In addition she has an appointment with the Negaunee High School music teacher next week. She would like to have at least one Blues in the Schools event before the end of the school year.

April has scheduled a room at the Peter White Public Library for the Tuesday or Wednesday before the festival in hopes of having an educational event in anticipation of the fest. She also notes that NMU is starting to get a young musicians group together and she will follow up with this.

Blues News & Promotions (Walt):

The Blues News will be ready soon. Walt hopes to have it out around March 1. Therefore he needs submissions within the next week. Deb comments that it would be nice if we could update the website with artist links, festival reviews, etc... for those members that are not knowledgeable in such things.

Events (Larry):

Larry has been working hard on the Dog Days of Winter event with the Kilborn Alley Blues Band. Promo was done at 100.3 (The Point) by Larry. Walt pitched the event with Hans at Public Radio 90. Larry stated that anyone who works with the UP200 fencing crew is to get in free as these folks donate the fencing for our festival. The band is to play three sets between 8:30pm and 12:30am. The cost is \$5 per person. Volunteer for the UP200 crowd control will be checked in en masse by Deb.

Merchandise (Deb):

Deb wants to do a better job of getting stuff available on the web. She picked up all of the left over merchandise from Elizabeth and is going to try to sell some of it at the Dog Days concert. She notes that there is not much in the way of shirts, but there are a lot of miscellaneous products (Doo-dads). She would like to get some collectible items for out of town people who attend the festival such as pins, coffee mugs, etc... with the festival year and logo. Let her know if there is anything you would like her to look into.

Festival (Mark):

The festival volunteer party has been scheduled for Sat. March 21 at Lagniappe. Music will be provided by the On the Spot Blues Band. Food will be included and there will be a cash bar. Stony reminds us that all PR needs to be channeled through Walt so that information given is consistent. One talent change as Candye Kane is in Europe during the fest. Gina Sicilia will fill that slot.

Terry did some checking around regarding expanding the festival to Friday night. Most people feel that this would be inadvisable this year; however, there is still some membership support for this idea. Dave Crum especially would like to see it happen.

April comments that Dan Truckey has applied for a grant for his folk festival and would like us to be involved. It is our hope that we can pig-tail one of our acts into the folks festival under the blanket of the grant. Jerry motions that we commit \$5,000.00 to match for musical talent under the folk festival grant, seconded by Tom Buchkoe. The motion was passed unanimously. April will follow up with Dan regarding this.

Tom has already started modifying the logo and adding dates.

Deb and Jerry are going to shop around for insurance policies for this year's festival as bids were not taken last year.

Old Business:

Taxes: Deb looked into H&R Block for our annual filing as they have a representative that gives free tax advice at the Peter White Public Library. Jerry volunteered to check with Anderson/Tackman (sp?) regarding the possibility of doing our taxes gratis.

Good of the Order:

Marshall Killian is trying to work out a business after hours with the Blues Society and the company that he now works for – Computer Mechanix. Jerry notes that these outings are very good exposure and made a motion that we commit \$350.00 to do a business after hours event with a partner in May or June, seconded by Dave and passed unanimously.

Larry notes that some festival line ups have been released. Grafton Blues Aug 21 & 22 will feature Fruteland Jackson, Alex Wilson, and Diunna Greenleaf. Wausau Aug 14 will feature Otis and the Alligators, and Shannon Curfman while on Aug 15 Albert Cummings, Liz Mandeville, Smokin Joe Kubek, and Tab Benoit.

Walt notes that he and Stony have been given the festival recordings from last year and most of them are very good. He feels that there is the possibility for 6-7 one hour shows.

No further business, motion to adjourn by Tom seconded by Marshall.

Respectfully submitted, Mark Stonerock (Stony)