

Minutes of SWBMAI Board of Directors Meeting on April 1, 2009

Attending: George Reynolds, Ellis Bauman, Jean Knickelbine, Jim Knobloch, Julie Cherney, James Brocksmith
Regrets: Jon Peik, Sharon Manion, Catherine Rhyner
Special Guest: Scott Knickelbine

George called the meeting to order at 6:10 pm.

Old Business:

- (1) As acting secretary, Ellis had distributed the minutes from the March 4 meeting by email for board review & comments. Minutes were approved with the proposed changes & corrections.
- (2) Jim suggested that board members take turns recording the minutes until a new secretary is chosen. He agreed to record the minutes at the April meeting.
- (3) Financial Reports submitted by Jon Peik prior to the meeting were approved.

New Business:

- (1) Website Join Link - SWBMAI Webmaster, Scott Knickelbine, demonstrated on his laptop computer how the on-line membership registration on our website currently interacts with PayPal & problems he's identified. Scott presented two options for consideration: 1) A two-step process that would access an HTML "site-let" (not supported by our current BlueHost server) that would have to be hosted on a second server, or 2) Continued use of our current server & WordPress-based website. A motion to implement changes recommended by Scott through our existing website server (Option #2) carried unanimously. The board agreed to submit text corrections to Scott by noon on April 2 & to test the functionality of the on-line registration procedure by April 3. This would allow membership renewals combined with on-line purchase of Jamboree tickets to proceed as soon as possible.
- (2) BEML Event - Julie Cherney provided an update on the status of the Bill Evans / Megan Lynch (BEML) event scheduled for April 25. To date, a total of \$435 has been collected in registration for the instrument workshops / instructional jam & pre-ticket sales for the evening concert. George noted that SWBMAI's liability for the event is \$2250, meaning that we're currently \$1815 short of breaking even. Everyone agreed that a concerted effort would be needed on our part to reach this goal. James suggested we contact Bluegrass Blog, Folk Jam, & Colorado Case Company (Bill Evans is their featured Artist of the Month) & send them event flyers in PDF format for their websites. Logistics for the BEML event were then discussed. Julie reported that several people have volunteered to help. Jim will handle the SWBMAI information table & T-shirt sales at the evening concert. SWBMAI 25th Anniversary T-shirts would be presented to Bill & Megan in appreciation. Julie agreed to contact Jon Peik & request checks for Bill & the Wil-Mar Center sound technician.
- (3) SWBMAI Jamboree Fundraiser - Jim provided an update. All the bands except one (Oak Street Ramblers) have provided their microphone & stage set-up requirements. George knows one of the band members & would remind him. George also agreed to address the audience briefly at 3 pm on behalf of SWBMAI & explain how their continued financial support benefits the bluegrass community in southern Wisconsin. The list of possible emcees for the event was narrowed to three people. These individuals will be contacted personally, in hopes that one of them can be persuaded to serve as emcee. To assure that a variety of food (besides pizza) is available at the Jamboree, Cathy Dethmers will be asked to provide menus from the adjoining Brass Ring restaurant. Jean did not receive a response from Debra Amesqua about setting up a Luthier Showcase display at the Jamboree to promote her upcoming guitar building workshop at Woodcraft of Madison in June. Jean will try contacting Debra again.
- (4) Gandy Dancer Festival - Ellis received a \$150 request to rent indoor space in Mazomanie for informational display purposes. This decision will be deferred until after the BEML event.

- (5) Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission - Ten, \$300 scholarships are available for a fundraising workshop to be held May 27-28 at UW-Madison. Julie obtained a brochure, describing the workshop. Because tuition is actually \$395 per person, Ellis made a motion that SWBMAI pay the \$95 difference for any board member(s) interested in attending. Seconded by Jean, the motion carried.
- (6) Bluegrass Caravan - James Brocksmith was welcomed to the meeting as a new board member. He announced that two SWBMAI member bands, Liberty Bluegrass Band & The High 48s, have teamed up with The Henhouse Prowlers in a traveling "Bluegrass Caravan" show. In October they are scheduled to perform at the Al. Ringling Theatre in Baraboo. James inquired whether SWBMAI might consider making a \$500 in-kind donation to advertise the event in the Fireball Mail newsletter & on our website. SWBMAI could then set up an information table in the 700-seat theater & receive a number of complimentary tickets for distribution as a membership benefit. The SWBMAI logo would also appear on print advertisement as an event sponsor. George agreed to forward to other board members the email James had sent him announcing the event. After reviewing the email, the Board will consider James' request at a future meeting. To avoid any conflict of interest, James will be asked to abstain from any votes taken on the matter.
- (7) MATC Summer Jam Update - Ellis updated the board on his proposal to hold a weekly, Sunday afternoon jam at MATC's Downtown Education Center (211 N. Carroll Street) in Madison. This jam would be held outside (weather permitting) from mid-June through mid-September from noon until 4 pm. Representatives from two neighboring churches & the MATC facilities manager were contacted & enthusiastically endorsed the idea with the following provisos: no amplifiers, PA systems, or solicitation would be permitted, & SWBMAI would be responsible for clean-up afterwards. There might be a nominal charge to reserve the MATC site. SWBMAI will also need to provide proof of liability insurance for this public event. As an IBMA member, SWBMAI may be eligible for group insurance through this organization. Ellis will make further inquiries
- (8) SWBMAI Board Transition - George decided to resign as president, which will be announced May 1 at George's request. We sincerely appreciate everything George has accomplished during his short tenure & will miss his considered opinion. Ellis made a motion to nominate Jean Knickelbine as our new president. The motion was seconded by Julie & unanimously approved by the board.
- (9) Next Meeting - To allow time between the next board meeting & Jamboree on May 16, the meeting normally scheduled for the first Wednesday of the month (i.e. May 6) will be moved up a week. The board will reconvene at the Bar next Door on Wednesday, April 29, at 6 pm.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:15 pm

Respectfully submitted by Jim Knobloch, Acting Secretary