

Minutes of SWBMAI Board of Directors Meeting – September 10, 2009

Attending: Jean Knickelbine, Sharon Manion, Catherine Rhyner, James Brocksmith,
Lane Venden, Jim Hodges, Jim Knobloch
Regrets: Jon Peik, Ellis Bauman, Julie Cherney

Jean called the meeting to order at 6:03 pm.

Old Business:

- 1) The minutes of the August 5, 2009, meeting were approved as revised.
- 2) Treasurer's Report Financial documents provided by Jon Peik (year-to-date budget calculations, membership renewal income, & jamboree reporting) were reviewed. Approval delayed, pending clarification of postage expenses, missing Gandy Dancer T-shirt sales revenue listing, and a \$281.54 expense item listed as "unknown" under Supported Organizations.
- 3) Gandy Dancer Festival Review Despite the good weather attendance appeared to be down, likely due in part to lack free train rides this year. Music provided by Art Stevenson & High Water, The Krüger Brothers, and the other bands was well received. Some thought that the gazebo at the Promenade in Mazomanie is not a good location for the SWBMAI table. SWBMAI took in \$225 in T-shirt sales in exchange for its \$150 donation.
- 4) Tax Status Update The IRS granted us an extension until October 9, 2009, for filing our tax status change application. The supplemental information requested by the IRS (presumably) was submitted by the due date. A motion carried to request that the lawyers copy SWBMAI board members on all correspondence with the IRS.
- 5) Punch Brothers Concert Update The concert with Chris Thile's new band is scheduled for March 4, 2010. Jean will ask Julie to write the article about SWBMAI for the "Meet Our Friends" section of UW Memorial Union's e-newsletter and to be the official SWBMAI contact person for coordinating this in-kind donation.
- 6) In-Kind Donation Policy Regarding email blasts to members, website postings, and Fireball Mail articles, James B. proposed communicating his ideas to Jean via email for future board discussion.
- 7) Riley Tavern Letter Update After discussing a motion to write a letter to the Riley Tavern owners regarding the monthly jam, the board voted to postpone the matter indefinitely.
- 8) West High Mandolin Club Jean requested that the letter (dated 7/28/09) from Jeremy Goodman be written into the minutes along with our response (dated 9/3/09):

Dear Jean,

I am writing to ask for financial support from SWBMAI to help provide instruments and instruction for our Mandolin Club at Madison West High School. I'm the club leader/organizer (I'm a Junior) and this club is self-directed, which usually works, but could really use some outside motivation / instruction. Our club is sponsored by Nan Steffens, the Orchestra teacher: she provides the meeting space and a couple of mandolins (not very functional any more), but has no time for instruction, with all her other responsibilities. A few of us own instruments, but we are trying to grow the club and need instruments to do that.

Please read my attached application. Is the SWBMAI Board able to consider funding at its August (preferable) or September Board meeting? If August, may I join you to present my application and answer any questions? I could be there right at the start of your meeting, if that's possible (I have a 7:30 commitment on Aug 5th). It might help to get things going by the start of the school year.

Thank You,
Jeremy Goodman

Dear Jeremy,

On behalf of the Southern Wisconsin Bluegrass Music Association Inc. board, thank you for your financial support application and presentation regarding the West High School Mando Club. Without exception, our entire board is interested in finding ways to help the club.

As the association's budget has been entirely allocated through the end of our fiscal year next March 31, 2010 at this time we are unable to offer the financial assistance you have sought. There is the potential in the future for a matching grant but that will require more time to allow for board discussion and decision-making as well as budget re-allocating.

However, there are some things we can do to help the Mando Club in the early part of this school year. To recap first: following your official presentation to the board you verbally indicated the club would be open to other means of obtaining additional musical instruments and musical instruction for the Mando Club rather than a cash donation. If that is indeed still the case, our association is potentially able to help you achieve your goals in other ways. Specifically:

1. Repair bluegrass instruments such as the mandolin currently available to the West High School Mando Club when the overall condition makes it feasible. Board member Lane Venden of Lane's Lutherie and association member Debra Amesqua have both volunteered time for this project. We need to know how many instruments need repair, a description of the general condition, and written permission to attempt repair. Instruments should then be dropped off at Lane's Lutherie, 4269 W. Beltline Highway, Suite B, Madison, WI 53711.
2. Request instrument donations from the association's subscriber list. We will do this via email, newsletter and website. However, we will need specific information on the school's musical instrument donation program you referenced in your presentation including the name, tax classification, e.g. 501(c)(3), tax id number, contact person, and methodology for donating instruments.
3. Approach qualified bluegrass music instructors for a lesson donation to the club. For this we will need the specific time slot, date options, meeting room specifics and any procedures for obtaining a pass to be in the school during that time.
4. Offer wholesale prices on new mandolins available through Lane's Lutherie. The mandolin's available through the shop's suppliers include: (a) Bedford M1- F style- \$74.95; (b) Rover RM25- A style - 49.98; (c) Rover RM50- A Style - solid spruce top, black finish - \$89.95. Shipping and insurance is additional. Lane Venden believes the RM50 is probably the best option even though it is the most expensive because of the solid top. Gig bag cases would add about \$12.00 per case. For this the West High School Mando Club will have to conduct their own fundraising pre-paying for the instruments prior to ordering directly through Lane's Lutherie.
5. Offer Mando Club members a free Southern Wisconsin Bluegrass Music Association Inc. T-shirt selected from our remaining inventory. Colors and size options vary. We can arrange for T-shirt drop off once school has begun and club members have a scheduled meeting.
6. Invite West High School Mando Club students to attend the association's weekly bluegrass jam class instruction held in the Hotel Ruby Marie's Germania parlor. Information is the same as previously provided in the informational flyer which is attached again here: Tuesday nights, 2nd Tuesdays are oriented toward experienced players, all other instruction is geared toward moderately advanced beginners, lesson typically run 1- 1-1/2 hours. \$5 instructor donation recommended.
7. Finally, we have compiled a list of other resources we highly recommend you approach in order to meet your club's goals. These resources include:

- Madison Area Music Awards: Putting Musical Instruments in Kids' Hands www.themamas.org
- Madison Community Foundation www.madisoncommunityfoundation.org
- Foundation for Madison's Public Schools www.fmfs.org
- Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission www.culturalaffairscommission.com
- Wisconsin Arts Board artsboard.wisconsin.gov
- Independent String Teachers of Madison www.istmadison.org
- International Bluegrass Music Association Bluegrass in the Schools www.ibma.org/events/programs/schools
- Madison CitiArts (contact Mayor's Office)

Please inform the Southern Wisconsin Bluegrass Music Association Inc. if you would like to us to act upon any of these offers on West High School's Mando Club. We truly look forward to hearing from you.

Most sincerely,

Jean Knickelbine
President, Southern Wisconsin Bluegrass Music Association Inc.

- 9) Founders / Futures Scholarship Update The scholarship committee did not manage to meet over the summer. Jim K. stepped down as chairperson. Catherine volunteered to head the committee and Jim K. offered his assistance.

New Business:

- 1) Case Stickers Update Jean reported that the SWBMAI logo will need to be modified for proper printing. She has contacted Paul Kienitz for assistance with the design change.
- 2) SWBMAI T-shirt Inventory Reduction Sharon proposed giving the West High Mando Club a month to respond to our free SWBMAI T-shirt offer. James B. suggested asking member bands to throw T-shirts into the audience at bluegrass shows as a promotional items. Other uses suggested included use as door prizes at our Jamboree and Holiday Party. Decision tabled until response is received from the West High Mando Club regarding our T-shirt offer.
- 3) Holiday Party Sharon & Julie investigated possible locations & dates for the Third Annual SWBMAI Holiday Party. Pending board approval, they tentatively reserved (\$150 refundable deposit) the Evjue Community Room at the Goodman Center (149 Waubesa Street) in Madison for Saturday, December 5, from 3:00 to 10:00 pm. Motion to accept the arrangement unanimously approved. The board discussed the merits and cost of the following options: 1) serving beer and wine at the event (requires a deposit increase), 2) use of the kitchen (\$20), and 3) extending the reservation time to 11:30 pm (\$50). Decision postponed until next meeting, pending results from SWBMAI subscribership survey in upcoming issue of Fireball Mail.
- 4) SWBMAI Website Duties Scott Knickelbine had agreed to assume responsibility for maintaining our website only temporarily until a new webmaster could be identified. He has done an outstanding job but now wishes to share those duties for eventual hand-off to another person. Catherine will work with Scott and provide some assistance.
- 5) 2010 SWBMAI Jamboree Fundraiser Sharon volunteered as chairperson, with assistance from James B. and Jim K. The committee will investigate possible dates, locations, and a revised format for the Jamboree. Jim K. agreed to contact Cathy Dethmers at the High Noon Saloon about possible dates

next spring. It was suggested that we look at the Minnesota Bluegrass Old-Time Music Association for fundraising ideas.

- 6) Bluegrass Caravan Jon P. will manage the SWBMAI information table in Milwaukee on Friday, October 9. Jim K. will be in charge of the table on Saturday, October 10, in Baraboo. James B. agreed to transport SWBMAI materials (yellow poster, membership information, etc.) between concert sites.
- 7) The next board meeting will convene at 6:00 pm on Thursday, October 1, 2009.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 8:18 pm

Respectfully submitted by Jim Knobloch, Acting Secretary