

Chippewa Valley Blues Society Meeting

December 9, 2008

The meeting of the Chippewa Valley Blues Society was at Shari's Chippewa Club, in Durand on December 9th at 7:00 pm. Introductions were made, and those in attendance included: John Van De Voort, Pete Pappas, Mike Kelley, Shari Edwards, Rob Edwards, Snapshot, Lisa Adams, Dan Callan, Dan Michaels, Bob Baxter, Mary Dettmann.

Items on the agenda:

Membership: We have a new member at the meeting, Bob Baxter and renewing members: Faith Ulwelling, Mike Kelley, John VandeVoort, and Dan Callan

Many memberships are now due, we had a real strong momentum from the start and we need to continue the drive. Discussion was made about the option of paying dues online, possibly through PayPal or a similar service, without individuals having to sign up or join the service.

The annual meeting for officers for CVBS will be on February 10, 2009. Anyone interested in becoming an officer, please let us know. Ken is would prefer not to run for president, so we will need someone to run. Also available are: Vice-President, Treasurer and Secretary. More discussion and nominations will be at the next meeting on January 13, 2009, held at Sammy's Pizza in Eau Claire. Discussed options on where to hold the February meeting, (Shari's Chippewa Club, or possibly Stella Blues).

Minutes from October and November meetings were passed and approved.

Treasurer report: we should copy and post this information to website. The balance to date is \$713.45

Committees Reports:

Website: discussed rotating the front page to keep the site new and updated. Also, discussed making the site a MySpace site (www.myspace.com/cvblues) and accessing by adding as friends. This would give us some additional options for our website. An idea was brought up for promoting the blues by naming an artist of the month and adding a link to their music and information about them. We could bring nominee names to the meetings and vote on whom to feature each month. Along with this idea, it was discussed to have a western Wisconsin Blues Awards, maybe sponsored by a newspaper, (mentioned Pub and Grub) with voting by the public and members. The blues artist of the year may be booked at the Blues on the Chippewa event. We could have a nominating committee for the best Group/Artist/Musician.

Fundraising: Plans are still being made to sponsor a summer blues night, similar to the Thursday night music at Phoenix Park in Eau Claire. We need to find sponsors and put together an advertising budget and plan so the sponsors know what type of exposure they will receive. We need to address the insurance issue and find out what we will need for this type of venture. This will also affect where we have this,

with Durand being a possibility because there is no charge for use of the park or for insurance. We will need to find musicians, PA options and advertising possibilities. Phoenix Park is one option and Owen Park is another that would have lighting for later performances and a bandshell for cover if the weather is questionable. If Owen Park is chosen, we could approach the Water Street merchants for backing, as well as UW-EC. The summer blues would probably start at a later date than the Thursday nights at Phoenix Park, depending on the sponsorship we receive. Starting later would allow a weekly event, to keep it consistent, rather than spacing out farther apart and risking people forgetting when the event occurs. The summer events could co-promote each others blues events going on in the area.

Lust for Blues II: discussed having a 2nd annual Lust for Blues in March. Possibly March 22, 2009. The House of Rock is available. We could have it on a Sunday, an all ages show again and low budget. We could try to team with a motel/hotel for a special rate for overnighters.

Discussion Items:

We need someone to write grants, one is possible from Travel Wisconsin. Another need is someone to write articles on the blues/blues groups to submit to publication, possibly to newspapers or other venues.

Water St. Event - discussed what went wrong. We lost some money on the event, but the music was great. We had a small attendance, and not many CVBS members attended. We discussed the need to advertise more thoroughly and timely. We need to have a poster out, and look into free internet blogs / advertising, promoting these events.

Blues on the Chippewa: the event will be the first weekend in August, Aug. 1 and 2, 2009. The plan is for a 2 day event for 2009 in Durand. Volunteers are needed to help with the event. There are other blues fests that could attract musicians passing through the area and maybe at an affordable fee We should look into the dates and possible regional or nationally known musicians playing at these venues. There will be camping available and the new motel should be open by this date.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, January 13, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. at Sammy's Pizza in Eau Claire. Meeting was adjourned.