**Grand River Blues Society AGM Minutes May 6th, 2018**

Location: The Huether Hotel, 59 King Street N. Waterloo, ON

11:00am – Set up Room

12:00 Meeting Start

2:00 – Doors open for Matt Weidinger – The Music of Steve Winwood @ The Jazz Room

All meeting materials were posted to the website in advance of the meeting (Agenda, reports, etc). 12 hard copy packets of agenda materials were printed and provided at the meeting along with a Member Feedback Form created by Cheryl Bomberry.

The meeting was chaired by Mike Carson

10 members attended

Regrets from Dennis Cuomo and Gareth Jones

**AGM Business**:

1.        Introduction of the Board Members – by Mike Carson

2.        Acceptance of 2017 AGM Minutes – by Mike Carson

Willy Alexander 1st, Brian Hergott 2nd. All in favour

3.        PRESIDENT’S REPORT –  by Bruce Hall

* Opening remarks and welcome, overview of GRBS – who we are and what we do, thanks to the Huether and the Jazz Room.
* IBC review
* Communications overview
* Events overview
* Critically acclaimed 12 minute video

4.        TREASURER’S REPORT – by Liz Temple

* “I am phasing myself out and handing the reins over to Cheryl Bomberry”
* Although we don’t carry a lot of money in the accounts, we are financially secure. We run about 3K in our accounts at any one time.
* Our purpose is not to make money per se, but to use the money well to further the activities that we support.
* Blues Camp is now self-supporting

5.         [MEMBERSHIP REPORT](https://www.grandriverblues.org/uploads/7/4/0/5/74050097/membership_history_31-12-17.pdf)– by Liz Temple

* We’ve maintained about 160 active (paying) members since we started
* We haven’t raised rates in 15 years – still $20
* Paypal has been helpful to us for ongoing renewals
* 1st Woodshed weekend held – Electric guitar. Hope to expand to other instruments in future.

6.         [STRATEGIC PLANNING REPORT](https://www.grandriverblues.org/uploads/7/4/0/5/74050097/stat_plan_report.docx) – by Mike Carson

* New mission Statement read. “Everything we do should flow from this”
* New Vision Statement read. “We want to be the ‘go to’ organization that supports Blues in the region.
* New Core Values Statement read.
* Concentrating on 3 strategic elements this year:
  + Governance
  + Membership (including volunteers)
  + Communications (both internal and external)

7.         [WEBSITE REPORT – Abby Goodrum](https://www.grandriverblues.org/uploads/7/4/0/5/74050097/web_report.docx)

* New website created this year
* Consolidation of hosting for domain, website, and email accounts
* Approx. 2,000 hits per month
* Plans to increase social media presence

8.        [MERCHANDISE REPORT](https://www.grandriverblues.org/uploads/7/4/0/5/74050097/merchandise_report.docx) – by Brenda Thyer

* Activity has stalled as we explore this activity through strategic planning process
* We supported 22 shows and events and we get many more requests than we can fill
* Volunteers make this possible. Recognition of volunteers by name.

9.       [EDUCATION REPORT](https://www.grandriverblues.org/uploads/7/4/0/5/74050097/education_report.docx) -  by Neil Tarswell

* Blues Camp, Clinics, and Woodshed all fall under “Education” now.
* Clinics: In partnership with Guitar Corner and Harmonic Guild at Warmingtons. 3-4 clinics per year. 2 hours instruction. All money raised goes to pay the artists, and we also sell their CDs and merchandise.
* Thanks to the Lancaster, Chris, the instructors, Guitar Corner, Steam Whistle for supporting the 1st Woodshed
* Approx. $200 shortfall – but not worried as it takes time to build reputation and interest.
* Blues camp – 4 days, 60 kids, local school, all proceeds go to pay for musicians

**MEMBER COMMENT/QUESTION** – At Youth Legacy this year, there were 5 acts but not really very ‘Bluesy” Is this a problem?

RESPONSES –Kids don’t all know “Blues” yet, but this can serve as a way to introduce them to it. Blues has evolved and merged into country and rock and jazz.

10.       [NOMINATIONS](https://www.grandriverblues.org/uploads/7/4/0/5/74050097/nominations.docx) for 2018 Board of Directors – by Mike Carson

* The following persons have been duly nominated for a two year term as Director in accordance with the GRBS by laws. Term shall commence immediately following the 2018 Annual General Meeting.
* Chris Arsenault
* Claude Cloutier
* Bruce Hall
* Gareth Jones
* Liz Temple
* Brenda Thyer

MOTION TO APPROVE THE REPORTS

Henrietta Hielema 1st, Raven Cox, 2nd.  All in favour

11.       Question Period from the Membership

* Question: “I heard a rumour that there might be a Hamilton chapter of the GRBS”
  + Answer: “We’ve talked to the Hamilton folks but we are not in a position to have them join us as a chapter at this time.
* Question: “I want to talk to someone about the KBF”
  + Answer: We are not the KBF Board. We can refer you to them.
* Question: We live in Guelph but we go to most of our music in Hamilton because we don’t know of any clubs near us or in Kw that have Blues music.
  + Answer: Are you getting the Blues Buzz?
  + Action – Abby signed them up for the Blues Buzz
* Question: The Blues Buzz isn’t opening well for us in our email.
  + Answer: We will check with the Blues Buzz editor to see if we can fix this.
* Question: Is “info@” the best place to send info and requests?
  + Answer: Yes

12.       Closing remarks – by Bruce Hall

* Honour to work with the Directors, members and volunteers.
* Encourage you all to support local and regional musicians and venues
* Thanks again to the Huether and Jazz Room and to our volunteers today

13.       Motion to Adjourn