

# Daily World



## SBBS seeks funding help from A&P

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World Staff Writer

Rayne Gordon, president of the Sonny Boy Blues Society, approached the Helena-West Helena Advertising & Promotions Commission Thursday for help funding the 23rd annual Arkansas Blues & Heritage Festival. The application filed with the commission reflected a request for a one-time lump sum of \$15,000 and \$2,500 monthly but commissioners only funded the \$15,000 request citing issues with festival finances.

Commissioner Jay Hollowell revealed that the organization still owed funds to the water department from last year's event. The Internal Revenue Service also froze the event's bank accounts with that issue being resolved by the SBBS board.

Commission Chair, John Crow said the amount was "a lot of money" and that he had questions about "how well y'all control the money."

He suggested funding part of the request until the issues could be resolved. Gordon informed the commission that they were working through the problems.

"We've had some rough years and have made some mistakes," commented Gordon.

Commissioner Kim  
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Brown asked Gordon why the bills had not been paid.

"Because we didn't have the money," replied Gordon.

Hollowell asked if the organization planned to reopen the festival store located on Cherry St. He added that it was a good idea to have the store open when tourists come to town. Gordon told the board that SBBS would pay off the outstanding debt and then reopen the store with the funds.

Commissioner Cathy

Cunningham said that SBBS had a proposal for funding with the Delta Bridge Project for a program called Blues in the Classroom. She said that the Delta Cultural Center

wanted to be a part of the administration of that program.

Gordon agreed to the idea and said he would get with Cunningham concerning the matter.