

**Minutes of the Jasper Community Arts Commission**  
**City of Jasper, Indiana**  
**March 3, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Jasper Community Arts Commission was held at 4:30 PM on Tuesday, March 3, 2020, in the Council Chambers at Jasper City Hall. Roll call was held with the following **Commission Members Present:** Darla Blazey, Emi Donato, Jay Hamlin, Mike Jones, Linda Kahle, Gary Moeller, Sherry Monesmith, Kent Reyling, Beth Seidl, & Pat Thyen. **Commission Members Absent:** Selena Vonderheide. **Staff Members Present:** Emily Peak, Doreen Lechner, Corina Mack, Donna Schepers & Liz Book. **City Attorney:** Absent. **Guests in attendance:** Christine Golden, Christian Blome, Christie Livingston, Mayor Dean Vonderheide, Lisa Bower, Ben Kizior, Deisy Sandoval, Edwin Sanchez, & Lauren Verkamp. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Gary Moeller** moved to approve the minutes of February's meeting. **Sherry Monesmith** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

**City Financial Statement**

**Sherry Monesmith** moved to approve the claims as presented. **Pat Thyen** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

**Public Business**

- Vincennes University Jasper Campus Dean, Christian Blome came before the board to discuss the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration and a proposal for use of the Arts Center. The 2020-2021 academic year is VUJ's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary and it has events scheduled throughout the year. He would like to present a concert at the Arts Center on August 7<sup>th</sup>. He passed out a handout that included the scope of the project and what he asks are. He would be looking for an in-kind donation of the building rental, Jasper Arts staff's expertise in negotiating the artist and technical contracts on behalf of VUJ, and a staff person to be available on the day of the event. He has already started conversations with artist's agents and some are beyond what VUJ had originally budgeted.

He would be open to JCA contributing money towards the event if possible. The budget for all expenses is between \$40,000 and \$50,000. The target audience is current VUJ students and high school, roughly those between 15-24 years old. The hope is to find an artist that would be appealing to that demographic. At this point he doesn't know if the event would be free or if tickets will be sold. There is also a possibility of a 3<sup>rd</sup> party sponsor. Gary mentioned that limited funds would be available from the Arts end. Mike commented that JAC rental fees are set by ordinance and any in-kind donations would need to be approved by the Mayor.

Mike recommended Christian tackled each item, step by step. Christian commented that he had been in talks with Kyle, and Kyle let him know that he needed to bring his request to the board. The August 7<sup>th</sup> date was chosen to avoid a conflict with Strassenfest, other events going on, and to fall close to when they have new student orientation. They are also actively trying to find an artist that does not fall into a genre that is being presented locally in the same time frame.

Their top choice is \$75,000 so to make that happen, additional funds would be needed. Christian asked for an in-kind donation of the rental fee. He let the board know that they are moving forward regardless, and approval of the in-kind would just free up additional money.

**Sherry Monesmith** recommended the Mayor consider an in kind donation of the Arts Center usage. **Beth Seidl** seconded. Motion passed 10-0. Mayor Vonderheide commented that he supports the in-kind if the resources are available and if it is not in conflict with other things going on. He thinks it's a great thing for the community. He will make an executive order to waive the Arts Center fee for the event.

- Mayor Dean Vonderheide introduced Renee's new legal assistant, Christie Livingston.
- The Mayor's Youth Leadership Council gave a presentation to the board about its community project. Members, Deisy Sandoval, Edwin Sanchez, Ben Kizior, and Lauren Verkamp detailed the project. They asked for community input on what type of project and what the public would like to see. The top selection was an interactive mural and the location the group decided on Kerstien's building at the corner of 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue and Jackson Street. They picked the building based on its high visibility, proximity to the Farmer's Market, the Thyen-Clark Cultural Center,

and River Centre. The Jasper High School SOFA club members will submit designs which will then be selected. The project is estimated to cost \$15,000 and they already have \$5,000 from a grant. They are seeking donations from the community for the additional money needed. A *Call for Artists* will be sent out once the design is finalized and they have permission from the building's owner. They are targeting a completion date of summer 2020. The building owner will be responsible for maintenance and upkeep. Mike thanked the students for getting involved in their community and the Mayor for creating the Council.

### **Director's Report/Performing Arts**

Liz reported:

- She presented the board with quotes for the 2020-2021 season guide. 5,000 guides will be printed, 4,500 in English and 500 in Spanish.

<b>Name</b>	<b>Brochure</b>	<b>Mailing</b>	<b>Poster</b>	<b>Design</b>	<b>Total</b>
Ewing Printing	\$3,305.00	Postage Not Included	\$0 (included)	\$0 (included)	\$3,305.00
Woods Printing	\$5,215.98	Postage Not Included	\$140.04	\$2,000.00 (included)	\$7,356.02
World Arts, Inc.	\$2,884.25	Postage Not Included	\$0 (included)	\$1,500 - \$2,000	\$4,384.25 - \$4,884.25
Impressions Printing					Did not submit

**Sherry Monesmith** made a motion to accept the quote from Ewing Printing. **Darla Blazezy** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

- Liz presented the board with five more artists for the 2020-2021 performance season. Two would be for the Backstage, two would be for the Astra, and the last would be for Family Fun. **Kent Reyling** made a motion to accept the artists as presented. **Pat Thyen** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.
- She presented the board the proposed ticket prices for the 2020-2021 performance season. The proposed prices would be the same as the 2019-2020 season. **Darla Blazezy** made a motion to accept the proposed ticket prices as presented. **Gary Moeller** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.
- Liz presented the board with the proposed 2020-2021 Corporate Sponsorship Guide and Program. The only change that were made from last season was the removal of the printed ticket option as there are tickets still available and the ticket sponsor is returning again. There has already been one individual show sponsor secured for next season. **Mike Jones** made a motion to accept the corporate sponsorship guide and program. **Gary Moeller** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.
- The *Goldstein-Peled-Fiterstein Trio* performed on February 7<sup>th</sup>. A total of 95 people attended the show and it was very well received.
- The *Shaun Johnson Big Band Experience* and *Tonic Sol-fa* performed on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. A total of 326 people were in attendance. The artists were easy to work with and put on a fun show.
- *The Second City* will perform at the Astra Theatre this Saturday as part of JCA's Live @ the Astra series. The doors will open at 6:30 pm. Only 5 tickets are still available. She asked if anyone is unable to attend to please turn in their tickets.
- Latingrass group *Che Apalache* will close out the 2019-2020 season. They are performing as part of the Backstage series on Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup>. Only a few tickets are still available.
- Overall, ticket sales and attendance for public performances are up slightly over last year.
- She also let the board know that Levi Lowe has accepted the Technical Assistant position.

### **Building and Structure Report**

Doreen reported:

- The public performance season will be wrapping up soon but there are a number of community rentals scheduled that will keep the staff busy. Regular community renters include: *Country Showdown*, *Music Federation* and *Holy Trinity*. There has also been an increase in rentals from outside the area. *John Conlee* will perform in April and there is another concert scheduled in July with 4 performers. There is also a potential rental in December.
- She updated the board on the dimmer rack issue that was discovered at *Hiplet Ballerina's* performance. Indianapolis Stage came and did a deep clean on the dimmer rack. The rep

commented that the rack was already very clean based on its age, and he didn't find any obvious problems. If there continues to be issues, she will contact ETC directly. She thinks it is possible that the problem may have originated with a glitch in the lighting program they were running.

### Visual Arts Report

Emily reported:

- February's exhibit *Esther Randall* was well attended. There were several new people that came to see the exhibit.
- March is *Youth Art Month*, and this year artwork from local High School and Middle School students will be exhibited. The exhibit is sponsored by Universal Design Associates. The High School reception is on Sunday from noon to 2 pm. The Middle school reception will be held on March 22<sup>nd</sup>. She reminded everyone that since it is Youth Art Month there will be no First Thursday reception.
- Emily and Corina continue to work on the hospitality requirements for the upcoming artists.
- Three outreach events were scheduled in February. Two were held at Northwood Good Samaritan and one at VUJ. There is another event scheduled at VUJ this month.
- She hosted two toddler painting events. Both were free to the public and used extra supplies.
- All of the art workshops are going well. There were a few new offerings this time. Kumiko wood working has been a big hit.
- The Visual Arts Committee met last week to review artists for 2021. She has started to contact artists that the committee selected. She will update the board once the artists are finalized.

### Education Report

Donna reported:

- The last Crossroads event was the *Story of Dubois County Agriculture* on February 12<sup>th</sup> at the Dubois County Museum. Local agricultural historian, Lee Bilderback gave a talk about the evolution of farming in Dubois County. 41 people were in attendance and they were from all over the county. There are two more scheduled events in the Crossroads series, *Food for Thought* and the Indiana State read "*The Year We Left Home*". "*Food for Thought*" is scheduled for April 1<sup>st</sup>. This event was originally scheduled late last year but was rescheduled due to weather. Indiana author, David Hoppe will present a program on how creative work in Indiana and how restaurants have made a difference in communities across the state.
- She attended the *Kennedy Center Training Conference* and saw showcases of teaching artists that would be available and she saw their new education facility, The Reach.
- *Ryan Hourigan* is the Director of the School of Music at Ball State University. He will present a program on how the arts can assist with students with autism and disabilities. This is part of the partnership's Kennedy Center programming. The program will be held Wednesday morning at the JHS community Room.
- *Mayhem Poets* will perform for select students at the High School. They will perform original performance poetry.

### Events Report

Corina reported:

- The special needs paint your own pottery event was a success. She thanked Romy and Clare Designs for leading the workshop and donating the pottery pieces. The finished pieces were made to look like a flower.
- The Greater Downtown Jasper Business Association youth contest will be held April 24-26. As in years past, artwork will be featured in downtown business' storefront windows.
- She asked the board that 50 Chalk Walk registrations be set aside for non-profits at no cost. This has been done without recognition in past years for two organizations. She would like to open it up more so that other groups have the opportunity. Kyle's initial thought was that 50 registrations be given away to non-profits, capped at 10 each and would be given on a first-come first-served basis. **Gary Moeller** made a motion to cap 50 Chalk Walk registrations to non-profits on a first-come first served basis. **Beth Seidl** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

*Sherry Monesmith left the meeting at 5:25 pm.*

- The Public Art Committee continues to meet and is coming up with guidelines, and a database of artists. The UDO stipulates that the board must approve all public art. She will present a plan to the board once things are more concrete.

### **Old Business**

- The Next Act – Jay reported that the first half of their season has been announced. They had comedian, *Mike Armstrong* in February and it was a great show. Next weekend they will be showing the movie *The Secret Life of Pets*. He commented that there is a lot going on the area and thinks it is necessary to create a master calendar of upcoming events. His hope is that those that program events would list them and that it would create and foster a dialogue between groups. He would also like to see a master calendar that would be available to the public that lists all events in the county.
- Mayor Vonderheide commented that there is a lot happening with quality of life in Jasper. With events happening at the library, museum, sports and Arts programming he wondered how to best get the word out. It is in the early stages, but he was approached by someone would like to develop an app that would coordinate all of those activities locally. He believes tools are needed to avoid scheduling competing events. He would like a board member from the arts commission to participate in the committee to discuss the app development. The app could serve to both advertise and promote events.
- Thyen-Clark Cultural Center – Christine reported that progress is picking up. At the last progress meeting she asked Tom from Hafer and Matt Krempp what keeps them up at night. At this point their biggest concern is getting the roof on the library portion of the building. Once that is finished they can continue to work inside and weather becomes less of an issue. She would like to setup tours for the staff and boards to tour the site. She will be giving tours on Wednesday and Thursday at 4:00 pm and on March 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. She has purchased several hardhats, and she anticipates the tours will last 45 minutes. She asked that those who are interested meet on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Kyle and Christine hope to give tours of the site every couple of months. Angie Schitter who is the Business Manager for the library has worked hard to submit all of documentation required for the tax credits. At this point 47% of the allotment of tax credits has been granted. There have been a few small change orders, including a range hood for the warming kitchen and moving the dumpster to the rear of the parking lot instead of near the arts workshop entrance. Work continues on the signage package. Linda reported that she met with Romy and Clare to finish the community art project. Initially it was intended to be finished by both boards and staff but proved to be very complicated, and they thought it best to finish it themselves.

### **New Business**

- Beth let the board know that ACT will be presenting Escanaba in da Moonlight on March 26-28. The dinner theatre will be held at the Arts Center.

### **Adjournment**

**Mike Jones** moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:46 pm. **Gary Moeller** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.



**Michael Jones**



**Attested**