

**Minutes of the Jasper Community Arts Commission
City of Jasper, Indiana
June 2, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Jasper Community Arts Commission was held at 4:30 PM on Tuesday, June 2, 2020, via ZOOM Meeting. 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, & Selena Vonderheide. **Commission Members Absent:** None. **Staff Members Present:** Kyle Rupert, Emily Peak, Doreen Lechner, Corina Mack, Donna Schepers, & Liz Book. **City Attorney:** Renée Kabrick. **Guests in attendance:** Christine Golden and John Schroeder. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Sherry Monesmith moved to approve the minutes of May's meeting. **Pat Thyen** seconded. Motion passed 11-0.

City Financial Statement

Gary Moeller moved to approve the claims as presented. **Beth Seidl** seconded. Motion passed 11-0.

Public Business

Director's Report/Performing Arts

Kyle reported:

- He has started reaching out to all of the agents and artists that are scheduled to be presented in the fall. One of the artists is based in Italy and has decided to postpone his tour. The artist has been rebooked for the same weekend in 2021.
- Kyle is in the process of developing plans and procedures for when the building reopens to the public. Kyle and Doreen met with the health department to get input on his proposed plan for reopening. The plan will include procedures for public performances, gallery exhibits, and receptions and covers sanitizing, spatial distancing practices, and mask usage. The finalized plan will be sent to the board once the staff and health department have signed off on it.
- He is working on the 2021 budget. The new budget will include the first full year of operations at the Thyen-Clark Cultural Center. He will send a summary of changes to the board before the next board meeting.
- VUJ is updating all of its banners on campus and the banners on the light poles. A number of the poles feature signage for both VUJ and Jasper Community Arts, and the JCA banners are very faded or entirely missing. With VUJ's new banners, it will draw more attention to how shabby JCA's look. Kyle would like to seek quotes to purchase replacement banners for the light poles. JCA last purchased 25 banners in 2009. He already has an agreement that, once purchased, VUJ would install them. Without the mounting brackets the cost would be between \$1,000 and \$1,500. If the brackets are needed it would increase the cost of the project. He would request the quote break-out the cost of the brackets and banners so it could easily be separated. **Sherry Monesmith** made a motion to give permission for Kyle to seek quotes for replacement banners. **Linda Kahle** seconded. Motion passed 11-0.
- Kyle updated the board on the emergency grants that Jasper Community Arts applied for. The *Indiana Arts Commission* awarded \$3,000 for wage support and the grant agreement should arrive soon. The *National Endowment for the Arts* grant request for \$50,000 for wage support as part of the CARES Act is still outstanding. He will let the board know the status of that grant.
- There has been one additional corporate sponsor for this season. *Kimball Electronics* will once again sponsor the box office tickets and printing of the "at home" tickets. The number of corporate sponsors is down from last year but is not surprising given the economic climate.
- He updated the board on rentals at the Arts Center. *Actors Community Theatre* (ACT) has moved its production of *Eschschbach in da Moonlight* to July 23-25. Kyle will inform ACT of JCA and CDC guidelines and spacial distancing measures. ACT has decided to not present the production as a dinner theatre, but just present the play. *Dance by Mallory* dance classes will begin once the

Arts Center reopens. He is working to make sure she is aware of all of the requirements and that they are met.

Building and Structure Report

Doreen reported:

- Most of her time has been spent sourcing and purchasing items for COVID-19. She has also been researching best practices for performing arts spaces.
- The drainage work on the side of the building has been completed and the area has been re-seeded.

Visual Arts Report

Emily reported:

- She informed the board that the gallery will be empty until July when the *Dubois County Art Guild* Exhibit will take place. For that exhibit there will not be a reception.
- *Brett Anderson* was originally scheduled to have his prints in the gallery in June but has been moved to the Cultural Center and will be exhibited in May and June of 2021.
- The weekly videos that Emily and her daughter Mia have been making since the end of March will be paused for the summer. They both have really enjoyed sharing projects and crafts that can be done at home with items from around the house.
- *ARTventures* started on Monday. There have been a few minor hiccups with adopting a new platform, but overall things are going well. Most of the classes were a go and have at least 1 or 2 participants if not more. Emily reached out the instructors and participants with classes that had low enrollment to make sure they were comfortable with proceeding, and a few were cancelled.

Education Report

Donna reported:

- She has been researching and reaching out to other education directors and coordinators to see what they are doing for education programming.
- The Kennedy Center reports that were due this summer have been pushed back to allow the schools time to determine what their plans are for reopening.

Events Report

Corina reported:

- She updated the board on *Chalk Walk*. 119 entries were submitted and voting has started. There has been lots of traffic to JCA's Facebook page. The feedback so far has been positive and participants are happy to have something to do. Voting ends on Friday at 10 pm, and the winners will be announced on Saturday.
- Prior to the meeting, the board was sent the proposed public art guidelines. Last summer there were numerous requests for public art and murals, and it became apparent that there was a need to have a process to follow. The *Jasper Public Art Committee* (JPAC) was established last summer and the members are Selena Vonderheide, Linda Kahle, Darla Blazey, Kevin Manley, and Kathy Hilger. They began sifting through information from the Arts Council of Indianapolis, the Indiana Arts Commission, and information from the cities of Bloomington, Jeffersonville, and Los Angeles. The 2017 UDO created a Mixed-Use Overlay District that stipulates all public art within the district must be approved by the Arts Commission. Once the guidelines and application are approved they will be posted to JCA's website. Interested parties can fill out the application, present to the JPAC, and if approved, it will then be presented to the board. Renée made two suggestions to the presented document. The first change would be to elaborate on the definition of public art to include the following, "*Public Art shall not include any work that violates any local ordinances without first receiving some waiver, variance, etc.*" The second change would fall under Art Design Guidelines and would state, "*Artwork must comply with all city of Jasper Municipal Code Sections.*" Another part of the public art "toolkit" would be the creation of a public database of artists (if they agree to be listed) that would list the artists and mediums. Another goal of the JPAC would be five public art projects over five years, one per year. Year one – Downtown water decals with a conservation theme. Year two – Sculpture at the Thyen-Clark Cultural Center garden. Year three – Paint or wrap utility box covers. Year four – Benches.

Year five – Mosaic under Patoka River Bridge. Darla informed the board that public art is not considered the same as signage for businesses and does not have the same stipulations on size. Darla also recommended going to the Planning Department if there is a question if something complies with the UDO. **Mike Jones** made a motion to accept the basic guidelines with the changes outlined. **Gary Moeller** seconded. Motion passed 11-0. Corina will send out the revised guidelines once they are completed.

Old Business

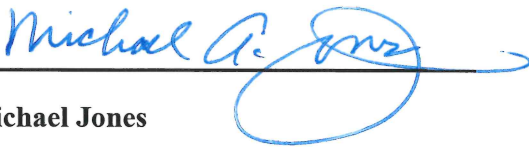
- The Next Act – Jay reported that he talked with Kyle about his meeting with the Health Department and what best practices would be for reopening. The Next Act board is also in talks with the artists for their season to determine if/how their season moves forward.
- Thyen-Clark Cultural Center – Kyle reported that members of Arts, Library, and LLC Boards went through all of the donor wall presentations and selected Greg Hoffman. His concept was similar to what was shared earlier. The design will be a bookshelf with the donors' names listed on books and will also have artistic elements. A neat feature of the piece is the inclusion of a music staff that has the first notes to "*Back Home Again in Indiana*". The piece will feature native woods and will be installed on the west wall of the atrium. Approximately 150 books will be made and where the edges are exposed a metal inlay will be added to simulate pages. Kyle also let the board know that at the last city council meeting, the changes to the Arts Center rates and the rental rates for the Cultural Center were approved. He also has had two meetings with potential rentals for the atrium. He anticipates an increase in interest once more information is put together in a formal fashion. Kyle will be receiving keys so he can conduct small tours after hours. Painting has started on the Arts wing of the building and construction is really moving along. On June 23rd a few of the larger donors who have contributed to the project have been invited to walk the site. This will give them the opportunity to preview the spaces and see the construction progress. Once construction is nearing completion, there will be another tour for donors, those that have been involved in the project, and the media, to help generate excitement and buzz.

New Business

- Kyle again thanked Corina for her time and service to Jasper Community Arts. Before her last day, she will be presented with a certificate recognizing her ten years of service.

Adjournment

Gary Moeller moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:25 pm. **Jay Hamlin** seconded. Motion passed 11-0.



Michael Jones



Attested

