

Minutes of the Jasper Community Arts Commission
City of Jasper, Indiana
November 1, 2022

The regular meeting of the Jasper Community Arts Commission was held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, November 1, 2022, at Jasper City Hall Council Chambers. Roll call was held with the following **Commission Members Present in Person**: Darla Blazey, Jasmine Bosler, Emi Donato, Corie Eckerle, Jay Hamlin, Linda Kahle, Heath Kluemper, Kent Reyling Beth Seidl, Pat Thyen, & Selena Vonderheide. **Non-Voting Student Representative**: Abby Kidwell. **Observed Remotely via Zoom**: None. **Commission Members Absent**: None. **Staff Members Present**: Kyle Rupert, Emily Peak, Doreen Lechner, Casey Uebelhor, & Liz Book. **City Attorney**: Renee Kabrick. **Guests in attendance**: Mayor Dean Vonderheide (remotely), Clerk-Treasurer Kiersten Knies, and Jane Chambers. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Heath Kluemper moved to approve the minutes of October's meeting. **Jasmine Bosler** seconded. Motion passed 11-0.

City Financial Statement

Jasmine Bosler moved to approve the claims as presented. **Pat Thyen** seconded. Motion passed 11-0.

Old Business

- Kyle informed the board that funds have been moved between line items of the 2022 budget. There were a few equipment purchases that were made that were not initially budgeted for in that line. Money was also moved around to cover the gap in funding for the Jasper Arts Center remodel. There will be enough money in the building and structure line to be able to complete the restroom and lobby remodel with two deducts.
- Kyle informed the board that the bids for the Jasper Arts Center remodel were open at last week's Board of Public Works meeting. Four bids were submitted: Seufert Construction, Krempp Construction, Jasper Lumber Company, and Danco Construction. The project had a base bid with several alternates, most of which were deducts with the exception of one. Universal Design went through the bid documents to make sure everything was in order. Jasper Lumber Company was the low bid at \$596,150. Kyle recommended accepting the bid from Jasper Lumber Company and deducting A-1 (porcelain wall tile in the restrooms) for \$31,000, deducting A-4 (all cabinetry items specified in the plans) for \$32,000, and adding A-8 (create a passthrough opening for concessions) for \$4,700. The bid would then be for \$537,850 plus Universal Design's costs of \$52,500 bringing the total costs to \$590,350. With the money that was moved from the budget to the building and structures fund the total available project fund balance was \$601,798.86. There is money appropriated for 2023 that was intended for the remodel but is not yet available. Once the money is available, he intends to have the deducted items added back to the project. The project is set to begin on December 5 with substantial completion by February 4. There are few other windows of time that have been identified to finish any work that would not be completed by that point. **Beth Seidl** made a motion to accept the bid from Jasper Lumber Company, with the deducts A-1 and A-4 and addition A-8. **Heath Kluemper** seconded. Motion passed 11-0. Kent thanked Kyle and the staff for their efforts in getting the project to this point.
- Doreen informed the board that the bid deadline for the flylines has been extended by a week. ETC did not receive initially receive the bid specifications. The bids will be opened at the next board of public works meeting. The flylines are being funded by the United Cabinet Foundation and the bid will be awarded at the next board meeting.

New Business

- To prepare for the Jasper Arts Center remodel the office furniture that is in the former Administrative Assistant and Director's office will need to be removed. There are two desks, lateral filing cabinets, and desk overhangs. She will contact other departments to see if they are interested in taking them. If not, she will seek permission to declare them as junk.

Director's Report/Performing Arts

Kyle reported:

- In October, there were 922 visits In August, and for the year there have been 12,270. Total usage for 2022 is 47,711 across both facilities. With two months left in the year, he anticipates that total usage to exceed 50,000.
- Ticket revenue is up \$10,000 from last season but still down 10% from 2019 and pre-pandemic levels. There are still tickets available for *Rockapella* and *The Second City*. He anticipates ticket sales from those shows will help close the gap.
- Kyle thanked the staff for their help with *Sara Evans* and with a wedding reception rental. His son was born Friday, and the staff stepped up to cover for him. He also thanked Selena, Heath, and Corie for assisting the staff. The feedback he received from Sara Evans was positive. Concession sales were almost \$900. In previous years there may have been \$900 total in sales. He commented that being able to bring drinks into the auditorium due to the purchase of cups with lids has been very popular.
- A little less than 200 tickets were sold for *The Queen's Cartoonists*. The performance was good, and the attendance rate was on track for what is expected typically.
- There are three performances scheduled for November: *Letters Aloud*, *Jason Yeager*, and *The Second City*. *Letters Aloud* will present a school show for middle school students and will also have a public performance Friday evening as part of JCA's Backstage Series. The program focuses on reading letters from notable figures and letters written to notable figures. The letters for this show will focus on perseverance in times of struggle. *Jason Yeager* will present a suite of music celebrating Kurt Vonnegut. Jeanne Campbell contacted Kyle about the opportunity, and the United Cabinet Foundation is covering the performance fee. The performance will be free to the public. *The Second City: Jingle Bell Ruckus* will present sketch comedy with a holiday theme.
- Voting for the strategic plan has ended. He will work through the data and the next steps to completing the plan.
- A new Event Coordinator has been hired. Eric Herndon will be transferring from Park and Recreation. Eric needs to finalize his commitments with Parks before he starts with JCA.
- Kyle is working with OFS on a week-long rental of the Arts Wing of the Cultural Center. Multiple spaces will be used over the course of the week.

Building and Structure Report

Doreen reported:

- Nothing to report.

Visual Arts Report

Emily reported:

- Two new exhibits will open on Thursday, *Kazhia Kolb* and *Bob Lockhart*. Kazhia is a printmaker from St. Meinrad, and Bob is a 2-D and 3-D abstract artist. Both artists' exhibitions will be open through December 29. They will be present to give gallery talks at the opening reception.
- *Fernando Lozano*'s exhibit is still open through November 27. Fernando gave a gallery talk for JHS students and was a great experience. A lunch lecture was also held. There are signed posters available for those that are interested.
- Homeschool Connections will be held in partnership with the Library. Emily and a couple of her committee members will give tours, hold iSpy, and hold art-related activities.
- Emily thanked the board members that volunteered for Beehive. She will meet with "The Bees" to discuss the event. She welcomed the board to provide feedback about the event.
- The Halloween decorating contest was a success, and she enjoyed seeing all of the displays.
- The galleries have all been repainted.
- There will not be a First Thursday Reception in December. Instead, there will be a Volunteer Thank You Reception on Friday, December 2 from 5-8 pm. Scott Heinemeier's exhibit will be the new exhibit. Free Take and Make Ornament kits will also be available.
- The 2024 Call for Artist Brochure is out and is also posted on JCA's website. Entries can be made entirely online.

Education Report

Casey reported:

- Last month's Creative Crunch with Jessica Mordy went well. Those that attended were very excited about the topic. The next Creative Crunch is with Chelsea Allen and will discuss the business of graphics.
- Letters Aloud: Be the Change will be presented for Jasper Middle School, Holy Trinity, and Forest Park Junior High. Students from each school have been invited to read a letter.
- There is an upcoming workshop for retirees, Retired and Ready to Paint that will be held in the afternoon. She is looking into adding more classes that would be offered during the day for retirees.
- This month she plans to focus on booking school shows for the 2023-2024 school year and planning a summer art camp.

Public Business

- Kyle informed the board that a press release will go out announcing a focused tourism initiative for Jasper. The goal is to bring in visitors from a three hours radius of Jasper. Axiom is working with the City to create a website specific to Jasper and a standalone social media presence. This will supplement the work Visit Dubois County does to promote the City.
- O'Tannenbaum Season starts November 10 and features a variety of activities during the Holiday season.
- On December 2 and 3, Actors Community Theatre will host a free radio play reading of *It's a Wonderful Life*. Auditions are tomorrow from 6-8 pm and the performances will be held in Black Box Theatre.

Adjournment

Linda Kahle moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:16 pm. Selena Vonderheide seconded. Motion passed 11-0.

Darla Blazey

Darla Blazey

Selena Vonderheide

Attested