

**Minutes of the Jasper Community Arts Commission
City of Jasper, Indiana
September 5, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Jasper Community Arts Commission was held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, September 5, 2023, 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, Bibianna Green, Linda Kahle, Heath Kluemper, Beth Seidl, Pat Thyen, & Selena Vonderheide. **Observed Remotely via Zoom:** None. **Commission Members Absent:** Jay Hamlin. **Staff Members Present:** Kyle Rupert, Emily Peak, Casey Uebelhor, Eric Herndon, & Liz Book. **City Attorney:** Renee Kabrick. **Guests in attendance:** None. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Pat Thyen moved to approve the minutes of August's meeting. **Selena Vonderheide** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

City Financial Statement

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

Old Business

- Kyle informed the board that no additional feedback from the public was received for JCA's 2024-2026 Strategic Plan. Per Mayor Vonderheide's request, Kyle also presented the plan to the City Council. The proposed plan does a better job of laying out who is responsible and the key performance indicators for each action. No additional changes have been made to the plan and Kyle asked for the plan to be approved as written. **Beth Seidl** made a motion to approve the 2024-2026 Strategic Plan as presented. **Linda Kahle** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.
- Liz informed the board that a ticket desk has been ordered for the Jasper Arts Center Lobby. She was able to find a desk that was less than \$3,000 so no quotes were needed. Kyle shared the desk design with Cami from Universal Designs, and she thought the desk would work well in the space. The desk will be delivered sometime in late October to early November.

New Business

- Kyle informed the board the Technical Assistant position is open, and he would like to begin the hiring process. The position is budgeted at 20 hours per week. **Jasmine Bosler** made a motion to allow Kyle to begin the hiring process for a new Technical Assistant. **Bibianna Green** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

Director's Report/Performing Arts

Kyle reported:

- During August, there were over 1,800 visits to the galleries, and total usage across both facilities for the year is 34,886. The number of gallery visits in August is down slightly from last year and is due, in part, to not being open as late as last year during Strassenfest.
- Ticket sales for the upcoming performance season have picked up. Tickets are still available for *Diamond Rio*, *Lea Salonga*, and *A Christmas Carol*. He anticipates these three performances should sell out or to be close to selling out. The Backstage Series is close to sold out.
- For next year's solar eclipse, Jasper will be in the path of totality. Planning for the event has already started and discussions have been had as to what JCA would like to do. The IU Center for Rural Engagement contacted Eric about renting the Black Box Theatre to present programming. The activities the Center planned were similar to what JCA had planned. Discussions are ongoing about JCA offering the space for free and allowing the Center to plan and sponsor the activities.
- JCA has several workshops and activities planned for O'Tannenbaum Season. There are also several rentals that are taking place at the Jasper Arts Center and the Thyen-Clark Cultural Center that will be available for the public to attend.
- Planning for the 2024-2025 season will begin when Kyle, Casey, and Liz attend the Midwest Arts XPO booking conference in Indianapolis. They will attend showcases and meet with artists and agents. Kyle informed the board that the 2025-2026 season will celebrate JCA's 50th anniversary season.
- The Jasper Arts Center Lobby is essentially completed. There is a hinge that is missing on one of the doors but does not impede the function of the door. The contractor is aware and it will be installed soon.

Building and Structure Report

Kyle reported for Danny:

- The new scissor lift works really well. He thanked the United Cabinet Foundation for providing a grant for its purchase.
- The installation of the mechanized flylines is complete.

Visual Arts Report

Emily reported:

- *The 30th Annual Juried Exhibition* was installed last week. Juror Fernando Lozano will judge the exhibit and will also be at the opening reception and awards. Approximately 35 pieces will be exhibited.
- *Jay Hamlin's* exhibit will be open through September 24th, and *Soulaf Abas's* exhibit will close October 22nd.
- Laura Pommier's first mural has been completed and will be sealed in the next week. A Q&A will be scheduled before she leaves and will be held at the Riverwalk. Laura has started work on the second mural at the Dubois County Visitors Center which will take a couple of weeks to complete.
- JCA and the Jasper Public Library will host the 3rd Annual Halloween Decorating Contest. The contest is open to residents in Jasper city limits, and the deadline to apply is October 16th. Judging will take place on October 23rd.
- The 2025 Call for Artists will go out in the next couple of weeks.
- There are several clay workshops coming up. Monte Young will teach two, three-day workshops. One will focus on mugs, pourers, and pitchers, and the other will focus on charcuterie boards and accessories.

Darla updated the board on two other public art projects on the Square. The mural on Chocolate Bliss is underway, and signage on Astra mural will soon be installed.

Event Report

Eric reported:

- After each rental at the Cultural Center, Eric sends an online survey to the renter. Feedback renters have given is that they really love the space and the level of service they receive.
- There are two corporate rentals in September, and the number of corporate events continues to increase in number. The rental revenue for the year has well surpassed what was budgeted. There are several other rentals for the month. The average corporate rental is \$2,800 - \$10,000.
- *The Beehive* is September 30 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. There are twenty-three artists that will be at the market. There are also two musicians that will play at the event, and guests are invited to paint pumpkins.
- The Atrium floor will be stripped, sealed, and rewaxed. This should help restore the floor's original shine.

Education Report

Casey reported:

- In June, Casey attended a Kennedy Center webinar about teaching artist residencies in rural communities. The training was a great experience and has helped her assist a JHS world history teacher who was awarded an Indiana Arts Commission Arts Fellowship. JCA will serve as the art liaison for the project.
- The workshops for this fall are starting to fill up, and three were submitted for the O'Tannenbaum Season calendar.
- Open Studio Drawing will be offered on Thursday evenings from 6-8 PM. The sessions will be taught by Elizabeth Wertman and are open to those of all skill levels.
- She informed the board that September 15th is International Dot Day which ties into the school show *Dot, Dot, Dot*.
- Next Wednesday, she will meet with the Education Committee to discuss programs for the 2024-2025 school year. This will be in preparation for the Midwest Arts XPO conference.
- Dia de Muertos (Day of the Dead) planning is underway. The event will tie in with November's First Thursday making the event more available to the public.

Darla informed the board that Heart of Jasper's Celebrate the Square event will take place on October 13th. Tickets are \$30 per person and include four food and beverage pairings by Oink. *First and Main* will perform, and there will also be a corn hole tournament and other games.

Adjournment

Selena Vonderheide moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:57 pm. **Darla Blazey** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

Selena Vonderheide

Darla Blazey