

**Minutes of the Jasper Community Arts Commission
City of Jasper, Indiana
October 3, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Jasper Community Arts Commission was held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, October 3, 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. **Non-Voting Student Representative:** Anna Uebelhor. **Observed Remotely via Zoom:** None. **Commission Members Absent:** Jay Hamlin & Heath Kluemper. **Staff Members Present:** Kyle Rupert, Emily Peak, Casey Uebelhor, Eric Herndon, & Liz Book. **City Attorney:** Renee Kabrick. **Guests in attendance:** Wayne and Myra Schuetter. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Bibianna Green moved to approve the minutes of September's meeting. **Pat Thyen** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

City Financial Statement

Beth Seidl moved to approve the claims as presented. **Corie Eckerle** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

Old Business

Jasmine Bosler arrived at 5:34 PM.

New Business

- Kyle informed the board that March 2025 will mark Jasper Community Arts' 50th anniversary. The staff has started to discuss planning and programming ideas for 2025. Kyle suggested forming a committee of board members and staff to discuss activities and things to accomplish for JCA's 50th anniversary. During this year's budget hearing, Kyle informed the Council of the upcoming occasion so it could prepare budgetarily for what might be needed. The Dubois County Community Foundation is also aware. The 50th anniversary will be celebrated during the 2025-2026 season which will run from September 2025 – April 2026. This will allow plenty of time to plan. Planning for the galleries for 2025 is underway. Kyle sees a gala as a possible activity and fundraising opportunity. JCA's strategic plan has an action item for a rebranding to start in January 2024. He would like to take the time to go through the rebranding process and unveil the redesign to correspond with the 50th anniversary. He reminded the board that only five board members can serve on the committee otherwise it would function as a meeting and would require following meeting guidelines.

Director's Report/Performing Arts

Kyle reported:

- During August, there were 686 visits to the galleries, and total usage across both facilities for the year is 40,348.
- Ticket sales for the upcoming performance season have picked up. Ticket sales are up over last season and over last calendar year.
- *Bette Davis Ain't for Sissies* was performed September 22 as a one-woman, one-act show. It also marked Danny Kopp's first show as Technical Director. Kyle informed the board that the show went smoothly, and those in attendance enjoyed the show. 350 tickets were sold, and 70% of ticket holders were in attendance.
- *Keith Alberstadt* is a comedian who will perform at the Astra Theatre on October 14.
- *Dala* is part of the Backstage Series and is sold out.
- A limited number of tickets are available for *Diamond Rio*, *Lea Salonga*, and *A Christmas Carol*. He anticipates these three performances should sell out or be close to selling out.
- Planning for the 2024-2025 performance season is underway.
- Kyle informed the board that his grant request to the Dubois County Community Foundation was declined. He was invited to apply again and has a better idea of what the foundation is looking to support.
- The water main replacement at the Jasper Arts Center is complete. Minus the labor, the cost was roughly \$13,500. The hole in the parking lot still needs to be patched. Once it is complete the claim will be submitted for payment.
- Twenty people have completed JCA's programming survey. Early results show that 75% of patrons would like to see more well-known artists even if the ticket prices are higher.

Building and Structure Report

Kyle reported for Danny:

- The installation of the mechanized flylines is complete. The old flylines were asset tagged. Kyle asked permission to declare asset number 850435 junk. **Darla Blazey** made a motion to declare the old flylines junk. **Selena Vonderheide** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.

Visual Arts Report

Emily reported:

- *The 30th Annual Juried Exhibition* will be open through November 19.
- *Jay Hamlin's* exhibit has closed, and *Soulaf Abas's* exhibit will close on October 22nd.
- A new exhibit *Lineage*, will open and features work by three sisters, Andrea Hoelscher, Erica Hoelscher, and Kristin Hoelscher-Schacker. The installation exhibit includes pieces from several different mediums. All three will be at the First Thursday reception to give a gallery talk.
- Laura Pommier's murals are complete. Emily thanked those who were involved in the project. An unveiling and Q&A sessions were held last week.
- There are a couple of upcoming clay classes. Monte Young will teach a charcuterie and accessories workshop, and Steve Poehlein will teach handbuilding and ornament workshops.
- JCA and the Jasper Public Library will host the 3rd Annual Halloween Decorating Contest. The contest is open to residents in Jasper city limits. The deadline to apply is October 16th, and judging will take place on October 23rd.

Event Report

Eric reported:

- In September there were eight rentals at the Thyen-Clark Cultural Center, and a couple were multiday usages and brought in roughly \$11,000 in rental revenue. In October there are eleven rentals which will bring in roughly \$2,500 in rental revenue. The biggest difference between the two months is the number of corporate events which bring in more revenue versus non-profit rentals.
- *The Beehive* was held last Saturday, and the turnout and the feedback he received was very positive. Live music was added to this year's event and didn't necessarily attract additional people to the event, but it did make a nice addition. All of the pumpkins were sold by lunch.

Education Report

Casey reported:

- She attended the Midwest Arts XPO booking conference and was able to meet the agents that represent the shows she has booked. She enjoyed attending the education symposium and participating in discussions about a variety of topics relevant to educational programming. Casey thanked the board for allowing her to attend the conference.
- There are several workshops coming up in the next couple of weeks.
- Jasper High School and Southridge High School students will participate in the decorating of the shrine for Dia de Muertos (Day of the Dead). The students will lead the program that will be held during November's First Thursday reception. Casey explained that the event will be a great opportunity to learn about the cultural significance and impact of Dia de Muertos.
- The Indiana Arts Commission fellowship will take place in October. The fellowship will give Casey a good insight into what the average day looks like for students.

Public Business

- Myra Schuetter expressed her concern that the galleries were being used for photoshoots for corporate rentals. Kyle thanked Myra for her feedback and explained that an effort is made to make sure the galleries are open to the public as much as possible.

Adjournment

Selena Vonderheide moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:14 pm. **Beth Seidl** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.

Darla Blazey

Selena Vonderheide