

**Minutes of the Jasper Community Arts Commission
City of Jasper, Indiana
November 7, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Jasper Community Arts Commission was held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, November 7, 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, Jay Hamlin, Linda Kahle, Heath Kluemper, Beth Seidl, Pat Thyen, & Selena Vonderheide. **Non-Voting Student Representative:** Anna Uebelhor. **Observed Remotely via Zoom:** None. **Commission Members Absent:** Bibianna Green. **Staff Members Present:** Kyle Rupert, Emily Peak, Casey Uebelhor, Eric Herndon, Danny Kopp, & Liz Book. **City Attorney:** Absent. **Guests in attendance:** Mayor Dean Vonderheide. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Beth Seidl moved to approve the minutes of October's meeting. **Emi Donato** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.

City Financial Statement

Pat Thyen moved to approve the claims as presented. **Linda Kahle** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.

Jay Hamlin arrived at 5:33 PM.

Old Business

- After last month's board meeting, Kyle contacted Myra and Wayne Schuetter to address their concerns about corporate use of the galleries for photoshoots. It was a productive meeting, and he was able to clarify and inform them of JCA's new artist agreements and changes that were made after the rental.

New Business

- Kyle informed the board that at next month's meeting, he plans to present a change to the rental ordinance. Based on feedback and the uptick in rentals, he is recommending increasing the all-day rental rate for individuals/commercial renters to \$2,000, and the non-profit/government all-day rate to \$1,200. The increased rate will cover the cost of a cleaning company to come in and clean and remove trash. The rate would go into effect for any new agreement once it is passed by City Council. Previously signed agreements will be honored. Once Danny is more comfortable with the Arts Center rentals, they will discuss if the rental rates need to be adjusted.
- Kyle asked permission to begin the hiring process for a full-time Education Coordinator. The City considers the switch of the position from part-time to full-time as a new position and requires the full application and interview process. The position was approved to become full-time in the 2024 budget. Casey was made aware of this process months ago. **Jasmine Bosler** made a motion to begin the hiring process for a full-time Education Coordinator. **Heath Kluemper** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

Director's Report/Performing Arts

Kyle reported:

- During October, there were 536 visits to the galleries, and total usage across both facilities for the year is 47,472.
- Ticket sales for the upcoming performance season have picked up. Ticket sales are up over last season and over last calendar year.
- *Keith Alberstadt* is a comedian who performed at the Astra Theatre on October 14. Kyle received positive feedback about the performance.
- *Diamond Rio* performed to a sold-out crowd and many raved about the performance. There was also almost \$1,400 in bar sales which is the most there has ever been for show. The opening act, SmithField was also well received. It was also the first performance for many since the lobby remodel was completed. The restrooms were able to handle the number of people without significant lines forming. Kyle thanked those that helped with load-in and load-out.
- *Dala's* performance was sold out and right at 100 people were in attendance. The audience really enjoyed their performance.
- Planning for the 2024-2025 performance season is underway. Kyle plans to send a few different season options to the committee for consideration. He explained that the presenting landscape has changed and JCA is no longer the only option locally for people to see shows. One of the proposed slates of shows has no shows at the Astra. The

Astra is changing and plans to offer more live performances which makes it more difficult to schedule performances in that venue. Based on patron feedback from the survey patrons are more likely to purchase individual tickets and want to see show by more well-known artists, even if the tickets are more expensive. He proposes offering a Pick Your Own Package to accommodate those who want to see multiple shows throughout the season. Kyle and Liz are working through what the pricing structure will look like.

- Physical gift cards have been ordered and work through JCA's Square POS.
- Two board members have volunteered to be on JCA's 50th Anniversary Committee. A few more board members could also join the committee.

Building and Structure Report

Danny reported:

- Another window was broken in one of the Cultural Center workshops. It has been replaced. This is the second window to be broken along that side of the building. Additional cameras have been ordered to monitor that side of the building.
- Danny told the board about the shows that were presented since the last meeting and about the rentals that took place at the Arts Center.
- He helped judge the Halloween Decorating contest that was completed in conjunction with the Jasper Public Library. The contest was open to those in Jasper city limits. Winners received a yard sign.
- He is going through the inventory asset document and discovered more items that will need to be declared junk. He will bring those items to the board at a future meeting.

Visual Arts Report

Emily reported:

- *The 30th Annual Juried Exhibition* will be open through November 19.
- *Soulaf Abas'* exhibit has closed, and one piece of artwork was sold. Robert Dunning's exhibit has been installed. Robert will be at the December reception to give a gallery talk.
- *Soulaf Abas* hosted a workshop for JHS visual arts students. She gave a talk to the students and led a watercolor activity.
- 2025 Call for Artists will be mailed in the next couple of weeks. The 2025 exhibits will span JCA's 50th Anniversary, and she is open to suggestions. The traditional call for artists will be sent out but will be more curated than previous years.
- Steve Poehlein will teach handbuilding ornament workshops, and spaces are still available.
- December 7th will be the Holiday reception, and the event will be from 5:00 – 7:00 pm.

Event Report

Eric reported:

- Since the October board meeting there were six Atrium rentals, one gallery rental, four Black Box Theatre rentals, and one workshop rental. Four rentals in the Atrium were completed by JCA partners and were free usages. Total revenue for the month was \$4,200. Meyer Distributing is in talks about renting the Atrium.
- This time last year rental revenue was \$55,000 versus this year's \$86,000, which is a major increase from last year.

Education Report

Casey reported:

- 166 people attended Dia de Muertos (Day of the Dead) reception. Casey thanked those who attended and supported the students. The shrine will be up until November 15. 40 community members participated in bringing in items for the shrine. She hopes to host a similar program next year. The students will lead the program that will be held during November's First Thursday reception.
- The Indiana Arts Commission fellowship in creative teaching is complete. Casey is working through how the student's artwork will be displayed and is very proud of the work she received.
- There are several Thanksgiving and Christmas workshops coming up, and a few are sold out.
- She is working on planning workshops for early 2024.
- She is working on the details for a mini Camp Create to be held over Spring Break.
- She will meet with the Education Committee to begin discussing the school shows for the 2024-225 school year.

- Mike Wiley presented the program Jackie Robinson: A World Apart for middle school students. She received great feedback about the performance and would love to have Mike back for another performance.

Public Business

Adjournment

Selena Vonderheide moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:27 pm. **Jay Hamlin** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

Darla Beazley

Shirley Byrne Fable