

Minutes of the Jasper Community Arts Commission
City of Jasper, Indiana
January 2, 2024

The regular meeting of the Jasper Community Arts Commission was held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, January 2, 2024, at Jasper City Hall Council Chambers. Roll call was held with the following **Commission Members Present in Person:** Darla Blazey, Corie Eckerle, Bibianna Green, Beth Seidl, Pat Thyen, & Selena Vonderheide. **Non-Voting Student Representative:** Absent. **Observed Remotely via Zoom:** Heath Kluemper. **Commission Members Absent:** Jasmine Bosler, Emi Donato, Jay Hamlin, & Linda Kahle. **Staff Members Present:** Kyle Rupert, Emily Peak, Casey Uebelhor, Eric Herndon, Danny Kopp, & Liz Book. **City Attorney:** Renee Kabrick. **Guests in attendance:** Mayor Dean Vonderheide (via Zoom). The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Director's Report/Performing Arts

Kyle reported:

- Juan Mendoza is JCA's new Technical/Building Assistant. He started in late December and is a great asset to the team.
- During December, there were 418 visits to the galleries, and total usage across both facilities for 2023 was 53,458.

Bibianna Green arrived at 5:33 pm.

- Ticket sales are up over last season and last calendar year. Season-over-season revenue is up 13%, and the number of tickets sold is up 4%.
- *A Christmas Carol* was held at the Jasper Arts Center on December 8. 468 people attended the performance. The show was not of the caliber that is expected with the programming that JCA presents. It was a last-minute addition to the season after another artist fell through. JCA presented *A Christmas Carol* in 2018, and this production was repped by the same agent and producer. JCA received notice a few weeks before the show that it had been revamped and billed as a musical. Kyle is confident that next season's slate of shows should be a lot better.

Heath Kluemper joined via Zoom at 5:34 pm.

- The 2023 JCA Annual Report was sent to the Board before the meeting. Kyle went over some of the highlights of the report and the last strategic plan. There was a 30% increase in activities, 52% of items were completed from the last strategic plan, and only four items were not started in any way. Several items from the strategic plan will be carried over into the next plan. Ticket revenue has increased \$18,000, and rental revenue is up over \$28,000 from last year. The Jasper Arts Center Lobby has been remodeled. Open Studio use has increased from 97 participants to 345 participants.
- Next week he will be attending the APAP Booking Conference. He plans to focus on making connections with agents who book plays and musicals.

Building and Structure Report

Danny reported:

- The Community Room entrance at the Jasper Arts Center has been updated with new paint and finishes. The project was completed over four days with Juan's help. Juan is a student at VUJ and plans to stay for two years while he is attending classes.
- He is still looking into options to purchase a new floor scrubber for the Cultural Center. He would like to do more research before making a recommendation. He has already met with Jasper Equipment to discuss what they have to offer. The Atrium floors will be professionally polished in the Spring.
- *Popovich Comedy Pet Theater* will be presented on February 3rd at 1 pm as part of JCA's Family Fun programming.

Visual Arts Report

Emily reported:

- A new exhibit will open on Thursday that features large works by *Brigham Dimick* and *Michelle Oosterbaan*. Brigham is from St. Louis, and Michelle is from Philadelphia.
- Artist *Rob Millard-Mendez* will be at the First Thursday reception to give a gallery talk.
- The 2024 exhibit calendar is now available. Call for 2025 Artist applications are open through mid-March. Those who are interested are invited to apply online.

- There are two upcoming clay handbuilding workshops, and Laura Pommier will teach another Sketch of the Week Zoom class.
- Parent Supporting Education will present four events over two days. Ken E. Nwadike, Jr, of the Free Hugs Project is a motivational speaker and activist who will speak in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. This free event is open to the public.

Event Report

Eric reported:

- Since the December board meeting there were four Atrium rentals, one gallery rental, and two Black Box rentals.
- Next week he will be attending the Ferdinand Prom and Bridal Expo to promote renting the Cultural Center.
- A few rental inquiries came in over the Holidays, and he will reach out to discuss with potential renters the options and availability.

Education Report

Casey reported:

- Today was Casey's first day as a full-time employee, and she is very happy to be one.
- She is working on planning and scheduling winter and spring workshops. There will be a variety of workshops offered.
- She will host a Homeschool Connections art activity next week.
- One of the items on the Strategic Plan includes forming a Teen Advisory Board. She will discuss this with the Education Committee at its next meeting. She hopes to have it in place in the fall and will seek input from JCAC's student Representative Anna Uebelhor.
- She will be attending the Kennedy Center Partnership in Education Conference. She is excited to see what information she can gain.
- A Spring Camp Create will be held Monday through Thursday mornings during Spring Break. Registration will be limited to 25 participants. She has planned the classes and has worked to secure instructors for the sessions. She is also looking ahead to the Summer Camp Create sessions.
- In February, *Janet's Planet* will be presented to students in grades third through fifth. Janet is excited to visit Jasper since it will be in the path of totality for the upcoming solar eclipse.

Old Business

New Business

- Kyle asked permission for Casey to attend the Kennedy Center Partners in Education Conference. The conference was included in the 2024 budget. A JCA staff member has not attended in several years. Kyle and Casey are in communication with the other partners to see what their interests are in programming. There have been some changes to how the Kennedy Center program operates. **Darla Blazey** made a motion to allow Casey to attend the conference. **Selena Vonderheide** seconded. Motion passed 6-0.
- Kyle asked permission to seek quotes for a digital content management service. The service was included in the 2024 budget. Currently, there are eight digital signs at the Cultural Center and two on the Square that must be manually updated. Future screens could be added and tied into the system. **Selena Vonderheide** made a motion to permit Kyle to seek quotes. **Beth Seidl** seconded. Motion passed.

Election of Officers

Pat Thyen and Jasmine Bosler served on the Officer Nominating Committee. Pat presented the proposed slate of officers remaining the same, with Darla Blazey serving as President, Selena Vonderheide serving as Vice-President, and Linda Kahle serving as Secretary. **Pat Thyen** made a motion to accept the proposed slate of officers. **Corie Eckerle** seconded. No other nominations were made from the floor. Motion passed 6-0.

Approval of Minutes

Bibianna Green moved to approve the minutes of December's meeting. **Selena Vonderheide** seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

City Financial Statement

Beth Seidl moved to approve the claims as presented. **Pat Thyen** seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Public Business

Adjournment

Corie Eckerle moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:59 pm. **Selena Vonderheide** seconded. Motion passed 6-0.

Darla Blazg

Selena Vonderheide