

**Minutes of the Jasper Community Arts Commission**  
**City of Jasper, Indiana**  
**May 7, 2024**

The regular meeting of the Jasper Community Arts Commission was held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, May 7, 2024, at Jasper City Hall Council Chambers. Roll call was held with the following **Commission Members Present in Person**: Darla Blazey, Emi Donato, Bibianna Green, Jay Hamlin, Heath Kluemper, Beth Seidl, Pat Thyen & Selena Vonderheide. **Non-Voting Student Representative**: Anna Uebelhor. **Observed Remotely via Zoom**: Linda Kahle (5:36). **Commission Members Absent**: Jasmine Bosler & Corie Eckerle. **Staff Members Present**: Kyle Rupert, Eric Herndon, Casey Uebelhor, Emily Peak, Danny Kopp, & Liz Book. **City Attorney**: Absent. **Guests in attendance**: Mayor Dean Vonderheide, and Jane Chambers. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Bibianna Green** moved to approve the minutes of April's meeting. **Heath Kluemper** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

**City Financial Statement**

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

**Old Business**

- At the last board meeting the rental rate and processing fee resolutions were tabled. Since then, the resolution has been drafted and has had a first reading at a City Council meeting. It will need one additional reading before it is approved. Kyle explained the rental rate resolution includes the rate changes that were discussed at a previous JCAC board meeting. Should Council and the Commission approve the resolution, the rates will go into effect on June 1<sup>st</sup>. All previously signed contracts will be honored. The other part of the resolution includes the ticket processing fee. The fee is 5% per ticket. Kyle hopes to get ahead of any federal legislation targeting ticketing fees by being more transparent with fees. There are a couple of small changes that Kyle would like to make to the wording. The current resolution waives the processing fee for in-person sales. He would like to amend the resolution so that the processing fee is only waived for in-person sales at the door on the days of performances. Some costs are still incurred if tickets are purchased in person, such as the credit card fees, ticketing platform, and ticket stock. **Darla Blazey** made a motion to approve Resolution JCAC 2024-1 amending the processing fee language to waive the processing fee for in-person sales at the door on the days of performances. **Selena Vonderheide** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

**New Business**

- Kyle presented two artists for the board to approve for the 2024-2025 performance season. One artist is a country artist and the other is a comedian. There will be thirteen shows next season due to one artist who happened to be available which was too good of an opportunity to pass up. **Selena Vonderheide** made a motion to approve the presented artists. **Heath Kluemper** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.
- Kyle presented the proposed ticket prices for the 2024-2025 season. Flex ticketing prices are 15% off the regular ticket price and are eligible for all shows when patrons purchase tickets to three or more shows. This will allow patrons to build their series/package. He is hopeful that this will increase the attendance rate since patrons will no longer have to purchase tickets to shows they are not interested in just to receive savings or maintain seat ownership. The ticket prices have gone up in response to the increase in artist fees. Based on survey responses, patrons are more interested in seeing notable and known artists even if the ticket prices are higher. **Heath Kluemper** made a motion to accept the proposed ticket prices. **Pat Thyen** seconded. Motion passed.
- Kyle asked permission for a staff member to attend the Midwest Arts XPO booking conference. The cost would include registration, a couple of nights at a hotel, and meals. He anticipates the cost to be between \$1,000 and \$1,500 and is in the budget. **Bibianna Green** made a motion for a staff member to attend the Midwest Arts XPO. **Beth Seidl** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

**Director's Report/Performing Arts**

Kyle reported:

- Attendance is going well for this year's activities and there are lots of things going on at both the Cultural Center and Arts Center. The staff continues to hear from patrons who are from major metro areas comment on how wonderful the Cultural Center is.
- He is starting preparations for the 2025 budget.
- On May 30<sup>th</sup>, there will be a 2024-2025 season preview event. All season ticket holders have been invited. He plans to explain the changes for next season and answer any questions patrons may have. Patrons will also be able to renew their tickets at the event.

### **Building and Structure Report**

Kyle reported for Danny:

- Lea Salonga's sold-out performance went well.
- There have been a couple of rentals at the Arts Center. Shine Dance Competition hosted four dance schools and Vincennes University Jasper hosted its graduation.
- He thanked Paul, Juan, Steve, and John for all of their work and efforts. Juan's schedule is more flexible since he is finished with classes for the semester.
- The fire marshal has inspected the Cultural Center and Arts Center as part of the Arts and Entertainment permit process. There is one piece of additional paperwork that is needed for the Cultural Center and one additional test to be completed at the Arts Center.
- He is working on taking inventory and organizing what is at the Arts Center.

### **Visual Arts Report**

Emily reported:

- John Begly and Linda Erzinger's exhibit opened last week. It is an immersive installation exhibit that features projection, found object pieces, and screen-printed fabrics from John's designs.
- Angie Garner, John, and Linda were all present at the First Thursday reception.
- Emily is working on the visual arts exhibit lineup for 2025. The rejection letters have been sent out, but she is still working on finalizing the schedule for next year. With the exhibits not being included in the season guide, it has allowed her more time to fine-tune the schedule.
- There are a few clay classes that will be offered this summer. One for children, two adult wheel throwing workshops, and a handbuilding workshop taught by Monte Young and Clare Backer Bies.
- Clay Open Studio is now available on Mondays during the day and on Thursday evenings.
- The Soup-Port event went well, and she thanked the volunteers and those who attended. Money that is raised will benefit traveling exhibits.
- She is planning a Juneteenth community celebration on June 8 from 11 am to 1 pm.
- Applications for the Juried exhibit will be sent in June, and the deadline to submit will be in July. The show will open in September.

### **Event Report**

Eric reported:

- Since the April board meeting there were five Atrium rentals and one also utilized the Galleries, three Black Box rentals, and one workshop rental. For May there are a couple of Atrium rentals and one Black Box rental.
- He is looking to revamp the Beehive Arts Market. The original date selected had a scheduling conflict. He is working through what the revamped event looks like and if it is possible to tie it into other JCA events to help draw a larger crowd.
- Planning for JCA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations is ongoing but has been paused due to Chalk Walk planning.
- Chalk Walk will be on May 18<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 2 pm. Participants will have lots to do at the event – chalking, tie dye, crafts, balloons, and caricatures. There are several food vendors and two bounce houses, one for little kids and another for bigger kids. 161 participants have registered. The early bird t-shirt deadline has passed but a limited number of t-shirts will be available to purchase for \$8. On May 15 from 3 – 5 pm, the Chalk Walk bags will be stuffed. There are 30+ volunteers for the event and sixteen businesses have donated items for the bags. Papa Johns has provided a coupon for a free medium pizza, Meyer Distributing has sponsored the caricature artist, and Hoosier Hills Credit Union has sponsored the balloons. Walmart has also donated chalk for the event.

## **Education Report**

Casey reported:

- She shared the school shows for the 2024-2025 school year. One of the shows originally selected was based in Canada and the group was having trouble putting together a United States-based cast and tour so a different show was selected.
- Casey is working on the Partners in Education agreement. She has also met with a few representatives from the Kennedy Center to discuss issues that she faces trying to program in a rural setting versus a city, and what others do for their Artist in Residency programs. She is meeting with the Education Committee to discuss her plan before she meets with the GJCS and VUJ partners.
- There will be a new workshop offered this summer called Peek-a-View. This workshop is geared towards children ages 4 – 6 and will introduce them to the galleries and will conclude with an art activity.
- There are eight spots left for June Camp Create and sixteen spots for the July Camp Create. She anticipates both camps filling. Cubism is the theme for this summer's camps and campers will have the opportunity to work in a variety of mediums.
- There have been workshops for LifeSpring residents, Homeschool Connections, and Lange Fuhs patients.
- She is working on the crafts that will be offered at Chalk Walk.

## **Public Business**

### **Adjournment**

**Bibianna Green** moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 pm. **Jay Hamlin** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

Darla Blazey

Selma Vonderheide