

Minutes of the Jasper Community Arts Commission
City of Jasper, Indiana
August 6, 2024

The regular meeting of the Jasper Community Arts Commission was held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, August 6, 2024, at Jasper City Hall Council Chambers. Roll call was held with the following **Commission Members Present in Person:** Darla Blazey, Jasmine Bosler, 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:** Emi Donato, Corie Eckerle, & Jay Hamlin. **Staff Members Present:** Kyle Rupert, Eric Herndon, Emily Peak, Danny Kopp, Casey Uebelhor, & Liz Book. **City Attorney:** Absent. **Guests in attendance:** Mayor Dean Vonderheide. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Jasmine Bosler moved to approve the minutes of July's meeting. **Pat Thyen** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

City Financial Statement

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

Old Business

- At last month's meeting the rebranding request for proposals (RFPs) was tabled until Kyle could answer a few additional questions the board had and seek out a few additional proposals from other companies. A few additional companies submitted proposals. After a review of all submissions, Kyle recommended awarding the work to Branded by Woods. His recommendation is based on Branded by Woods's ability to breathe life into legacy brands and create distinctive identities for new businesses. Branded by Woods has local ties and its services align with what JCA is looking to achieve with its rebranding. Woods will also offer as many logo revisions as necessary. **Linda Kahle** made a motion to award the rebranding work to Branded by Woods. **Bibianna Green** seconded. Motion passed 8-0. Kyle informed the board that Branded by Woods will require a 50% deposit to be paid at the signing of the agreement and the rest of the cost will be due at the completion of services. **Darla Blazey** made a motion to pay a \$15,000 deposit to Branded by Woods for rebranding services. **Selena Vonderheide** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.
- Kyle shared the 2025 budget with the board and went over the biggest changes. The biggest difference between the 2024 and 2025 budget can be contributed to JCA's 50th Anniversary celebration activities. Contractual Services has a larger increase to accommodate bigger named performing and visual artists. Based on what the State will give the City in tax revenue will determine the level of notoriety of what artists are presented. New for the 2025 budget is the inclusion of an IT service line. The amount for each department will be based on the average number of service calls that each department makes. Compensation for the department could potentially change based on State funding and the Common Council's recommendation. Kyle has increased the amount of grant dollars he anticipates receiving. JCA was awarded grant money from the Dubois County Community Foundation and will likely receive more next year. He also plans to ask the United Cabinet Foundation Endowment for money for programming. **Jasmine Bosler** made a motion to accept the 2025 budget as presented. **Heath Kluemper** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.
- Kyle opened the roof bid that was received from Schmidt Contracting, located in Jasper, Indiana. All of the required documents were received. The base bid would replace a portion of the Jasper Arts Center roof and the alternate bid would replace the entire roof. The base bid was for \$55,900.00 and the alternate bid was for \$98,500.00. **Darla Blazey** made a motion to take the bid under advisement. **Pat Thyen** seconded. Motion passed 8-0. The City has set aside roughly \$300,000 for roof replacement projects. He has also applied for a grant. If awarded it would help offset some of the cost.

New Business

- JCA received a grant from the United Cabinet Foundation Endowment and Marc and Jeanne Campbell Endowment to purchase digital art workshop supplies. Kyle plans to purchase 15 iPad Airs, iPad cases, Apple pencils, and Apple Care for the equipment. The plan to offer digital workshops has been discussed for several years, and the grant will allow it to come to fruition. Kyle asked permission to purchase the equipment for a rough estimate of \$14,500 which would be covered by the grant. **Selena Vonderheide** made a motion to allow Kyle to purchase digital art equipment. **Beth Seidl** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

- Two artists for the 2024-2025 season have requested deposits be paid. Norm Lewis has requested a 50% deposit (\$15,000) and The Pa'akai We Bring has requested a 40% deposit (\$4,200). **Jasmine Bosler** made a motion to pay the two artists' deposits. **Bibianna Green** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.
- Kyle asked permission to attend the APAP booking conference in New York City in January. The conference allows him to see a wider variety of artists, network with artists and agents, and attend professional development sessions. **Pat Thyen** made a motion for Kyle to attend APAP. **Bibianna Green** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

Director's Report/Performing Arts

Kyle reported:

- The staff is currently taking a professional development course, and a couple members will also attend customer service training provided by the City.
- There continues to be strong participation across all activities.
- Heavy rains over the last couple of weeks have exposed leaking issues in both buildings.
- There has been a lot of positive feedback about the new ticketing platform and the flexibility it has afforded patrons. A lot of the individual tickets that have been sold have been to patrons outside of the area.
- WDRB out of Louisville, Kentucky hosts a TV show *Crossroads* which will feature JCA and the Schnitzelbank for a Strassenfest-themed episode. The episode will go live in the next couple of weeks.

Building and Structure Report

Danny reported:

- He has called someone to fix the leaking clear-story window in one of the galleries.
- The chiller at the Arts Center had a tripped breaker that was preventing it from working properly. Messmer Mechanical has been out to look at the problem, and it has hopefully been resolved.
- The USITT conference was a great learning and networking opportunity. He thanked the board for allowing him to attend.
- In preparation for the new season, he plans to address some exterior building maintenance and prepare the interior for artists.

Visual Arts Report

Emily reported:

- *Ron Mack's* exhibit opened last week. Ron is a plein air painter originally from Indianapolis who has moved to Jasper. He will be present at every opening reception while his exhibit is up to give a gallery talk. Last Saturday, Ron had a live painting demonstration in the gallery and will also have another in September. Matt Crane from the Dubois County Free Press wrote a wonderful piece about Ron.
- The *Juried Art Exhibition* submission deadline has passed. Over forty artists submitted artwork for consideration. Daryl Halbrooks is this year's juror, and he will select the pieces that will be in the exhibit. The pieces will be delivered at the end of the month.
- JCA in partnership with the Jasper Public Library hosted a free tie-dye event and over 100 people attended.
- Clay open studio is held on Mondays and Thursdays. There have been several new people attend.

Event Report

Eric reported:

- In August there are six rentals. Three rentals will be held in the Black Box Theatre, and three will be held in the Atrium. A wedding ceremony will be held in one of the galleries.
- Beth shared with Eric that over 1,400 people attended ACT's production of *The Sound of Music*, and many attendees were from outside Dubois County.

Education Report

Casey reported:

- The June and July sessions of Camp Create were very successful, and both sessions were almost full. Four students were able to attend on scholarships. The theme this summer was cubism. Casey shared variety of workshops that students attended over the course of the weeklong camp.
- This summer two new art school graduates have become instructors, and she is excited about the types of workshops they can teach. Casey is hosting a meeting for instructors on August 14th. She is proposing 16 workshops to be offered this fall.

- She is working on plans for a Fall Camp Create. It will follow a similar format as Spring Camp Create and will be a four-day camp from 9:00 AM to Noon beginning October 14th. The shortened camp will be less expensive than the summer camp.
- She is working on finalizing the school show contracts.
- The Dia de Muertos celebration will be held on November 1st. She is working on plans with JCA's community partners for this event.
- The Kennedy Center Partners in Education agreement has been turned in. She received great feedback from the Kennedy Center about the agreement. Casey is also working on planning and implementing the artist in residency programs for Jasper's schools.
- After discussions with Emily and Kyle, they have decided to pause implementing the Teen Advisory Council until January 2025 or until Fall 2025. More time is needed to plan and communicate the council's goals and plans to the local schools.

Public Business

Adjournment

Bibianna Green moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:11 pm. **Selena Vonderheide** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

Bibianna Green

Selena Vonderheide