

**Minutes of the Jasper Community Arts Commission  
City of Jasper, Indiana  
January 7, 2025**

The regular meeting of the Jasper Community Arts Commission was held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, January 7, 2025, at Jasper City Hall Council Chambers. Roll call was held with the following **Commission Members Present in Person:** Darla Blazey, Jasmine Bosler, Corie Eckerle, Bibianna Green, Linda Kahle, Heath Kluemper, Beth Seidl, Pat Thyen, and Selena Vonderheide. **Non-Voting Student Representative:** Connor Fair. **Observed Remotely via Zoom:** None. **Commission Members Absent:** Emi Donato, and Jay Hamlin. **Staff Members Present:** Kyle Rupert, Eric Herndon, Danny Kopp, Casey Uebelhor, Emily Peak, and Liz Book. **City Attorney:** Renee Kabrick. **Guests in attendance:** Mayor Dean Vonderheide and Joseph Munning. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Election of Officers**

Pat Thyen and Beth Seidl 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. **Bibianna Green** made a motion to accept the proposed slate of officers. **Jasmine Bosler** seconded. No other nominations were made from the floor. Motion passed 8-0.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Pat Thyen** moved to approve the minutes of December's meeting. **Selena Vonderheide** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

**City Financial Statement**

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

**Public Business**

- Joseph Munning shared his views of the Darryl Halbrooks' art exhibition.

**Old Business**

**New Business**

- Kyle is still working on the 2024 annual report, and he hopes to have it ready soon. He did share a few highlights from the year. In 2024, the Education Coordinator position was made full-time, flex ticketing was introduced, Camp Create Spring, Fall, and Summer took place, many exhibits were displayed, and a wide range of events, and many receptions activities took place in Jasper Arts' spaces. There has been an increase in visitors from outside the community, however, overall visits are down slightly from last year. At this point, he is not concerned. Overall, the impact Jasper Arts has made in the community is much more visible in a positive way.

*Heath arrived at 5:42 pm.*

- Kyle requested permission to start the hiring process for a Technical Assistant. Technical Assistant Juan Mendoza will be joining the military and will be heading to basic training next month. Kyle is requesting permission to be able to hire someone should the need arise. The position would be a temporary part-time position. **Darla Blazey** made a motion to allow Kyle to begin the hiring process for a temporary part-time Technical Assistant. **Linda Kahle** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.
- Kyle requested the board approve paying upcoming performing artist *Norbert Leo Butz* a 15% deposit (\$2,025.00), as stipulated in Norbert's contract. **Jasmine Bosler** made a motion to approve paying Norbert Leo Butz a deposit of \$2,025.00. **Heath Kluemper** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.
- Emily requested permission to seek quotes for a new clay kiln. Jasper Arts currently has two kilns that are frequently used. The larger of the two kilns can no longer complete high-temperature firing. Due to the number of projects running through the kilns, a new kiln is needed. **Selena Vonderheide** made a motion to allow Emily to seek quotes for a new kiln. **Beth Seidl** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.

**Director's Report/Performing Arts**

Kyle reported:

- *Norm Lewis* performed a holiday show in December. The show was very well received, and Norm stayed after the show for a meet and greet with the audience.

- The December Volunteer Thank You reception went well.
- There are three sold-out shows for the second half of the season: Backstage artists, *Jeeyoon Kim* and *Ryanhood*, and Main Stage artist *Lonestar*. He is hopeful that Lonestar will release some of the comp tickets that they initially requested. *Jeeyoon Kim* will also perform for students in grades six through eight from Jasper Middle School and Holy Trinity.
- 2025 marks Jasper Arts' 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, and there are many big plans in the works.

### **Building and Structure Report**

Danny reported:

- Due to the large amount of snowfall over the weekend and the amount of area to clear, he contacted the Library about potentially hiring a 3<sup>rd</sup> party to clear the sidewalks around the Cultural Center. Currently, Jasper Arts Custodians are responsible for clearing the sidewalks.
- *Jeeyoon Kim* will perform for the schools and after Friday afternoon's performance, the backstage risers and platforms will be set up.
- Yesterday & Today is the next Main Stage performance.
- Actors Community Theatre will host auditions for its upcoming dinner theatre production of Neil Simon's *Rumors* on January 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Visual Arts Report**

Emily reported:

- *Mark Brosmer's* exhibit opened in December and was a very popular with a busy opening. Several pieces have already been sold.
- *Darryl Halbrooks'* exhibit opened last week, and *Katie Knoeringer and Maria Del Pilar Arrieta's* exhibit closes at the end of the month.
- *Speck Mellencamp's* exhibit will open in early February, and *Fernando Lozano's* exhibit will open at the end of February. Fernando's immersive exhibit will be displayed in the Black Box.
- The Clay Open Studio times have been adjusted for 2025 to better fit when most users can attend. Hours will be on Mondays and Thursdays from 3:00 – 8:00 pm and on Saturdays from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm. She is also working on scheduling clay classes for this spring and plans to offer a glazing class to teach more advanced glazing techniques.
- Call for Artist applicants for 2026 are due in March.
- SOUP-Port soup bowl fundraiser will be held on April 27. On January 25 and February 22, community members will create the bowls [due to clay supply issues, the January 25<sup>th</sup> date has since been cancelled].

### **Event Report**

Eric reported:

- He shared the rental updates for the month.
- The Christmas trees have been taken down, and he thanked John and Linda Kahle for their donation.
- Over the holidays, he received four rental inquiries. During Christmas and New Year's, he created ads to be placed on Jasper Arts' social media to target those recently engaged.
- Eric will have a booth at the Ferdinand Prom and Bridal Expo on Sunday.
- Eric thanked Steve for clearing the sidewalks in preparation for Saturday's wedding.
- Invitations have been sent out for Jasper Arts' 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Dinner.
- Jasper Arts will host a fundraiser on May 3<sup>rd</sup> that will be held at the Cultural Center and will utilize the entire Arts Wing. There will be passed hors d'oeuvres, food stations, and activities. More details about the event are in the planning stages.

### **Education Report**

Casey reported:

- 28 workshops will be held between February and May. She is still working on finalizing the workshops. This spring there will be more writing workshops and workshops offered for those under 5 years old.
- Spring Break Camp Create will be held in March and the featured artist is Impressionist artist Claude Monet.
- Figure Night and Kid's Open Drawing will each be held once a month.
- Jeeyoon Kim will perform for middle school students.
- Susan Ahlbrand has been selected to be the Kennedy Center Partners in Education artist in residency teacher.

- Stage actress, Mary Beth Donahoe provided a masterclass for Dubois County students in December. Casey shared that it was a great experience for the students, and she would like to have her back in the future.

**Adjournment**

**Selena Vonderheide** moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:04 pm. **Pat Thyen** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.

Darla Blazey

Selena Vonderheide