

Jasper Partnership Commission

Meeting Minutes 5/14/2025

8:00 am – Upstairs Conference Room

ROLL CALL

Max Verkamp

Lisa Bower

Stan Jochum

Irene Kapp

Steffi Schmuecker

Mayor

Kim Lottes

Andrea Gramelspacher

Guests:

Mary Leah Siegel

Corie Eckerle

CALL TO ORDER / MINUTES

Max called the meeting to order at 8:02 am.

The April 2nd meeting minutes will be updated to reflect the funds update per Stan Jochum and resent to the commission members.

Steffi Schmuecker made the motion to accept the minutes from April 2, 2025, Mayor Vonderheide seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Discussion of the 2025 visit from Pfaffenweiler – 40th Anniversary

- Attendees
 - Host Families
 - All have been filled except for the student
 - T-shirts/Engraved bricks
 - The bricks have been ordered through the Jasper Chamber
 - Host Family Meeting Agenda for June 17th
 - Agenda for when guests are in Jasper
 - What is expected
 - What should be attended and what is optional or highly encouraged
 - What is included for the host families vs the guests
 - Contact number to call if there are any questions during the stay
 - Host Family Group in WhatsApp
 - Host Family Agenda
 - Lisa will send out the draft as soon as she gets it updated
 - If everyone can take a look and give your input
- 40th Anniversary Monument Project
 - We have 81 days until the dedication of the Partnership Milestone Monument.

- Funding: The Partnership Milestone Monument fund has \$25,000 in the account. Outstanding donations are the German American Cultural Enhancement Fund Grant, Individual Donation, and the Sister Cities Donation.
- Benefactors:
 - Friends of the Arts
 - Donna & Joe Buehler Family
 - Eckerle Family Foundation
 - Claude & Martina Eckert Family
 - Dubois County Community Foundation
 - Irene Kapp Trust
- To Be Added:
 - Indiana German Heritage Grant
 - Sister Cities of Jasper
- Supporters
 - Schum Monuments
 - Seufert Construction Company
 - City of Jasper & Park and Recreation
 - Dubois County Stone Carvers
- Monuments are at Schum Monuments
- Milestones have been given to Schum's. See attached
- Sister Cities Logos have been ordered by Schum Monuments.
- Placement of the monument is scheduled for week of July 14, 2025
 - This will be a one-day process, digging for the pad, poring the pad, placement of the base, setting the center stone, and then the two side.
 - Coordination between Schum's, Seufert Construction, Parks Dept., and Jasper Railroad will have to be coordinated.
- Permission to use the Railroad right of way has been given.
- A Permanent Sign Permit will not have to be filed.
- Program outline for the dedication will be prepared for review by June.
- Method of recognizing our Benefactors and Supporters will be completed by July 1
- Pictures of the woodworking tools, church, stone carver tool, and grapes will be added to the four corners of the side pieces. (F & B)
- Bronze to aluminum – either way will be painted so save money
 - Ordered three – one for Pfaffenweiler and two for our monument
- Scheduled tours/activities while in Jasper
 - Tour of Dubois County Museum - Thursday, July 31st
 - Recognition of Mary Jo Meuser
 - Thursday Reception before Opening Ceremony
 - Opening Ceremony – Thursday, July 31st
 - Partnership Meeting – Friday morning, August 1st
 - State of the Cities and Review of Declaration
 - Saturday Night at 6 pm – Pfaffenweiler Musicians to perform at the Glockenspiel
 - Approximately 20 minutes
 - Parade Update
 - Mary Leah submitted the entry
 - German Musicians will be in the parade and play their own music

- Two hay wagons that will be placed behind the Hofmarschalls for the Pfaffenweiler guests and anyone who would like to walk/ride along
- Tour of Jasper - Tuesday, August 5th
 - City sites listed on handout in meeting
- Lauren Verkamp and possibly Matthias Hilger to translate
- Celebration - Tuesday, August 5th
 - Program Review will be sent in a separate email
 - Pfaffenweiler Musicians to perform
 - Tickets will be \$35 each
 - Tickets will go on sale at the German Club next Wednesday
 - Tickets will also be available to the public next Wednesday
 - Mary Leah to create a QR Code
 - Jen Verkamp created the Zeffy site for online purchase of tickets
 - Lisa Bower will sell tickets at City Hall for those not wanting to purchase online
- Update from Strassenfest (Corie Eckerle)
 - Everything seems to be running smooth
 - Will add QR code in the Strassenfest booklet to purchase Celebration tickets

Other Business

- Finishing Touches 2025 ornament approval
 - Not approved
 - The logo can't be broken
 - Take the wine glasses and state of Indiana out, move 40 years up
- Irene Kapp motioned to adjourn the meeting. Steffi Schmuecker seconded.
- Dubois County Bombers will have a German Heritage Night on June 18th at 6:30pm. Gather in the park at 5:30pm with your German gear or colors on.

NEXT MEETING

Next meeting will be held Friday, June 6th at 8am in the Upstairs Conference Room.