



JOINT JASPER & PFAFFENWEILER PARTNERSHIP COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
JASPER CITY HALL – PFAFFENWEILER ROOM
AUGUST 1, 2025 - 9:00AM

Member	Appointing Authority	Term Began	Expiration Date	Member Since
Irene Kapp	Mayor Vonderheide	01/01/2023	12/31/2025	01/01/2013
Andrea Gramelspacher	Mayor Vonderheide	01/01/2023	12/31/2025	07/19/2020
Steffi Schmuecker	Mayor Vonderheide	01/01/2023	12/31/2025	01/01/2011
Kim Lottes	Mayor Vonderheide	01/01/2024	12/31/2026	03/18/2005
Max Verkamp	Mayor Vonderheide	01/01/2023	12/31/2025	01/01/2013
Dr. Tracy Lorey	Mayor Vonderheide	01/01/2023	12/31/2025	01/01/2025
Stan Jochum	Mayor Vonderheide	01/01/2024	12/31/2026	04/11/1997
Fritz Gutsell	N/A	February 2011	N/A	
Diana Treyer	N/A	February 2011	N/A	
Annika Marschall	N/A	February 2011	N/A	
Dominik Klein	N/A	February 2011	N/A	
Karin Horst	N/A	February 2011	N/A	
Carolin Battist geb. Horst	N/A	May 2017	N/A	
Fabian Wörner	N/A	January 2020	N/A	
BM Lukas Mahler	N/A	November 2022	N/A	
Silke Mayer-Weiland	N/A	January 2023	N/A	
Lorena Klemm	N/A	January 2024	N/A	

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
 - Max Verkamp
 - Andrea Gramelspacher
 - Kim Lottes
 - Irene Kapp
 - Stan Jochum
 - Dean Vonderheide
 - Lisa Bower
 - Fritz Gutsell
 - Diana Treyer
 - Dominik Klein
 - Karin Horst
 - Lukas Mahler
 - Lorena Klemm
 - Guests
 - Mary Leah Siegel
 - Matthias Hilger

- Sandy Wehr
 - Dan Otto
 - Kent Seger
 - Jen Verkamp
 - Lauren Verkamp
- Approval Minutes
 - Kim Lottes made the motion to accept the minutes from July 11, 2025, Andrea Gramelspacher seconded the motion. The motion carried.
- President, Max Verkamp welcomed both commissions and guests to the meeting. Thanked the Pfaffenweiler visitors for making the trip to celebrate our 40 years of friendship.
- Everyone briefly introduced themselves and what organization they are representing
- Mayor Vonderheide gave a City of Jasper update presentation since the last celebration in Pfaffenweiler.
 - Housing additions
 - Downtown Revitalization Phase I and Phase II
 - Jasper Mayor's Youth Leadership Council
 - Jasper Elementary School Expansion, Jasper High School Expansion
 - Deaconess/Memorial Hospital Merger
 - Park & Rec Update
 - Jasper Municipal Swimming Pool
 - Whitey Schroeder Golf Practice Facility
 - Ruxer Disc Golf Course
 - Multi-Purpose Trail Expansion
 - Certified Wetlands
 - Utilities Update
 - 36th Street Electric Substation
 - Advanced Metering Infrastructure for Electric, Gas, and Water
 - Back-up Water Supply
 - Stormwater Infrastructure
 - Jasper INsight App
 - Murals
 - Riverwalk Bridge at 3rd Avenue
 - 5th & Main on south wall of Finishing Touches
 - SWIACC Building at 5th and Scott Rolen Drive
 - Jasper Group west wall of facility on 2nd and Clay Street
 - Piano Alley by Chocolate Bliss
 - Astra Alleys in SW corner of Courthouse Square
 - Regional Wellness Center
 - Plans currently on pause due to funding changes
 - Project is projected to cost \$43 million
 - Have secured \$13.7 million in private donations
 - Awarded \$5 million READI 2.0 grant
 - Reserved \$5 million in City funds
 - Food and Beverage Tax of 1% pays for \$7 million bond
 - Awaiting notification on CDIP \$13 million grant (Aug/Sept.)

- Originally funded using Tax Increment Financing and EDIT
 - Decision to move forward with the project as designed or scale back to \$30 million is pending
- Burgermeister Mahler gave a Pfaffenweiler update since the last celebration in Pfaffenweiler and commented on the similarities between Pfaffenweiler's major project and Jasper's downtown revitalization.
 - Pfaffenweiler is currently working on a project that lies at the very heart of village life: the complete revitalization of the Stubenplatz and the historic Stube restaurant.
 - The Gasthaus Stube – a building full of history, stories, and memories – is being carefully restored and expanded. When finished, it will feature a restaurant, guest rooms, space for events, and a beautiful terrace.
 - The entire Stubenplatz, the square surrounding it, will be redesigned with new paving, seating areas, and green space. It's about making the center of town more welcoming, accessible, and vibrant.
 - Pfaffenweiler is transforming the heart of the town – turning car-dominated areas into people-focused, walkable, flexible public spaces.
 - Using modern design while respecting historical surroundings.
 - Pfaffenweiler is asking: *How do we build the future while honoring the past?*
 - Pfaffenweiler has the challenge of managing the beloved village festival during construction.
 - Pfaffenweiler is facing logistical challenges with Schneckenfest – the “Snail Festival
 - *How can Pfaffenweiler host the festival in the middle of a construction zone?* Pfaffenweiler is working hard to find solutions. Temporary routes, creative staging, and a bit of improvisation.
 - But even more than technical solutions, the spirit of a festival does not come from a square. It comes from the people. And in that spirit, both communities move forward – side by side, learning from one another, 7,000 kilometers apart but walking the same path.
- Discussion of Pillars
 - Principal 1 –
 - Most important principal
 - How to strengthen the Sister City Partnership:
 - Put more emphasis on how we can market ourselves and measure it
 - Many people don't realize what Sister Cities is.
 - Give speeches at Rotary and Optimist club meetings
 - Market better – Zoom with someone from Pfaffenweiler to make it personal
 - Establish a marketing committee
 - Personally inviting people even if they don't know about Sister Cities
 - Encourage exchange students to become active with Sister Cities
 - Is there a QR code to learn how to become part of for those who may be interested
 - Using Strassenfest Fritz throughout the year as an invitation catalyst
 - Carrying through to German American Day
 - Next year at the Strassenfest Committee meeting – have someone speak on behalf of the Partnership, German Club, and Sister Cities to discuss the history
 - Knowledge of host families willing to host – students or families

- Young adults – offer more intern opportunities
 - Difficult in the US
 - Enable cultural exchanges more and target younger adults
 - Send materials to Pfaffenweiler to market and vice versa
 - Watch part of Schneckenfest at the Astra
- Principal 2 –
 - Pfaffenweiler has established a “Booster Club” with 30 to 40 members
 - Their contributions are tax deductible
 - Sister Cities of Jasper is rewriting their by-laws and looking at how to structure membership fees
 - Deeper search for grants
 - Main grants in Germany are French/German
 - Continue to work with the Indiana German Heritage Foundation for grants
 - Understanding financial differences in Pfaffenweiler vs. Jasper
 - Continue to build the Sister Cities Endowment in Jasper
 - Financial key is key to both as it is the foundation
- Principal 3 –
 - Sports exchange
 - Discussion is already in the works
 - Also, give students on the student exchange the opportunity to engage in tennis and soccer in addition to music
 - Music exchange
 - Vacation home exchange/hosting
 - Plan for the next five years both Pfaffenweiler and Jasper
 - Plug in exchanges between the five-year anniversaries to create a joint calendar
- Implementation –
 - November 2025 timeframe to have a joint meeting
 - Both exchanges with schools to share in classes to spark interest.
- Other Business
 - Thank you to Irene Kapp for her service on the Partnership over the past years as she is stepping away. Irene did mention she is available for support or any help needed.
 - 2% of the village is missing when Pfaffenweiler is visiting Jasper

Irene Kapp made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kim Lottes seconded the motion. The motion carried.