

**Minutes of the Jasper Community Arts Commission
City of Jasper, Indiana
December 1, 2020**

The regular meeting of the Jasper Community Arts Commission was held at 4:30 PM on Tuesday, December 3, 2020, via ZOOM Meeting. Roll call was held with the following **Commission Members Present:** Darla Blazey, Emi Donato, Jay Hamlin, Mike Jones, Linda Kahle, Gary Moeller, Sherry Monesmith, Kent Reyling, Beth Seidl, Pat Thyen. **Commission Members Absent:** Selena Vonderheide. **Staff Members Present:** Kyle Rupert, Emily Peak, Donna Schepers, Doreen Lechner, Bryce Conway, & Liz Book. **City Attorney:** Renée Kabrick. **Guests in attendance:** Mayor Dean Vonderheide & Christine Golden. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Sherry Monesmith moved to approve the minutes of November's meeting. **Emi Donato** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.

City Financial Statement

Sherry Monesmith moved to approve the claims as presented. **Mike Jones** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.

Kent Reyling arrived at 4:33 pm.

Public Business

Director's Report/Performing Arts

Kyle reported:

- Kyle introduced the Herald's new reporter, Christine Stephenson. She will be JCA's point of contact for future coverage.
- He reported *The Amazing Max* did several outreach sessions and workshops for local non-profits, including TRI-CAP and Mentors for Youth. Two public performances were held on Black Friday for roughly 40 children. So far, all of response and feedback has been great. Max has also checked with Memorial Hospital to see if there are any children that are in the children's ward. Thankfully there have been no children hospitalized. *WonderSpark Puppets* presentation, *The Lion and the Mouse*, is available on both the Jasper Public Library and JCA's Facebook pages. The workshop has been viewed more than a 1,000 times. At the end of the program there is a DIY workshop on how to make a puppet. These programs were offered for free and were made possible by a grant by the *Indiana Destination Development Corporation* (IDDC).
- On December 12th, there will be a free holiday performance that will be available online. Liz Book and Bryce Conway will be performing. There will be a link where people can donate. He hopes to have the information out in the coming days.
- *Strings, Inc.* will be renting the Arts Center on December 5th. They have worked with Doreen to follow all COVID-19 restrictions and have plans should further restrictions be enacted.
- An earlier understanding with the Clerk-Treasurer's office in regards to CARES Act grant funding, led him to believe that all items would have to come through the Arts budget and then would be reimbursed at a later date. Money was moved from within the budget to cover those expenses. The most recent understanding is that those expenses could come from the CARES Act fund. This means there is money left in the budget to purchase cups to be brought into the auditorium. Based on the timing he plans to encumber \$1,511.72 to purchase the cups.
- Big changes are happening at the Cultural Center site. The perimeter fence is down, furniture is starting to be delivered, appliances are being installed, and the workshop tables are in. More items will be delivered in the coming days. The final work and punch list and final touchups are ongoing. Weyer Electric is working to finish the lighting in the atrium. The donor wall will be installed at the end of the following week. The staff is learning about the lighting, mechanical, electrical, and boiler systems and training will happen during the next couple of weeks. The move-in date has shifted around and Matt Krempp has given the go-ahead to start moving in some of the larger items. Most of deliveries won't start until next week. The monument sign is on and is lit. The building is secured and locked, but the electronic door access is not quite ready. The security system and door access ties into the network, and Matrix Integration is still working on finalizing the system. The Library will start packing up next week,

and the hope is to have the network up and going in a couple of days. Kyle will send out a call for volunteers as soon as the logistics are in place. The January exhibits will also be hung this month in preparation for the January opening. Christine reported that the Library's last day to be opened to the public at the old building will December 9th. She said foot traffic has been heavy since the last day was announced. Four to five semi loads of furniture will be delivered and the library staff will start the task of moving. Christine is paying attention to how to quickly and safely move the 87,000 items in the Library's collection.

Building and Structure Report

Doreen reported:

- All of the equipment needed for the rigging project has finally arrived. The custodial and technical staff will start work after the concert on the 12th.
- She has also been prepping for the move and making the final purchases for the year.

Visual Arts Report

Emily reported:

- *Monte Young and Betty Beshoar's* exhibit closed last week. Monte Young sold one piece of pottery.
- *David Sattron's* artwork will be featured in the gallery in December. His pieces are large ink drawings. She will have a Zoom gallery talk with him.
- The *Call for Artists* for 2022 is still out. Artists that are selected will be some of the first to be exhibited. The deadline for submissions is in February.
- She working with Kyle and Linda to organize and secure items for the gift nook. Some items will be from local artists and craftsmen.
- She assured the board the *John Mellencamp's* exhibit will happen. If there were to be a state or national shut down there will still be ways for the public to view of the exhibit through virtual means. Once the new galleries are open there will be a limit on the number of people that will be allowed in the space.

Education Report

Donna reported:

- The *Mayhem Poets* will perform virtually for Jasper High School students. Their performance is scheduled for tomorrow and will be 45 minutes long. The performance will be streamed to roughly 45 classroom
- Next week she will host her next cooking class. The class will be from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. She will walk everyone through making a couple desserts, candies and a cocktail.

Events Report

Bryce reported:

- Based on new restrictions and talking with his committee, Mayor, Health Department, and the Library staff, there will not be a formal grand opening on January 7th. The building will be open but will be limited based on the restrictions that are in place at the county level. The biggest reason for cancelling the planned tours is based on the risk of hosting an event that could potentially spread the virus. He would like to have a ribbon cutting later in the spring and will make plans for the grand opening that could be pushed back if necessary. He is working on a media release that will detail when JCA will be opening. He is also looking into virtual reality touring options that would ideally be interactive. The interactive portion could include information about the space, rental costs, etc. These would all be points that would have been covered by the tours. He hopes to have everything in place by the time the building opens on the 7th. Mike expressed his concern that the donors will not have any special acknowledgment or special tour before the building opened. The board discussed how best to acknowledge the contributions the donors made to project without jeopardizing the health and safety of the public and staff and burdening both staffs. **Mike Jones** made a motion that there should be a letter acknowledging the donor contributions and how JCA and the Board would like to have a big celebration for opening the building, but the options are limited due to the current situation. **Gary Moeller** seconded. Motion passed 10-0. Kyle informed the board the Arts wing will be opening Monday through Friday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, Saturdays from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, and on Sundays from Noon to 3:00 pm. The occupancy for the Arts wing will be 50. That number is based on the social distancing max

occupancy based on square footage for one gallery. In lieu of a formal tour, the board thought a fact sheet might be a nice touch for the visiting public.

Sherry Monesmith left at 5:27 pm.

Old Business

- The Next Act – Jay reported that they are in a holding pattern for programming. Their board has been fiscally conservative with their money. When The Next Act was established and before they even owned the Astra Theatre, Brad Ward recommended they establish an endowment that in case something was to happen, in this case a pandemic, the building would be financially protected. They have launched their next fundraising campaign with all funds directed towards growing the endowment. They will match any donations up to \$50,000. The money raised will help with future plans, programming, and hiring a staff position that would cover the day to day operations. They have taken a cautious approach to holding in person events. They hosted a movie night in October but have since pushed back artists further into 2021 as the case numbers have increased.

New Business

- Mike asked for two board members to volunteer to serve on the nominating committee. Pat Thyen and Beth Seidl volunteered.
- Mayor Dean Vonderheide commended Kyle and Christine for managing a complex construction project and navigating a pandemic at the same time.

Adjournment

Pat Thyen moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:36 pm. **Gary Moeller** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.



Mike Jones



Attested