

Minutes of the Jasper Community Arts Commission
City of Jasper, Indiana
November 2, 2021

The regular meeting of the Jasper Community Arts Commission was held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, at Jasper City Hall Council Chambers. Roll call was held with the following **Commission Members Present in Person**: Darla Blazey, Emi Donato, Gary Moeller, Jay Hamlin, Mike Jones, Linda Kahle, Sherry Monesmith, Kent Reyling, Beth Seidl, & Pat Thyen. **Commission Members Absent**: Selena Vonderheide. **Staff Members Present**: Kyle Rupert, Emily Peak, Bryce Conway, Donna Schepers, Doreen Lechner & Liz Book. **City Attorney**: Renée Kabrick. **Guests in attendance**: None. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes

Pat Thyen moved to approve the minutes of October's meeting. **Sherry Monesmith** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

City Financial Statement

Gary Moeller moved to approve the claims as presented. **Linda Kahle** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

Emi Donato arrived at 5:31 PM. Kent Reyling arrived at 5:32 PM.

Public Business

Jay Hamlin informed the board that Phyllis Gilmore, a well-regarded Navajo artist and his friend, passed away from cancer. He showed the board a piece she had woven. He spent a lot of time with Phyllis and learned a lot from her over the number of years he knew her. He wanted to honor the impact she made on the community and on others.

Director's Report/Performing Arts

Kyle reported:

- October was another busy month for the Arts Department. 890 people visited the galleries in October. So far in 2021, a total of 13,614 visitors have visited the galleries. He presented the board with data regarding usage for all JCA facilities and covered the total visitors per day and the average per day. The total usage number for 2021 is closing in on the number from 2019, which was the highest number in several years.
- Kyle thanked Jeanne Campbell, Bob McCarty, Weyer Electric, and Friends of the Arts for being instrumental in the installation of the sculpture "*Unbound Imagination*". It is a great addition to the Thyen-Clark Cultural Center grounds.
- He reminded everyone that the audience survey is still available online at jasperarts.org/survey. There have been 94 responses so far. The feedback will be used to assist future programming decisions but will not be the only consideration. The survey will be left up until November 19th. He will continue to publicize that it is available.
- 368 people attended the *Mark Wills* performance in early October. 81% percent of ticket holders attended the performance which is lower than normal for country shows but is on pace for most JCA performances. Kyle believes COVID-19 had an impact on ticket sales; some are still leery of attending large in-person gatherings, and other may have been turned off by the mask requirement.
- He is still working on reschedule dates for *Yogapalooza* and the *Small Glories*. He wants to be able to reschedule these shows before the 2022-2023 season so there is a fresh slate of shows. Due to this there may be shows during the late spring or summer. Once the reschedule dates are announced, ticket holders will have a window of time to seek refunds. The *Reduced Shakespeare Company* is set to perform on November 20th. The company is made up of equity actors which have certain touring requirements due to COVID-19. A big point of concern for the company is if a member should have to quarantine, the artist would be responsible for covering the associated costs. There is potential that the date will have to be moved. A date has been identified but the preferred option would be to keep the performance when it is scheduled. Approximately 350 tickets have been sold and Kyle would like to have a decision made soon.
- More requests have come in for meetings to be held at the Jasper Arts Center. Last week he met with Dubois County CARES who is in need of office space. They originally contacted City Hall which put them in touch with Kyle. The two administrative offices at the Jasper Arts Center would be available.

He is working to identify what the rental rate would be. There is some concern with having a long-term rental agreement because it might interfere with any potential work to reconfigure and expand the restrooms. The administrative offices have been identified as the ideal area for CARES to expand into. Dubois County CARES is checking to see if the current grant they have would cover the cost and if it's financially feasible.

- He is still looking to hire a custodian and technical assistant. The custodian position has been 15 hours per week but the number of hours can be flexible. The current job description covers an array of things but could be tailored to fit someone's skill set.
- The *Artisan Exchange* between Jasper and Pfaffenweiler, Germany will take place in November and December. The Sister Cities of Jasper and the Jasper Partnership Commission interviewed local artists to send to Germany and three were selected, Jay Hamlin, Curtis Uebelhor, and Monte Young. The three local artists will be in Pfaffenweiler from November 13th to December 1st. German Artist, Niklas Samuel will be in Jasper November 21st to December 9th. Niklas will be utilizing one of the private studios at the Cultural Center and have his items for sale during the Holiday Arts Market during O'Tannenbaum Days.
- Several months ago, he contacted the board to try to set up a time to update JCA's strategic plan but finding a time when everyone is available is proving difficult. He proposed potentially meeting in multiple sessions after board meetings. He is currently working on other things at the moment and will try to work this into the schedule in the next couple of months.

Building and Structure Report

Doreen reported:

- She asked the board to contact her if they know of anyone with technical or theatrical expertise.
- There have been a number of large meetings held at the Jasper Arts Center. She has been working with multiple groups about upcoming rentals.

Visual Arts Report

Emily reported:

- Two new exhibits open this week, a *Group Exhibit* of local artists, and *Andrea Hoelscher*. Andrea is a photographer from Ferdinand. She has been featured in the past at the Krempp Gallery. Her photographs are of books and are unframed. They are hung using magnets for a clean, modern look. Andrea will give a gallery talk and Abby Laux will too.
- *First Thursday* reception is this Thursday. The Millhouse will be catering the event.
- She updated the board on upcoming workshops. A few additional workshops have been added to the November schedule and the workshops for December and January have been set. There is a hand-building ornament workshop, and Corie Eckerle will also be offering "*Art After Hours*" workshops for those who need accommodation for sensory issues. Workshop registration is available online through JCA's website.
- *Call for Artists* for 2023 is now out. She is discussing with Kyle about potentially changing the length of the exhibits to lessen the workload. Liz is working on a way to have potential artists be able to submit their information online through the website.
- The *Heart of Jasper* banners are now being installed. She helped coordinate the artists whose work is featured. There are plans for additional banners to be added next year.
- The first weekend of December there will be a *Holiday Arts Market*. The opportunity was made available for Beehive vendors and the Visual Arts Committee members. The market will be open Friday, December 3 from 10 AM – 7 PM and on Saturday, December 4 from 10 AM – 3 PM [the December 4th hours have since been changed to 10 AM – 2 PM]. The booths will be spread throughout the Arts Wing of the Thyen-Clark Cultural Center.
- She reminded the board that there will not be a First Thursday reception in December instead there will be opening and volunteer thank reception on Friday, December 3 from 5 -8 pm. There will be lots of activity going on that day.

Education Report

Donna reported:

- The *Brown Bag with the Arts* Charcuterie workshop sold out and went well. She has presented two additional classes in the community. The next Brown Bag will be on November 10th and will cover how

to get the most out of visiting a museum. She is also planning an afternoon tea on December 9th from 4 – 5 PM. The tea will be open to ages 5 and up. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

- She is also working to finalize the school performances for 2022.

Events Report

Bryce reported:

- There were two wedding rentals in October. One of the two held the wedding and reception in the Atrium. He received great feedback from both events.
- Over the weekend ACT was in to focus the lights in the Black Box Theatre for their upcoming production. The seating in the Black Box is now setup in-the-round. He is looking forward to getting some photos of space to show what it looks like.
- There are a few additional smaller rentals planned for the rest of the year, but the major rentals for the year are over. From March to the end of October, 30 different groups rented space in the Thyen-Clark Cultural Center. Strings, Inc. has held lessons 5 days a week for the last couple of months and ACT has held rehearsals over multiple days. There have been many days where someone has rented the facility. Ten dates have been confirmed with deposits paid for next year. There are more that a penciled into the calendar for 2022.

Old Business

- Kyle contacted 2 Sign Guys regarding *Governor Arts Award Banners* for the Thyen-Clark Cultural Center. 2 Sign Guys does not have record of the file for the banners. He sent them photographs of the previous banners to see if it is something they could duplicate.

New Business

- Kyle informed the board that he met with Brett Schipp from *Universal Designs* to discuss updates and get estimates for a phased remodel approach at the Jasper Arts Center. The needs and cost from when plans were last discussed in 2006 are vastly different. An immediate concern is to address the need for additional restrooms, and the other is to reconfigure and update the Lobby. Since the Lobby is no longer an exhibiting space, updates are needed to make into a lounge space where patrons can gather comfortably before a performance. Creation of a master plan would look at the building as a whole to see what is needed and develop a plan for updates and how to make the entire building more handicapped accessible. Currently, there stairs at every level of the building with no good way to go from area to area without encountering stairs or without going outside the building. A majority of the accessible seating can only be accessed by using the same entrance as artists. He would like to continue to work Universal Designs. The first phase of the project would cover the preliminary design phase for the Lobby remodel. The first item of importance would be the restrooms and the second priority would be reconfiguring the Lobby. The total cost for this portion of the planning process would be \$8,000. The facility master plan would be an additional \$14,000. Kent thought it would be a good idea to get input from the community (patrons) and local furniture manufacturers on what they would like to see. Kyle spoke with Mayor Vonderheide, and he thought it would be a good idea to do all of the planning at once so there is a clear vision of what's next. Jay raised concerns about hiring a building firm to facilitate a refresh or if it would make more sense to hire an interior designer. Darla explained that Universal Designs has someone on staff that handles the interior design and that a comprehensive plan would cover the various codes and how to incorporate future work. Universal would also be able to produce the necessary construction documents. Renée informed the board that the design work is considered professional development and does not need to go to bid. **Gary Moeller** made a motion to move forward with the preliminary design work for the lobby and master planning for the Jasper Arts Center. **Kent Reyling** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

Adjournment

Gary Moeller moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 pm. **Beth Seidl** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.



Mike Jones



Attested

