

## ***Jasper Partnership Commission***

Meeting Minutes 1/20/2023

7:30 am – Pfaffenweiler

### **ROLL CALL**

Max Verkamp

Mayor Vonderheide

Lisa Bower

Steffi Schmuecker

Irene Kapp

Kim Lottes

Gina Schuetter

Stan Jochum (via phone)

### **Guests:**

Matthias Hilger

### **CALL TO ORDER / MINUTES**

Max called the meeting to order at 7:32am.

Irene Kapp made the motion to accept the minutes from the October 26, 2022 and December 31, 2022, Partnership Commission meetings. Mayor Vonderheide seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Member Update**

Max Verkamp remains President, Stan Jochum remains Vice President, and Lisa Bower remains Recording Secretary of the Partnership Commission. Kim Lottes made the motion and Gina Schuetter seconded the motion. The motion carried.

### **Financial Report**

Funds are held by Sister Cities, Inc. and the Treasurer is Matthias Hilger.

Max presented the 2022 Expenses. Kim Lottes made a motion to approve as presented and Gina Schuetter seconded the motion. The motion carried.

See attached for the report.

### **Partnership Declaration**

Max Verkamp sent a proposed press release with the agenda for the Partnership Commission to look over. Below is what will be sent out to the media.

#### **Partnership Vision 2030**

On December 31, 2022, the partnership commissions of Jasper and Pfaffenweiler signed the Unified Declaration for the future of the Partnership between Jasper and Pfaffenweiler. This declaration was the finalized output from discussions that started back in July when Pfaffenweiler and Jasper celebrated the 37th Anniversary of the Partnership. As part of the anniversary activities, the Pfaffenweiler Partnership Commission hosted members of the Jasper Partnership Commission, Sister Cities of

Jasper, and the Jasper German Club in an engaging brainstorming session centered on how to continue strengthening the relationships between the two communities. As a follow-up to the July session and over the back half of 2022, the declaration, which creates the road map for the future, was created and refined through discussions between all of the parties.

The declaration identifies three guiding principles. The first is the sustainability of personal contacts. We want to make the personal encounters and exchanges sustainable and find ways how these short-term contacts can be turned into long term relationships. The second is a common financial foundation. We are aware that the activities to strengthen the partnership will require a solid financial foundation and want to explore various possibilities to support the mission. And the third principle is exchanges and encounters. We want to maintain the personal contacts and the student exchange and build upon them with additional exchange formats. These formats can be remarkably diverse just as the life of our communities.

This signed declaration shows that both Jasper and Pfaffenweiler are truly committed to the partnership and have a desire to see it continue.

### **Anniversary Gifts**

Lisa Bower will work on a Press Release with Max Verkamp regarding the chair the Jasper Partnership Commission presented to Pfaffenweiler and the Partnership Clock we received from Pfaffenweiler.

### **Discussion of the 2025 visit from Pfaffenweiler – 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Max Verkamp mentioned it would be nice for each member of the Jasper Partnership Commission to take one action item, so the burden won't fall on just one individual.

- Invitation
  - Mayor Vonderheide announced the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary trip at the Partnership Celebration while in Pfaffenweiler this summer.
  - Mayor Vonderheide has a zoom meeting/call with Lukas next week and will formally invite him.
- Dates
  - During Strassenfest – July 31 to August 3, 2025
  - Celebration Date – Tuesday, August 5 at the Thyen-Clark Cultural Center Atrium
- Gifts to travelers – Kim Lottes and Lisa Bower will work together
- Gift to Pfaffenweiler
  - Discussion of the Stone Carvers group taking part from Pfaffenweiler and Jasper to finish stones. Stan will take this.
- Ideas for tours/activities while in Jasper - Lisa Bower will work with Visit Dubois County
  - Be part of the Strassenfest Parade (Corie Eckerle is the contact)
- Partnership Celebration – Steffi Schmuecker and Gina Schuetter will work together
  - Tuesday, August 5 at the Thyen-Clark Cultural Center Atrium
    - Lisa Bower has made reservations with Eric Herndon at the Cultural Center. He has held the entire day for us, 9am-midnight. Lisa will keep Eric in the loop if there are any changes.
  - Tentative: 6PM Open doors – 7pm Eat – 8pm Program
- Host families – the Partnership Commission will work together on this

- Lisa Bower will reserve five rooms at the Hampton Inn and the Fairfield Inn for guest who would prefer a hotel
- Other
  - Max Verkamp will reach out to the Strassenfest to make them aware of the visitors
  - Lisa Bower will put together a working checklist of items

### **Sister Cities Wine & Dine Event**

The Sister Cities of Jasper is hosting a *Wine & Dine your Valentine Event* on Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 6pm at Klubhaus 61. At the event, the Wine Queen of Germany, Katrin Lang, and the Wine Queen of Baden, Jessica Himmelsbach will be present. They will be staying with Sandy Wehr.

Currently, there have been approximately 130-140 people who bought tickets to the event. A discussion regarding support from the Partnership Commission for the Wine Queens' travel expenses was held. The cost would be around \$4,000. It was discussed that supporting the Queens was something we need to support as it strengthens our partnership. Mayor Vonderheide made a motion to support \$1,000 and Steffi Schmuecker seconded the motion. The motion carried. Matt, speaking on behalf of Sister Cities, thanked the Partnership Commission for the financial support and agreed that Sister Cities would reciprocate the support for the 2025 Partnership Celebration.

### **Other Business**

Lisa Bower will order City of Jasper sweatshirt blankets to be given to the Wine Queens when they visit.

Steffi Schmuecker motioned to adjourn the meeting. Mayor Vonderheide seconded.

### **NEXT MEETING**

Next meeting will be on Friday, February 10<sup>th</sup> at 7:30am.