

Minutes of the Jasper Community Arts Commission
City of Jasper, Indiana
September 3, 2024

The regular meeting of the Jasper Community Arts Commission was held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, September 3, 2024, at Jasper City Hall Council Chambers. Roll call was held with the following **Commission Members Present in Person:** Darla Blazey, Emi Donato, Corie Eckerle, Bibianna Green, Linda Kahle, Heath Kluemper, Pat Thyen, & Selena Vonderheide. **Non-Voting Student Representative:** Connor Fair. **Observed Remotely via Zoom:** None. **Commission Members Absent:** Jasmine Bosler, Jay Hamlin, & Beth Seidl. **Staff Members Present:** Kyle Rupert, Eric Herndon, Emily Peak, Danny Kopp, & Liz Book. **City Attorney:** Renee Kabrick. **Guests in attendance:** Mayor Dean Vonderheide, Jane Chambers, & Ashley Fair. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Darla welcomed JCAC's new student representative, Connor Fair. Connor is a Senior at Jasper High School.

Bibianna Green arrived at 5:31 pm

Approval of Minutes

Heath Kluemper moved to approve the minutes of August's meeting. **Pat Thyen** seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

City Financial Statement

Darla Blazey moved to approve the claims as presented. **Linda Kahle** seconded. Motion passed 7-0.

Selena Vonderheide arrived at 5:32 pm.

Old Business

- At last month's meeting the bid for the Jasper Arts Center roof replacement from Schmidt Contracting was taken under advisement. City Engineer Chad Hurm looked over the bid and the required documents were received. The base bid was \$55,900, and the alternate bid was \$95,500 for a total of \$154,400. **Pat Thyen** made a motion to accept the bid from Schmidt Contracting for \$154,400. **Bibianna Green** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

New Business

- Emily asked permission to seek quotes for a clay pug mill. The pug mill will help speed up the clay recycling process due to the increased demand for clay. She is seeking input from the clay instructors before purchasing. She estimates the cost to be between \$4,000 to \$5,000. **Darla Blazey** made a motion to allow Emily to seek quotes for a clay pug mill. **Heath Kluemper** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

Director's Report/Performing Arts

Kyle reported:

- *Lonestar* was announced to the public two weeks ago and is almost sold out. Backstage performers, *Chris Dixon* and *Ryanhood* are sold out. Feedback has been positive about flex ticketing. Ticket revenue is up over last season. He believes it is up partly because of flex ticketing and shows may resonate with audiences more than in previous seasons. There is an additional show this year but if it is removed from ticket sales reports this season's sales are outpacing last season. The individual ticket on sale date was moved forward which has allowed for an additional month of sales. Out of all ticket sales, 40% are from outside the county, and 10% are from outside the state.
- He has started planning for the 2025-2026 performance season and will attend the Midwest Arts XPO in two weeks.
- He shared information about a couple of grants that JCA has received and others he plans to apply for.

Building and Structure Report

Danny reported:

- The kiln in the clay studio has had part of the exhaust system repaired and replaced.
- Weyer Electric will be at the Cultural Center to address a few lighting issues. There have been several exterior lights over the awning that have been out for several months. There are also a couple of lights in the Atrium and gallery hall that have been out and are in need of repair
- He is working on organizing the building blueprints at the Arts Center.

Visual Arts Report

Emily reported:

- *The 31st Annual Juried Art Exhibition* will open on Thursday. Juror Darryl Halbrooks will be in to judge the artwork, and the winners will be announced at the First Thursday opening reception.
- Clay open studio is going well. This fall there are a couple of clay workshops that will be offered: Beginning and Intermediate Clay Wheel Throwing, and a handbuilding class. Emily is working with the clay instructors on planning holiday clay workshops for elementary-aged kids.
- Laura Pommier will teach another Zoom sketch of the week class.
- Over the weekend she attended the Butter Fine Arts Fair in Indianapolis. It was a great learning and networking opportunity.
- She presented the 2025 visual art artists to the board.
- December 5th will be this year's Holiday and Volunteer Thank You reception.
- The 2025 Call for Artists will be sent out in the next month.

Event Report

Eric reported:

- He shared information about the upcoming rentals for September.
- Last week a wedding ceremony was held in one of the galleries. He was able to accommodate 130 guests in the gallery and still allow plenty of space to move around. An upcoming wedding will be held in the Atrium. He emphasized that there are continually new ideas and uses that are being thought of to utilize the space.
- Plans continue for JCA's 50th anniversary celebrations. Carodella's will cater both the recognition dinner and the fundraiser. The guest list is being finalized, and he is working on the menu.

Education Report

Kyle reported for Casey:

- Casey held an instructor planning meeting, and she is working on new workshops for the fall.
- She is working on plans for a Fall Camp Create. It will follow a similar format as Spring Camp Create and will be a four-day camp from 9:00 AM to Noon beginning October 14th.
- The first school show of the school year is *Justin Roberts and the Not Ready for Naptime Players* and will be held at the end of the month.
- The Dia de Muertos celebration will be held on November 1st. She is working on plans with JCA's community partners for this event.
- Casey is also working on planning and implementing the Kennedy Center Partners in Education artist in residency programs for Jasper's schools. She will be able to use grant dollars to cover part of the cost.

Public Business

Adjournment

Selena Vonderheide moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:58 pm. Emi Donato seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

Barbara Blazey

Selena Vonderheide