

**Minutes of the Jasper Community Arts Commission
City of Jasper, Indiana
November 5, 2024**

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

Approval of Minutes

Jasmine Bosler moved to approve the minutes of October's meeting. **Pat Thyen** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.

City Financial Statement

Corie Eckerle moved to approve the claims as presented. **Beth Seidl** seconded. Motion passed 9-0.

Old Business

- Kyle shared that Emily is out sick this week so the pug mill quotes are not ready to be presented this month.

Emi Donato arrived at 5:35 pm.

- Kyle received quotes for replacement computers from Eck Mundy and Matrix Integration. He has contacted the vendor who has the State's computer contract and is waiting for the quote. Mayor Vonderheide requested that Kyle hold out, if possible, to purchase new computers until the City's new IT person is hired next year. Kyle hopes to be able to encumber the funds from this year's budget. If it is not possible, he has been given the go-ahead to purchase them this year. The quote is for six laptops and one desktop computer.
- Kyle shared Branded by Woods' rebranding proposal to the board. Kyle shared that his goal is to decide on the rebranding for the department and wait to discuss the Jasper Arts Center's name. Whatever name is decided can be slotted into the proposed designs. Darla, Selena, and Kyle met with Branded by Woods' team and discussed the proposed changes with the staff to narrow the options. Community will be dropped from Jasper Community Arts to reflect the regional impact and mitigate the implication that community is more of an "amateur" organization. The full-color logo should work well for printed media. Branded by Woods will provide multiple file types to be used across various platforms. Kyle is getting estimates to replace physical signage. Once the logo design is approved, Branded by Woods will complete the design guide. **Jasmine Bosler** made a motion to accept the proposed logo. **Heath Kluemper** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.
- Corie asked about the training that the staff has undergone. Kyle shared that the team building program has been completed and offered good insights into how the staff interacts, thinks, and collaborates. The staff also underwent customer service training that was provided by the City.

New Business

- Kyle proposed adding a performance to Chalk Walk for JCA's 50th Anniversary celebrations. Squonk is a large-scale interactive performance piece that will be held outside in the parking lot at the Cultural Center. Kyle and Eric spoke with the creators about the challenges with presenting it, and the creators are confident it will work. Kyle would like to pay a deposit of 50% to spread the cost over two budget years. The total cost is \$26,000. The performance is self-contained, and they provide a full run crew and a few additional people will be needed to help with load-in and load-out. Kyle is working on plans should it rain on Chalk Walk and will have the rain plan language added to the contract. **Pat Thyen** made a motion to approve Squonk for Chalk Walk and to pay a 50% deposit of \$13,000. **Beth Seidl** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

Director's Report/Performing Arts

Kyle reported:

- Attendance is up, and all performance metrics are up. Kyle received positive feedback for *Chris Dixon's* backstage performance. There were many new faces and younger audience members in attendance for *Preacher Lawson's* near-sold-out show. He also received good feedback about *Jessica Fichot's* backstage performance.

- 500 Jasper High School students in 9th and 10th grade will attend a school show for Luca Stricagnoli the Monday after his public performance.
- *Norm Lewis* will perform on December 7th.
- A draft list of those invited to the 50th Anniversary dinner was sent to the board. Kyle asked the board to look over the list for any omissions or corrections.
- He is working on plans for the 2025-2026 performing arts schedule. He has big plans to celebrate 50 years.

Building and Structure Report

Danny reported:

- He shared that JCA's Halloween Decorating Contest in partnership with the Jasper Public Library went well. Currently, the contest has three categories, and entrants are allowed to choose what category they would like to be considered for. This year there were no entries in one of the categories. The group is deciding how best to judge the contest.
- For the last two backstage shows Danny has worked to elevate the setup and create more of a distinct setting for each show.
- *Preacher Lawson* held a meet and greet after his performance.
- Two groups utilized the Jasper Arts Center in October. Dubois Strong held its Tour of Opportunity, and the City of Jasper held its open enrollment insurance meeting.

Visual Arts Report

Kyle reported for Emily:

- Katie Knoeringer and Maria Del Pilar Arrieta's exhibit will open on Thursday, and the First Thursday opening reception is on Thursday from 5-7 pm.
- Two kids clay ornament classes will be held in November.
- Emily plans to meet with Fernando Lazano to discuss his exhibit that will be held in the Black Box Theatre in 2025. It will include large panels and original music.

Event Report

Eric reported:

- He shared information about the upcoming rentals for November.
- He is still working through the details for JCA's 50th Anniversary celebrations and working on how to incorporate using the entire building.
- He thanked the board for approving Squonk for Chalk Walk.

Education Report

Casey reported:

- Fall Break Camp Create went well. The campers completed a collaborative painting that is now hanging in the painting studio. Camp Create Spring Break will be held in March.
- The Education Committee met to discuss the show options for the 2025-2026 school year.
- She hosted a Homeschool Connections class.
- There are several upcoming workshops. A microfiction workshop will be held in November and is the first of this type of workshop.
- Casey had a booth at the Jasper Public Library's Halloween Bash.
- The Dia de Muertos event was held on November 1st. The event featured face painting, food, and crafts. Students from Jasper and Southridge High Schools were at the event presented in partnership with JCA and ALASI. Roughly 130 people attended.
- *Luca Stricagnoli* will perform for Jasper High School Freshman and Sophomores.
- 4th grade students from Spencer County had a field trip at the Cultural Center.

Public Business

- Darla pointed out ticket sales revenue has surpassed the budgeted amount. Kyle shared that attendance is up 3% overall year and that 230 flex ticket packages have been sold.

Adjournment

Bibianna Green moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:26 pm. **Selena Vonderheide** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

Dana Blazey

Selena Vonderheide