

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

The regular meeting of the Jasper Community Arts Commission was held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, December 3, 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, Jay Hamlin, Linda Kahle, Beth Seidl, Pat Thyen, & Selena Vonderheide. **Non-Voting Student Representative:** Connor Fair. **Observed Remotely via Zoom:** None. **Commission Members Absent:** Heath Kluemper. **Staff Members Present:** Kyle Rupert, Eric Herndon, Danny Kopp, Casey Uebelhor, Emily Peak, & Liz Book. **City Attorney:** Absent. **Guests in attendance:** Candy Neal, Emily Klein, & Matt Crane (via zoom). The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Bibianna Green** moved to approve the minutes of November’s meeting. **Pat Thyen** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

**City Financial Statement**

**Linda Kahle** moved to approve the claims as presented. **Corie Eckerle** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

**Public Business**

- Director of Dubois County CARES Candy Neal requested the board waive the rental fee for renting the Jasper Arts Center. She shared the mission of Dubois County CARES, as well as the impact substance abuse and alcohol have on youth and the organization’s initiatives to support youth mental health. The requested free usage would provide a space for a speaker to talk to all 7<sup>th</sup> grade students in the county and would also host a session for parents. If waived, JCA would be listed as a sponsor for the event. The value of the rental would be roughly \$590. Bibianna shared that it might be a good idea to set a guideline for how many free usages are allowed per year and a policy for waiving rental fees. **Jasmine Bosler** made a motion to waive the rental fee for Dubois County CARES on February 6 & 7. **Bibianna Green** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.
- President of Parents Supporting Education, Emily Klein shared the organization will be hosting a Black History Month contest celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr. One contest would be for students in grades K-12 and would feature a writing prompt and the second would be a coloring contest for students in grades K-5. They requested free usage of the Black Box Theatre to host an evening where the winning students would be able to present their essays. The value of the rental would be \$75. **Linda Kahle** made a motion to waive the rental fee for Parents Supporting Education on January 22. **Corie Eckerle** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

**Old Business**

- Emily shared quotes to purchase a VPM-30 Vacuum Peter Pugger Pug Mill. She explained that a pug mill would greatly speed up the amount of time spent recycling clay to be reused and would be a welcome addition. She recommended accepting the low quote from Kentucky Mudworks. **Selena Vonderheide** made a motion to accept the quote from Kentucky Mudworks to purchase a clay pug mill. **Beth Seidl** seconded. Motion passed 10-0. The funds for the pug mill will be encumbered from this year’s budget.

Company	Price	Shipping	Warranty	Total Cost
Kentucky Mudworks	\$7,499.00	Free Shipping	Through Peter Pugger	\$7,499.00
Bailey’s Ceramic Supplies & Bailey Pottery Equipment Corporation	\$7,799.00	Freight: \$699.00	Through Peter Pugger	\$8,468.00
Peter Pugger	\$7,799.00	Est: \$535.00	2 year warranty	\$8,334.00

- Kyle presented quotes for six replacement laptops and one desktop. The main components of the computers are the same. He recommended accepting the low quote from Eck-Mundy for \$7,256.00. The City’s new IT person would handle the setup of the new computers. **Pat Thyen** made a motion to accept the quote from Eck-Mundy to purchase six laptops and one desktop computer. **Linda Kahle** seconded. Motion passed 10-0. The funds for the computers will be encumbered from this year’s budget.

Vendor	Laptops (6)	Desktop	Battery Backup	Labor	Total
Eck-Mundy	\$6,258.00	\$998.00	\$105.00	N/A	\$7,361.00 w/o \$7,256.00
Matrix Integration	\$8,250.00	\$1,229.00	Not Quoted	N/A	\$9,479.00
State Contract – SHI	\$9,988.86	\$2,136.39	Not Quoted	N/A	\$12,125.25

**New Business**

- Kyle presented quotes to purchase fifteen iPad Airs to be used in digital art workshops. The funds were provided by the United Cabinet Foundation Endowment and the Marc and Jeanne Campbell Endowment of the Dubois County Community Foundation. Kyle recommended accepting the low quote for Apple. **Bibianna Green** made a motion to accept the low quote from Apple to purchase fifteen iPad Airs. **Jay Hamlin** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

Vendor	iPad Air M2 (15)	AppleCare	Total
Apple	\$8,235.00	\$1,035.00	\$9,270.00
B&H Photo	\$8,535.00	\$1,185.00	\$9,720.00
Best Buy	\$8,985.00	\$1,185.00	\$10,170.00

- Wendy Calman was an exhibiting artist in 2023. She has donated money for blinds to be installed in the windows in the gallery. The donation will be placed in a restricted-use fund until the appropriate quotes are received.
- Pat Thyen and Beth Seidl have agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee to select a slate of officers for 2025.

**Director’s Report/Performing Arts**

Kyle reported:

- The 2024 annual report will be sent out early next year.
- The number of tickets sold and ticket revenue are both up double-digit percentages over last season and comparing year-over-year even better. Attendance is up over the last three years. He also shared the usage numbers for the year.
- Luca Stricagnoli’s performance went well. This year’s shows have had shorter load-in/load-out but have all had meet and greets following the show that have been roughly 45 minutes long.
- Norm Lewis will perform a Holiday show on Saturday and tickets are still available.
- Kyle shared what funds will be encumbered from the 2024 budget that will be rolled into the 2025 budget. Projects include: purchasing a pug mill and computers, JCA’s rebranding, Squonk deposit, 2025 exhibit guide, Partners in Education residency, and branded cups for the Auditorium.

**Building and Structure Report**

Danny reported:

- Sound reinforcement has been scheduled for Norm Lewis’s performance. Mark Headley will provide sound assistance and mentorship for Buckets N Boards, and Norbert Leo Butz’s performances.
- Members of the City of Jasper’s safety inspection team visited the Arts Center. Members toured the facility and shared what changes were needed and all have been implemented.

## Visual Arts Report

Emily reported:

- Exhibit shipping for Mark Brosmer came in higher than anticipated. Emily asked the board to approve reimbursing Mark \$6,966.00 for shipping. **Beth Seidl** made a motion to approve reimbursing the shipping cost. **Selena Vonderheide** seconded. Motion passed 10-0. Over 80 pieces are featured in the exhibit and many of the pieces are part of series. The exhibit will open on Thursday.
- The First Thursday/Holiday Reception will be held on Thursday from 5-7 PM. Diane Wininger has volunteered to play the piano during the reception.
- The clay classes for the year are over. Two ornament making classes were held for kids along with two wheel-throwing classes. Changes to the Clay Open Studio will go into effect in January.
- SOUP-Port soup bowl fundraiser will be held on April 27. In January there will be a day where bowls will be made.
- Call for Artist applicants for 2026 are due in March.
- Originally, the December exhibit was going to feature multiple artists in a market-style sales exhibit. Instead, Ron Peake's pottery will be featured. He is from Holland, Indiana and has been a potter for many decades.

## Event Report

Eric reported:

- He shared the rental updates for the month. A last-minute wedding reception was booked when another venue in Jasper double-booked. He was happy he was able to accommodate the rental.
- He thanked John and Linda Kahle for their donation that provided funds to purchase a new fifteen-foot tree and decorations for the Atrium.

## Education Report

Casey reported:

- *Luca Stricagnoli* performed for Jasper High School Freshman and Sophomores. It was the first time in several years that students from the High School attended a show at the Arts Center. The students were very engaged with Luca's performance and asked many questions during the offered Q&A time.
- Casey took an online class through the Harvard Business School as part of ongoing staff professional development. The class *Power and Influence for Positive Impact* focused on how to ethically cultivate power to make a positive impact on society.
- She is working on workshops for Winter/Spring.
- Spring Break Camp Create will be held in March and the featured artist is Impressionist artist Claude Monet.
- Three field trips have been scheduled for next Spring.
- In preparation for the digital art workshops that will be offered next year, she is researching Procreate.
- She is creating new preschool activities to make visiting the galleries friendlier to small children.
- She is meeting with the schools and Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum Instruction and Assessment Tina Fawks to discuss the Kennedy Center Partners in Education programming.
- Stage actress, Mary Beth Donahoe will provide a masterclass for Jasper High School performing arts students and will feature in a benefit concert to provide funds for the JHS choir to perform at Carnegie Hall.

## Adjournment

**Jasmine Bosler** moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:32 pm. **Selena Vonderheide** seconded. Motion passed 10-0.

Dana Blazey

Selena Vonderheide