

**Minutes of the Jasper Community Arts Commission**  
**City of Jasper, Indiana**  
**August 1, 2023**

The regular meeting of the Jasper Community Arts Commission was held at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, August 1, 2023, at Jasper City Hall Council Chambers. Roll call was held with the following **Commission Members Present in Person:** Darla Blazey, Emi Donato, Bibianna Green, Linda Kahle, Heath Kluemper, Beth Seidl, Pat Thyen, & Selena Vonderheide. **Observed Remotely via Zoom:** None. **Commission Members Absent:** Jasmine Bosler, Corie Eckerle, & Jay Hamlin. **Staff Members Present:** Kyle Rupert, Doreen Lechner, Emily Peak, Casey Uebelhor, Eric Herndon, Danny Kopp, & Liz Book. **City Attorney:** Renee Kabrick. **Guests in attendance:** Kit Miracle & Jane Chambers. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Minutes**

**Emi Donato** moved to approve the minutes of July's meeting. **Pat Thyen** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

**City Financial Statement**

**Beth Seidl** moved to approve the claims as presented. **Heath Kluemper** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.

**Old Business**

- Two members of the public anonymously submitted feedback on JCA's website. One was very positive and referenced several points of the plan, and the other contained several slurs. Kyle intends to send another request for comment. Mayor Vonderheide also suggested Kyle present the plan at City Council's August meeting. Kyle hopes to have the plan approved at September's board meeting.
- Beth commented that ACT's *Wizard of Oz* performances were very well attended, and Sunday's performance was sold out. She brought up a few concerns about the Arts Center Lobby. The interior doors did not have doorknobs installed, and the latch on the doors leading into the auditorium are very loud when closed. Kyle informed the board that Universal Designs is looking into other options for the door hardware in the auditorium. The doors are fire-rated and have a different type of latching mechanism to ensure it closes fully. The interior door handles have since been installed and several defective tiles have been replaced. The original paint that was selected for the accent wall had a metallic finish that did not cover well and was streaky, it has been repainted and is almost finished. There is some additional lettering that also needs to be installed. Kyle will follow up with Universal Designs on the door hardware for the auditorium doors.

**New Business**

- Liz informed the board that a ticket desk for the Jasper Arts Center Lobby needs to be purchased. The original plan for the project included a custom design and built ticket desk that was \$34,000. This was cut from the project due to the associated cost. Since then, she has researched possible ticket desks that would be significantly less. There is money in the budget to purchase a desk. Kyle will work with the designer of the project to make sure the desk that is selected will tie in with the design of the Lobby. **Darla Blazey** made a motion to allow Liz to seek quotes for a ticket desk. **Selena Vonderheide** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.
- Kyle presented a public art application for a mural that Visit Dubois County plans to have installed to the West of its front door. The mural will feature Dubois County attractions and will be painted by Laura Pommier. The original sketch included several attractions that were already represented on the mural at the corner of 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Newton. A suggestion was made to include attractions not currently featured on other murals. The mural is part of the IDDC grant and ties into the mural that Laura will also complete under the bridge on 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue. The mural will be completed by October 1. On August 17, Laura will start on the bridge mural. The proposed mural will be the sole responsibility of Tourism. Derek Young is the property owner and granted permission for the mural.

**Director's Report/Performing Arts**

Kyle reported:

- During the month, many patrons came in to see the exhibits.
- The *Michelangelo: A Different View* exhibit received great feedback, and several patrons that came to see it were from outside the area. Overall, it was a very positive experience, and Kyle thanked Dean and Ellen Vonderheide and the United Cabinet Foundation for making it possible to bring the exhibit to the community. Kyle also thanked the staff and volunteer docents for their help.

- The same number of tickets have been sold this year as all of 2022. Ticket revenue is also up over last year, but it was expected due to a slight increase in ticket pricing. The handling fee revenue is also up significantly since the increase went into effect, and it is doing a better job of covering the associated costs with the ticketing platform.
- Individual tickets go on sale on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- *Diamond Rio's* performance will include an opening act, *SmithField*. The cost of the opening act is \$750. Kyle anticipates a sell-out for *Diamond Rio's* performance.
- Eli Lilly did not award JCA a grant for building updates at the Jasper Arts Center.
- Strassenfest will be held around the Cultural Center on August 3-6. JCA will have extended hours and will be open until 7 PM on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. The galleries will be closed on Sunday.

### **Building and Structure Report**

Doreen reported:

- Doreen thanked those who signed the claim after the last board meeting to allow the new scissor lift to be purchased and delivered. The lift has been helpful in installing the mechanized flylines and will be much safer to reweight the remaining lines. The flyline installation started on Monday, and the first line was hung today.
- The City will be replacing the water main that burst last winter. The line will be replaced from the University all the way to the Arts Center. Once completed, the parking lot will be repaired.

This will be Doreen's last board meeting before she retires. Kyle thanked Doreen for her years of service. He commented that the arts community is more vibrant due to her involvement over the years. Former Director, Kit Miracle also thanked Doreen and called her a "magician" who could make things happen. Kit wished Doreen the best in her retirement.

### **Visual Arts Report**

Emily reported:

- *Wendy Calman's* exhibit has closed. Wendy thanked everyone for their patience with her exhibit, and she will be making a donation to the gallery.
- *Soulaf Abas'* exhibit opens on Thursday. She is a watercolor and ink artist from Terre Haute. Soulaf and Jay will give gallery talks at Thursday's reception.
- The *Dubois County Art Guild's* exhibit will be open through August 20<sup>th</sup>. Several pieces from the exhibit have sold.
- Artist notifications for the 30<sup>th</sup> *Annual Juried Show* have been sent, and the artwork will be delivered by the end of the month.
- A couple of adult clay handbuilding classes have been added, and interest in clay open studio has continued to increase.
- Emily is assisting with sourcing materials for the IDDC mural. Laura Pommier will be in town for four to six weeks to complete both murals.

### **Event Report**

Eric reported:

- There are several rentals coming up at the Cultural Center in August.
- A wedding was held last weekend, and there is a large corporate rental in August that will cover several days and will bring in \$15,500 in revenue.
- *The Beehive* is September 30 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM. The deadline for artists to apply is August 4<sup>th</sup>. Media releases will be sent out in the coming weeks about the arts and food vendors.

### **Education Report**

Casey reported:

- In June, Casey attended a Kennedy Center webinar about teaching artist residencies in rural communities. The training was a great experience and has helped her assist a JHS world history teacher who was awarded an Indiana Arts Commission Arts Fellowship. JCA will serve as the art liaison for the project.
- Camp Create was a great experience. 49 students attended the camp and had a mix of socioeconomic backgrounds. She has received great feedback from the students, parents, and instructors. Those that attended the July camp were able to see the Michelangelo exhibit, and it sparked great conversations. She thanked the staff and volunteers for their help.

- A watercolor workshop was held for Lange-Fuhs patients. It has been such a positive experience that they would like to have a workshop three times a year.
- There were many workshops held this summer. Last week, she held a meeting for instructors for fall workshops. The fall classes will be posted to the website the week of August 14<sup>th</sup>, and classes will begin in October.
- Starting this Fall, Elizabeth Wertman will be teaching at Open Studio Drawing, and many are looking forward to her teaching.
- Two new instructors will be teaching workshops this fall. A sewing workshop will be offered, and participants will make a commemorative teddy bear.
- On August 18<sup>th</sup>, a workshop for Wounded Warriors will be held. Tina Drew and Elizabeth Wertman will lead the family-friendly event.
- Casey met with ALASI member Rossina Sandoval to discuss JCA's plans for dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead) celebration on November 1<sup>st</sup>. She is excited to bring this opportunity to the community.

**Adjournment**

**Selena Vonderheide** moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:06 pm. **Linda Kahle** seconded. Motion passed 8-0.



**Darla Blazey**



**Attested**