JOPLIN CELEBRATIONS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, January 7, 2025, 4:00 p.m.
Location: Joplin City Hall, 5th Floor, Study

Attendees: Co-chair Brad Belk, Co-chair Patrick Tuttle, Wally Bloss, Paula Callihan, Emily Frankoski, and Jud Fisher

I. Meeting Called to Order by Mr. Tuttle

II. The December 2024 minutes were approved. Mr. Belk motioned to accept, and Ms. Callihan seconded. The vote was unanimous.

III. General Discussion

1) **Route 66 Centennial Events** (2026)

a. City of Joplin Birthday

There was a discussion about combining the city's 152nd birthday (March 23) with the 20th anniversary of City Hall's move to the Neman Building (March 1st). Rather than having two events, Mr. Tuttle will discuss with city staff having a formal presentation at a March city council meeting.

b. Route 66 Goes to the Movies

The idea of holding a film series similar to Joplin Goes to the Movies focused on celebrating films shot along Route 66 or whose storylines take place along it is on the table. The matter has not been advanced.

Mr. Tuttle reported having had a conversation with the owner of the 66 Drive-in who would enjoy being involved.

c. World Street Painting Festival

Mr. Tuttle provided an update on the possibility of using the Union Depot for the 2025 and 2026 World Street Painting Festival. He and the Downtown Joplin Alliance will have a Zoom meeting with the state DNR (Dept. of Natural Resources) office in two weeks. However, historical tax credit issues may prevent the use.

d. Mr. Wallis and New Mural Dedication

Mr. Tuttle will follow up with Mr. Wallis about attending the new mural dedication and speaking for the Joplin Historical Society on *The Next 100 Years of Route 66*. The weather and his health are factors. March 15 or 29 are the open dates.

2) Heritage Trail Markers

Mr. Tuttle informed the commission that the Cox Farm and Joplin Unrest Heritage Trail markers are nearing completion. He, Dr. Stebbins, and Mr. Belk met and determined a proper location for the marker at the Cox Farm entrance. Older markers there would be removed. The Joplin Unrest marker will go on the Landreth Park trail. Installation should be in March. It was suggested Rikki Smith be contacted to assist with arrangements with the family.

Still in process:

~~a. Cox Farm/Blytheville~~
b. Newton County
c. Jasper County
~~d. Unrest~~
e. East Town (Rt 66/Mural)
f. Grand Falls (3) (history, chert, uses)
g. St. Mary's (2)
h. Shubert
i. Ewert Park (6)

The Celebrations Commission will create Projects a-e, while the commission will serve an advisory role for items f-i to assure continuity across the trial.

IV. Meeting Adjourned at 4:52.

Approved: _____

Patrick Tuttle, Co-Chair