JOPLIN CELEBRATIONS COMMISSION

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

Attendees: Attendees: Co-chair Brad Belk, Co-chair Patrick Tuttle, Wally Bloss, Kristina Kosiorek, and Jud Fisher

I. Meeting Called to Order by Mr. Tuttle

II. Minutes from the January 2025 meeting were approved. Mr. Belk motioned to accept, and Mr. Fisher seconded. The vote was unanimous.

III. General Discussion

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

a. City of Joplin Birthday

Mr. Belk, Dr. Stebbins, and Mr. Tuttle will present a birthday history presentation at the March 17 City Council meeting. Since it is St. Patrick's Day, Dr. Stebbins's theme will focus on founding fathers with Irish heritage. Mr. Belk will look at Joplin's past birthdays and the significance of remembering them. Mr. Tuttle will close by acknowledging that city hall has occupied the Newman Building for 20 years.

b. Route 66 Goes to the Movies

No report.

c. World Street Painting Festival

Mr. Tuttle updated that the 2025 event is on track for June 4-7 with 10 artists. Seven or eight of them will be international.

d. New Mural Unveiling and Mr. Wallis Lecture

Mr. Tuttle provided an update on the new Route 66 Mural Park mural by Carthage artist Andy Thomas. The unveiling will be on Friday, April 4th at 1:30. Entitled *Route 66 Tri-state Corridor*, the mural highlights 21 of the most recognized landmarks on Route 66 between Carthage and Afton. The commission has been asked to help that day. Mayor Cortez has signed letters inviting the other 10 mayors and four tribal leaders whose communities are along the Corridor to assist him in the unveiling.

That evening, the Joplin Historical Society and Visit Joplin will host Western and Route 66 author Michael Wallis for a lecture on *Route 66: Past, Present, and Future*. Mr. Wallis will speak at 7:00 p.m. in Corley Auditorium on the MSSU campus. The event is open to the public.

e. Endurance Cyclist Joe Barr

Mr. Tuttle informed the commission that the World Record cycling attempt to cross Route 66 in eight days has been put off until June 2026. The weather conditions following the fire in California have warranted the delay from this June.

f. Buchanan Mansion Turning 100.

Mr. Belk presented that a working concept for honoring the MSSU Buchanan Mansion as it turns 100 in 2026 is in development. He will update the commission as the details come together.

2) Heritage Trail Markers

As part of the March 17 City Birthday activities, the newest addition to the Heritage Trail, the *Cox Farm,* and *Joplin Unrest,* will be dedicated at a media event at 1:30 at the driveway of the Cox Farm, 615 E. Persimmon.

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Still in the 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 4:45.

Approved: _____

Patrick Tuttle, Co-Chair