JOPLIN CELEBRATIONS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, October 1, 2024, 4:00 p.m.
Location: Joplin City Hall, 5th Floor, Study

Attended: Co-chair Brad Belk, Co-chair Patrick Tuttle, Heather Lesmeister, Paula Callihan, Dr Kerry Sachetta, Dr. Chad Stebbins, Jud Fisher, and Laura Evans

I. Meeting Called to Order by Mr. Tuttle

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

III. General Discussion

1) Route 66 Centennial Events (2026)
   a. World Street Painting Festival
   b. Pixar CARS turning 20
   c. USA turning 250
   d. 9/11 25th Anniversary
   e. Joplin Tornado 15th Anniversary
   f. World Cup in North America
   g. Original compositions (Heartland Concert Band)

2) Heritage Trail Markers
   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 in an advisory role for items f-i to assure continuity across the trial.

3) Jefferson Highway (Signage)

   JH signage is now on 4th Street at Moffett and Jackson Ave. A history marker is in Spiva Park (facing Main Street), and the Visit Center windows on the NE corner of City Hall have been rebranded.

The MVPA-HA Convoy, following the Jefferson Highway, will stop in Joplin on October 16th for breakfast. CFI, Visit Joplin, and American Legion Post 13 will serve as hosts. Forty to fifty vintage vehicles will be parked in the parking lot of the General Aviation terminal. The Freedom of Flight Museum will also be open. The public is invited to view the vehicles.

4) Route 66 Mural Park

A mural by Carthage artist Andy Thomas will be added to Route 66 Mural Park next March. The whimsical art piece will highlight landmarks from the 11 communities that make up the Route 66 Tri-state corridor between Carthage and Miami.

IV. Meeting Adjourned

Approved: _____

Patrick Tuttle, Co-Chair