JOPLIN CELEBRATIONS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, November 1, 2022

Attended: Co-chair Patrick Tuttle, Wally Bloss, Paula Callihan, Diane Reid Adams, Dr. Chad Stebbins, and Rikki Smith

Guests: Lisa Olliges, Joplin Little Theater, Holly Crane, Bookhouse Cinema, and Judd Fischer, Heartland Band

Location: Joplin City Hall, 5th Floor

I. Meeting Called to Order by Mr. Tuttle

II. Approval of Minutes

October 2022: After some discussion and a few grammatical adjustments, the Amended Minutes for October 4, 2022, meeting was approved. Motion by Ms. Callihan, second by Ms. R. Smith, unanimous approval.

III. Joplin Little Theater, Sesquicentennial Production

Dr. Stebbins, with guest Ms. Olliges representing Joplin Little Theater (JLT), discussed with the commissioners the idea of recreating a production that the 1973 Centennial performed, *Let's Take a Step*. Dr. Stebbins had the original script from Gay Cragin. Much of the discussion was regarding reproducing the event to include modern Joplin events, rescoring the music, casting the performance, and funding.

Ms. Olliges will take it back to the JLT board to weigh their interest and support.

Left as an open item regarding recreating the former event, creating a new current-day staged event, or nothing at all.

IV. Sesquicentennial Steering Committees updates

a. 150th Celebration March 23

Mr. Belk is considering a focus on the Benton Mural, which is turning 50 years old, plus a program on the work in Joplin but architect Austin Allen.

b. Barbershop Vocal Clinic (April 14) and *Percy Wenrich Ragtime Tribute* (April 15)

Planning is moving forward on both events. They will take place in the newly renovated Taylor Auditorium on the MSSU campus. Letters and student applications will be available to high school music teachers shortly after the Thanksgiving Break.

c. Mining Camp H.S. Baseball — April 15

Mr. Tuttle relayed an update from Dr. Sachetta that he has confirmed that Columbus will play Galena, and Pittsburg will play Joplin on April 15 in Joe Becker Stadium.

Dr. Sachetta also conveyed that he had reached out to the VBBA (Vintage Base Ball Association) about playing an exhibition game following the high school matches.

d. *Joplin Goes to the Movies* — April-July

Ms. Crane and Dr. Stebbins updated the commission that 8 movies had been selected with tentative dates and locations. More confirmation will be presented at the next meeting.

Mr. Tuttle shared with the commission a logo designed for this event. He is working on a potential sponsor to fund the purchase of the DVDs of each and required royalties to show them.

e. Iris Garden Tours — May 13

Ms. Reid Adams discussed the May tour of Iris Gardens and that a map showing the drivable tour and Iris planting/maintenance information are still needed.

f. Community Concert — June 1-3

Mr. Tuttle updated the commission that he received a preliminary list of available acts and their asking price. This will set the bar for how much sponsorship needs to be raised. He estimates the "entertainment budget" to be close to $200,000. He has started seeking sponsorships.

Related to a concert weekend, Mr. Tuttle informed the commission that he made a presentation to Daybreak Rotary. He covered the key events and where the commission was in their planning. When referencing the Community Concert weekend, Daybreak Rotary is interested in managing the beer garden, should there be one. They were the organization that did it for the former Boomtown Days events.

g. Cox Homestead and Jasper County Cemetery Passport

Ms. R. Smith provided updates on these projects. She reported that the Cox Family Cemetery was nearly clean and open for tours. She was making progress on a possible tour of the family home, but nothing was confirmed.

The discussion was that an open house would be a good addition to the events being considered for the State Historical Preservation conference.

h. Marketing/Merchandise and website

Mr. Tuttle mentioned that a meeting was planned with Stealth Creating, the agency of record for the CVB's marketing, about Sesquicentennial event marketing and merchandise promotion. He is working with SMB (Southwest Missouri Bank) to update the commemorative coin commercial to a "Great Holiday Gift" message. A mailable flyer with the coin, Iris cookie cutter, and possible stamp cache could be developed. Plus, other merchandise as it becomes available.

V. **Other items**

Ms. Callihan brought up bringing back a Centennial event, "Brothers of the Brush" a beard-growing contest. Mr. Tuttle mentioned this had been added to the 125th Celebration in 1998 with little response. He suggested that with the grooming habits of today possible a modified version could be created. He has some notes from the 125th that he will bring to the next meeting.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, December 6, 2022, at 4:00 pm at City Hall, 5th Floor

Approved: _____

Jill Halbach, Secretary

Approved: _____

Patrick Tuttle, Co-Chair