Joplin Celebrations Commission
Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, November 5, 2019
Location: Joplin Museum Complex

Present: Brad Belk, Jill Sullivan, Paula Callihan, Dr. Chad Stebbins, Dr. Kerry Sachetta, Wally Bloss, Christina Matakel-Gibson, Barbara Hogelin, Ms. Betty Smith, Susan Adams, Councilwoman Diane Reid Adams, and Debbie Woodin (guest)

Mr. Belk called the meeting to order at 4:05pm.

Approval of Previous Minutes

- Corrections: Change M to Murphysburg and Dr. Stabbings to Dr. Stebbins
- Motion made by Dr. Stebbins and seconded by Ms. Smith that we approve the October minutes with above corrections. Unanimously approved by commission.
- Ms. Sullivan will correct the minutes and submit them to Mr Belk and Mr. Tuttle for signing.

Branding

Discussion about the four logo revisions. Although we didn't vote, it seems we like the logo on the bottom right with one revision—that the years be changed to look like those on the bottom left.

Regarding the commission seals, more discussion about whether to have centennial, bicentennial, sesquicentennial, and sestercentennial spelled out. Mr. Bloss is concerned that not using the words dumbs it down and said that using the words offers a chance to educate. Ms. Sullivan is concerned that using only the seal with words is exclusionary and mentioned the need for accessibility and democratization as the commission discussed in the October meeting. Although a vote was not taken, most seem to agree that we could use both seals.

150 Things List

Further discussion about 150 things to do during Joplin's sesquicentennial (150th). Ms. Hogelin said she visited with the Heartland Cookie Club about making an iris cookie cutter that can be used for one of the 150 things list, perhaps at the museum. For example, the museum could have 150 iris-shaped cookies for people to decorate and taken home. (Note: The iris is Joplin's official flower.)

Ms. Matakel-Gibson mentioned a tie-in to the library's summer reading programs, which take place during the ideal timeframe for the bulk of the 2023 celebrations.

Discussion about whether to have a passport or a scavenger hunt or whether they could be one and the same. Ms. Callihan is looking into how much it would cost to design and print a passport. Ms. Sullivan suggested speaking with Patrick Tuttle to see if the CVB would be interested in designing and/or printing. Further discussion about whether to have it be something people would need to complete on a specific day or over the course of a specific period. Examples of what could be included on the passport/scavenger hunt: visit a Joplin park and take a photo; check out a book from the library; walk on a Joplin trail; walk through Murphysburg; visit a business in East Town; etc. Also discussion about whether to have a prize or levels of prizes for passport completion.

Discussion about "giving back" events, such as coordinating a school supply drive that might provide supplies for 150 kids or collect 150 things to donate to a school. Perhaps in coordination with Joplin Police Department's National Night Out event.

Merchandise and Entertainment

Mr. Belk asked if we have anything new to bring to the table?

Dr. Sachetta asked about whether we have an artist in mind for a coloring book. Ms. Sullivan explained that Post Art Library, Joplin CVB, and Historic Murphysburg Preservation, Inc., are releasing the first of what they hope will become the Coloring JOMO coloring book series in March 2020. The first book will feature women from Joplin history. Ms. Sullivan said that she has reached out to other organizations, such as the Emancipation Committee, about doing other coloring books for the series, such as one on Black History Joplin. Ms. Sullivan said their intention is not to hire the same artist for each coloring book in the series, but to have the organizations involved with each respective book seek artists for that book in the series. Ms. Sullivan said we could create a coloring book for Joplin's 150th either as part of the Coloring JOMO Series or as a standalone.

Dr. Sachetta said an art teach with Joplin High School might be interested, that his artwork is aligned with comics, graphic novels, anime, and the like. Discussion about how to involve kids and teens and get the community involved in the creation of something like a coloring book. Ms. Sullivan mentioned that Ms. Matakel-Gibson (the Children's Librarian at Joplin Public Library) and Beth Snow (the Teen Librarian at Joplin Public Library) have clubs geared toward comics, graphic novels, anime, etc. Ms. Matakel-Gibson said the library has a graphic novel club. Dr. Sachetta said that the art teach from Joplin High School, Seth – [apologies, didn't catch his last name] has, or at one time had, something similar.

Next Meeting (NOTE: No meetings in December and January; resume in February.)

Mr. Belk suggested that we start thinking about the first step we need to take regarding the Missouri Bicentennial. In February, subcommittees will need to be formed to focus on specific areas, such as one for Joplin City/East Town (original Joplin as platted by John Cox in July 1871) celebrations, one for Murphysburg (as platted by Patrick Murphy in September 1871), one for celebrating the incorporation of the City of Joplin (March 1873), and so on.

Ms. Smith said we need to ensure we don't put Murphysburg before Joplin because back then it was just Joplin City/East Town and that Murphysburg wasn't around yet, that the mining started in East Town (then Joplin City) and that's what enabled Murphysburg and that area to be developed.

Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 4:52pm.

Next meeting: Tuesday, February 5, 2020

Approved: _____
Jill Sullivan, Secretary

Approved: _____
Brad Belk or Patrick Tuttle, Co-Chairs