JOPLIN CELEBRATIONS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, December 6, 2022, 4pm
Location: Joplin City Hall, 5th Floor

Attended: Patrick Tuttle, Barbara Hogelin, Wally Bloss, Brad Belk, Rikki Smith, Jill Halbach, Daya Davenport, Dr. Diane Reid Adams, Dr. Kerry Sachetta, and Susan Adams. Guests: Bobby Grey and Judd Fischer.

I. **Meeting Called to Order by Mr. Tuttle at 4:00pm**

II. **Approval of Minutes**
   a. November 2022: Motion made by Mr. Belk that we approve the November 2022 minutes; seconded by Dr. Reid Adams – unanimously approved.

III. **General Discussion**
   a. Mr. Tuttle discussed the spreadsheet that has all of the Joplin Sesquicentennial events listed, including those of the commission itself.

IV. **Steering Committee Updates**
   a. Joplin's 150th
      i. Several celebrations/programs happening (or starting) on Thursday, March 23, 2023
         1. Mr. Tuttle had a meeting with Len Clevenger and said they have done a cool job of focusing on the Reverend Harris G. Joplin and would like to have an event at noon.
         2. Mr. Belk is further researching to get the meaning of how the Thomas Hart Benton mural in Joplin City Hall was developed, including reading the correspondence between Benton and Mary Curtiss Warten, and will speak on this topic at 2pm.
         3. March 23-25 – Singspiration. Ozark Christian College is on Spring Break this week, so the program may be moved to Central Christian Center. That Sunday, pastors will take the message of Joplin's Sesquicentennial to the pulpit. Discussion about having churches open for people to tour (architecture, history, etc.).

There would be a docent at each location, as well as a start/end time. Kerstin Landwer with Visit Joplin is working on this.

4. Discussion about the Bob Phillips film.

ii. Cancellation Stamp Cache (Thursday, March 23, 2023) – No update.

iii. Barbershop Vocal Clinic (Friday, April 14, 2023)– Mr. Grey said that MSSU has set up a barbershop scholarship and as an offshoot to that page they have set up a way for people to give a contribution to help cover the cost of the vocal clinic; should have about 300 students at the clinic. Mr. Tuttle will email a link to the scholarship page.

iv. *Percy Wenrich Ragtime Tribute* (Saturday, April 15, 2023)Mr. Tuttle said he met with Dr. Hodson (MSSU) about Taylor Auditorium—the curtains are coming and Taylor Auditorium should be good to go! They have a ticketing system in place, so perhaps we could use that. Discussion about having a reserved seating section that would have a nominal ($10) fee, but otherwise a free event. The balcony is not ADA compliant, so we may not use it. Mr. Tuttle said he's working on insurance, cost, and similar things that go back to Visit Joplin.

1. Mr. Belk and Steve Cordell met and will meet often to continue fine tuning the program.
2. Mr. Tuttle will photograph Percy and Dolly together for promotional materials.
3. Mr. Bloss asked if we'd like Ron Peterson to emcee, but Mr. Belk will do it since he's writing the script.
4. Mr. Fischer said that he and Steve Cordell visited and the Heartland Concert Band has started working on music for the performance. He said that they don't think they could do the Let's Take a Step production, as there wasn't anything that they really related to and it would need to be completely rewritten, including the music, to bring it up to date.
5. A Percy tech meeting will take place just before our next meeting.

v. Mining Camp H.S. Baseball – Dr. Sachetta said that they have buy-in from Topeka, but still working on getting someone from St. Louis. Mr. Tuttle talked about getting the American Legion or some other volunteers involved for this event because it's the same day as the Percy event. Mr. Tuttle and Dr. Sachetta discussed sponsorships for uniforms; they will meet about it. Mr. Tuttle asked Dr. Sachetta to get a roster of which shirt sizes we'll need, whether there's a preferred color, and who needs one (coaching staff, players, etc.).

vi. *Joplin Goes to the Movies* (April-July 2023) – Discussion about the film series (please see Steering Committee Updates list that was distributed at the meeting for showtimes and locations).

1. Ms. Halbach is working with Emily Frankoski and Susan Cordell for the Pauline Starke film showing, which will be at the Cornell Complex.
2. We will show a Gunsmoke episode after Duel.
3. We will show a one-hour segment of Bob Cumming's TV show after Saboteur.
4. Mr. Tuttle is trying to get old model-Ts for the Bonnie and Clyde showing at Landreth Park.
5. Jade Henning-Cantrell is working on a passport for the series. Holly Crane has already provided the images and descriptions.
6. Holly Crane ordered and received the DVDs.

vii. Iris Garden Tours (Saturday, May 13, 2023) – The tour is from 10am-2pm and starts at the museum, where people will have punch and cookies, as well as pick up their tour maps. Please see the Iris Culture handout distributed at the meeting for further information.
   1. Dr. Reid Adams said that we need to add the Early Childhool Development Center to the tour list. Also, the Roi Wood building, Joplin Museum Complex, and the airport (entrance).
   2. Paula Callihan is working on iris tours for the Murphysburg area, including encouraging home owners to dress in period costume.
   3. Ms. Adams said there's a small iris garden at the Henrietta Cosgrove Building (222 W. 3rd St.).

viii. Community Concert – Mr. Tuttle said that he is working on Freeman Health System sponsoring this event and their CEO, Paula Baker, will let him know what they'd like to do in the next few days. The Wildcat Glades Friends Group will manage nonalcoholic beverages and the food court. Daybreak Rotary will manage the beer garden. Mr. Tuttle said he hopes this event will spark an interest in having an annual festival again.

ix. Missouri Preservation Conference (June 7-9, 2023) – In progress. The conference committee will meet soon to decide upon sessions, tours, etc. Ms. Halbach will update this commission once it's all squared away.

x. Lectures/Workshops – Mr. Belk and Ms. Halbach are making arrangements for a four-part lecture series, with each program happening quarterly: February (oral history); May (Austin Allen and Michaelis Bros. presentation by Brad Belk and Jill Halbach); August (Researching local history/houses/buildings with Jill Halbach); and November (genealogical research with Rikki Smith). Each program will take place at the library, dates TBD (dependent upon meeting room and speaker availability).

xi. *The Great Race* (Wednesday, June 28, 2023)– Mr. Tuttle said this is returning to Joplin. Please see Steering Committee Updates handout distributed during the meeting for further information.

xii. Cox Homestead – Ms. Rikki Smith said she talked with the owners (Carol and Mike) to see if we could have a tour of the house/grounds during Preservation Month (May 2023). Carol and Mike are discussing the opportunity and will get back in touch.

xiii. Jasper Country Cemetery Passport – Ms. Rikki Smith said it's a Christmas [vacation] project and she's working on it!

xiv. Joplin Heritage Trail – Mr. Tuttle said they are focusing on Spiva Park. He had a call from Scott Cragin and they are putting a trust together to help maintain the park and do some major renovations in perpetuity to keep it going. Dr. Stebbins and Lori Haun talked about possibilities for markers at Spiva Park: House of Lords, the Spiva family, the importance of 4th and Main Streets, and the Hotel Connor. In the National Park Service book there is a vertical version of the signs we've done, so we could look at those if it works better for this location.

1. The Heritage Trail signs are now up on Broadway.

xv. Marketing/Merchandise – Mr. Tuttle said Will Davis is working on getting a flier together that includes the various merchandise he's been working on. Mr. Tuttle and Carrie Puffinbarger met with Stealth Creative and they are working on a campaign to promote our merchandise.

xvi. Website – Our website is semi-updated, calendar updated, and Mr. Grey is working on the application for the vocal events that will be on the website as well.

xvii. Sponsorships – In progress.

xviii. Sesquicentennial Quilt – In progress. It will be the backdrop during the March 23rd event, with the quilt club making a presentation of it as a formal gift to the City of Joplin.

xix. Landmark Builds (LEGOs) – In progress. Some sort of recognition presentation is being planned for the Joplin Missouri Preservation Conference. Details TBD.

xx. Scottish Rite Cathedral – The building turns 100 on February 23, 2023. They are planning a statewide event for July 22, 2023. This could potentially tie into the Sesquicentennial.

xxi. Gabby Street Exhibit & Lecture (Tuesday, March 21, 2023) – Sanctioned lecture as part of our events. Gabby Street St is between Main and Maiden on 26th. Dr. Stebbins and Mr. Tuttle drafted a rough draft press release for the event.

V. **Other Business**

a. Discussion about the beard growing contest that was a part of the Joplin celebration events in 1973 and whether we'd like to do something similar for 2023.
b. Leadership Joplin is bringing back service projects for 2023 and will do one related to the Sesquicentennial. Any ideas?

VI. **Meeting Adjourned**

Next Meeting: Tuesday, January 10, 2023 at 4pm at City Hall, 5th Floor

Approved: _____
Jill Halbach, Secretary

Approved: _____
Patrick Tuttle, Co-Chair