JOPLIN CELEBRATIONS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, December 14, 2021, 4pm
Location: Joplin City Hall, 5th Floor

Attended: Brad Belk, Ann Leach, Dr. Diane Reid Adams, Dr. Chad Stebbins, Daya Davenport, Patrick Tuttle, Susan Adams, Rikki Smith, Emily Frankoski, Jill Sullivan, Wally Bloss, and Dr. Kerry Sachetta

I. **Meeting Called to Order by Mr. Tuttle**

II. **Approval of Minutes**
   a. Unanimous approval

III. **Budget**
   a. Mr. Tuttle will have something by the February 2022 meeting.

IV. **Joplin Heritage Trail**
   a. Mr. Tuttle said: Christina Williams no longer has time to do the design work. Sign Designs will do it and the layout for us for all five signs. It may cost a little more, but it will get done. The first five are already funded and in the works. Hopefully, we will have mock-ups by the next meeting. We may approve by email.
   b. Mr. Tuttle said that he reached out to the Osage Nation and asked them to pay for the Osage sign ($2,400). So far, they haven't said no. Meetings ongoing regarding that. Potential dedication March 2022 with representatives from the tribe.
   c. Sign locations: Along Murphy BLVD from 4th ST to Pool ST for the first three signs and maybe all five. It's anticipated that the Parks Board will approve the locations at their January meeting.

V. **Irises**
   a. Dr. Reid Adams hosted the Iris Society for a Christmas dinner. They're still excited about the Iris gardens. Paul Bloomberg (Parks) would like to put the best varieties of irises that we have around the sculptures in the Mercy Sculpture Garden. The Iris convention is not happening, but they are trying to come up with a daylong event to invite people to. For 2022, they are planning on an Iris show at Joplin Empire Market.

VI. **Percy Wenrich Performance**

a. Mr. Tuttle said there's been some interesting developments. Discussion about what the venue will be like at the Cornell Complex. If a performance happens there, then it would be on the outdoor stage. Dr. Stebbins, Mr. Bloss, Mr. Tuttle, and Emlyn Johnson (Pro Musica Director) talked about bringing in the Springfield Symphony to do a Wenrich event, which would cost about $30k. Mr. Tuttle talked with Steve Spracklin (local ragtime player) and he will be back in town in January and has some ideas of how to honor Wenrich and some other Missouri ragtime musicians. Discussion about getting barbershop quartet involved, etc. Mr. Bloss mentioned that Heartland Concert Band would also like to participate. Discussion about how important it is to keep the musicians and such local, that we would have more creative control, etc. Pro Musica was not interested in bringing the Springfield Symphony in. They might not be involved in this.

VII. **Marketing Committee**

a. No update, though they plan to meet prior to the February 2022 meeting.

VIII. **Cox Homestead**

a. Ms. Smith made contact with the family who owns the property. The daughter, Carol, lives in Carl Junction. She is interested in getting the cemetery's board going again and doing some work out there. A family member will soon have some time to come and do some things with the cemetery. Mr. Tuttle said that if the cemetery was accessible during 2023, then that would be good and maybe we could see if we could do something in the house. Maybe have cookies and lemonade in the cemetery.

IX. **Other Discussion Points**

a. Ms. Sullivan mentioned talking with Bookhouse Cinema about some sort of silent movie showing that features a piano player (Susan Cordell, a local ragtime layer). Post Art Library is working with them on this.

b. Mr. Tuttle said that the old Schifferdecker house was purchased and the new owners plan to restore the beer garden.

c. Special events – on 11/30/21 Dr. Sachetta and Mr. Tuttle met with the athletic directors from Joplin High School. Looking at April or May of 2023 for a couple of days of local high school teams playing baseball in mining camp era costumes. Webb City, Carthage, etc. at Joe Becker stadium. Pittsburg is on the schedule that year and they have a rich mining history as well, so bringing people over to help celebrate is not a bad idea. Reaching out to other mining camp areas in the district. They will get together again sometime after the first of the year to discuss further. They are also talking about an alumni game. Some sort of tournament between people who attended Memorial, Parkwood, or McCauley.

d. Ms. Sullivan mentioned that the annual Missouri Preservation conference may be in Joplin in 2023.

e. Mr. Tuttle mentioned that all of the paperwork has been filed to request a special postage cancellation stamp for 2023. We await their response.

f. Ozark Christian College Singspiration – Happened during the 125th anniversary. Mr. Tuttle reached out to Meredith Williams about putting one together for the 150th. There's an interest, but they are really busy right now.
g. Art exhibits – We're still working on a name for the exhibit with Margie Moss and other Local Color artists. This exhibit will be at Spiva. Perhaps an exhibit of local art from Spiva's collection at the library. Vintage Joplin exhibit at the library.
h. The Missouri Bicentennial is basically over.
i. We'll have a merchandising meeting in January.
j. Mr. Tuttle brought up having some sort of publication, like a yearbook, for the 150th.

X. **Meeting Adjourned**

Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 4pm at City Hall, 5th Floor

Approved: _____
Jill Sullivan, Secretary

Approved: _____
Patrick Tuttle, Co-Chair