



JOPLIN CELEBRATIONS COMMISSION

Minutes for

February 1, 2022

- Attended:** Co-chair Brad Belk, Co-chair Patrick Tuttle, Susan Adams (zoom), Wally Bloss, Paula Callihan, Emily Frankoski (zoom), Barbara Hogelin, Dr Kerry Sachetta, Dr. Chad Stebbins, and Rikki Smith
- Absent:** Sec. Jill Sullivan, Miranda Lewis, Daya Davenport, Christina Matekel-Gibson, Hon Diane Reid Adams, and Chris Wiseman
- Guests:** Steve Spracklin, Ragtime pianist; Jud Fisher, Heartland Band

I. **Call to Order:**

Chairman Tuttle called the meeting to order, time 4:03 p.m.

II. **Approve of December 2021 minutes:**

Mr. Bloss motioned to accept, Ms. Callihan second, unanimously approved.

III. **Updates from Steering Committees:**

1. Percy Wenrich concert/honors:

Chair Tuttle introduced Steve Spracklin and Jud Fisher. A meeting with them and Mr. Bloss and Dr. Stebbins occurred in advance of the February committee meeting to discuss options for a Ragtime music event to honor Percy Wenrich and other Joplinites who contributed to Ragtime music. Dates were discussed and March 31, 2023, was determined a good working date. This subcommittee will meet again prior to the March meeting to advance this project.

2. Celebrate Joplin website

Chair Tuttle showed the commission the progress that has been made on the www.CelebrateJoplin.com website. There is still work to be done, but the basic are in place.

3. Heritage Trail:

Chair Tuttle and Dr. Stebbins informed the commission that the first of 4 panels had been finalized and sent to the printers. March 23, 2022 is slated to be the dedication of the Heritage Trail. The Osage Nation, who assisted with the original inhabitants background, has been asked to participate in the dedication.

4. Iris Promotions:

No new updates.



5. Cox Homestead:

Ms. R. Smith informed the group that she had made progress in connecting with the decedents of the Cox family. She is still working through details of workdays to clean up the family cemetery, plus any open house options during the 150th.

6. Baseball Event:

Dr. Sachetta provided an update on a commemorative baseball weekend involving high school teams. He has pulled together the Joplin high school athletic director and baseball coach into the project. It appears the best option will be to add such an event to the regular 2023 baseball schedule. Teams from Kansas and Oklahoma could possibly be involved – assume mining camp personas from the communities. A budget for uniforms, field rentals, and umpires will need to be budgeted.

7. OCC *Singspiration*

Chair Tuttle stated he met with the music director at Ozark Christian College (OCC), and they have an interest in recreating the event they hosted in 1998 for the 125th birthday. They are exploring a date that works into the college’s calendar. 125th co-chair Meredith Williams attended the meeting and offered what support he could.

8. Art exhibits

Ms. Adams stated the art exhibit and local artist projects are moving forward. There was discussion about how the commission would gain permission to use contributed artwork in promotional effort. Ms. Adams felt a form already in use for Spiva Center for Arts would serve as a basis.

9. Marketing/Merchandise

Chair Tuttle shared with the commission examples of the commemorative coins used to the 100th and 125th birthdays, as well as coins from a provider. Ideas for the 150th coins were discussed and determined to use the commission’s 150th logo on one side and the commission’s logo on the reverse with a slight modification to the outer rings. Purchasing 500 coins could be a good fundraiser.

Other merchandise ideas were discussed to include the option of product licensing.

IV. Having no other business to discuss the meeting was adjourned by the chair at 5:25 p.m.

Patrick Tuttle or Brad Belk
Co-Chairs

Jill Sullivan
Secretary