

JOPLIN CELEBRATIONS COMMISSION

Meeting Minutes – Tuesday, January 10, 2023 , 4pm

Location: Joplin City Hall, 5th Floor

Present: Patrick Tuttle, Jill Halbach, Wally Bloss, Dr. Chad Stebbins, Dr. Diane Reid Adams, Judd Fisher (Heartland Concert Band), Kathy Knapp (Joplin Area Town and Country Quilters), and Daryl and Darlene Coit (Freedom Flight Museum).

- I. **Meeting Called to Order by Mr. Tuttle at 4:03pm**
- II. **Approval of Minutes**
 - a. December 2022: Mr. Bloss moved to approve the December 2022 minutes and Dr. Reid Adams seconded—unanimous approval.
- III. **General Discussion/Steering Committee Updates**
 - a. Singspiration (March 23, 2023) – Dan King with the Joplin Area Ministerial Alliance said that they've taken over the Singspiration event. They are planning a noon luncheon for anyone who'd like to attend; it will likely be at Mercy and they will have someone speak about Reverend Harris Joplin. The actual celebration, which will focus on the Reverend Harris Joplin, will begin around 6pm at Central Christian Center, with Meredith Williams portraying Mr. Joplin. At this point, this is the agenda, though they are taking suggestions. Mr. King said they are excited to host the event.
 - b. Joplin's 150th Birthday Event at Joplin City Hall (March 23, 2023) – Discussion about the sequence of events, which includes a Thomas Hart Benton presentation by Mr. Belk, the presentation of a quilt to the City by the quilter's group, and perhaps a guest spot on Living Well (which would be filmed live at City Hall). This celebration is free and open to the public.
 - i. It was determined that Mr. Belk's presentation will be at 3pm in the Council Chambers.
 - ii. Mr. Tuttle will contact Living Well to see if they are interested in shooting live on location for that day's show.

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- iii. Ms. Knapp said that the quilting group will all likely wear red, white, and blue, since that is the colors of the quilt, and that they will need only a few minutes for the presentation.
 - iv. Mr. Tuttle said he will make arrangements with a group to make arrangements for cookies and punch as part of the celebration.
 - v. Ms. Knapp asked if they would need to bring a quilt stand. Mr. Tuttle said Visit Joplin has pipe and drape that could be used.
- c. Freedom Flight Museum exhibit – Discussion about having an exhibit highlighting the aviation history of Joplin. Mr. Coit said they are in the planning stages. Ms. Coit said the display will be static and interactive—people will be able to walk through. They are making a timeline and will put everything about aviation history as it was going on in the world and include Joplin’s participation. They are not yet sure about space requirements. This may be a weekend of three-day exhibit that would eventually become a part of the museum area, depending on interest.
- i. They’ve started weekly educational events, including one on Saturday, 1/14/23, about Missouri and the Cold War—Ernie Tremblay is the curator and will give a talk.
 - ii. Potentially included in the exhibit will be: JFK’s visit to Joplin, the first flights at Electric Park, Eagle Picher’s participation in Apollo 13
 - iii. Mr. Belk asked if there’s one specific date that relates to aviation history in Joplin. Mr. Coit said there are several.
 - iv. Dr. Stebbins asked when the airport opened at its current location. Mr. Coit said the terminal opened in 1949.
 - v. A motion was made by Mr. Belk for the Commission to endorse their exhibit; seconded by Dr. Stebbins; unanimous approval.
 - vi. Ms. Halbach asked the Coits if they knew who Olivia Bendelari was and of her participation in and contribution to aviation; Ms. Coit said they do!
- d. Percy Wenrich Tribute (April 14-15th, 2023) – In the meeting packet, we received extensive information about the tribute event. Mr. Belk said he thinks we should add the history of ragtime to the information; Mr. Tuttle asked him to write something for that. \Mr. Tuttle said the Wenrich Tribute Committee met before this meeting and they laid out plans for the lighting, staging, etc. Mr. Belk will announce the first act and Mr. Bloss the second. Mr. Belk asked Mr. Fischer for a bio for the Heartland Concert Band and their logo (to be included in media package).
- i. Friday night (April 14th) will be general admission with a section saved for paid reserved seating.
 - ii. Advertising and promotion will start soon. The goal is for 250 students to participate in the clinic portion of events.
 - iii. The choruses are also publicizing the events.

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- e. Baseball Event (April 15, 2023) – Please see the information distributed with the meeting packet. Mr. Tuttle said the American Legion Post 13 is paying a \$500 stipend to each team. Also, they are looking for a sponsor to pay for era-appropriate jerseys for each player. Mr. Tuttle asked a couple of law firms for their sponsorship, but he's yet to hear back from them. Dr. Sachetta and other volunteers are managing this event, as most of us will be tied up with the Wenrich Tribute. Mr. Tuttle is working with the Mayor to send a letter to the mayors of the other cities represented to suggest that all the mayors throw the ceremonial first pitches at once.
- f. Joplin Goes to the Movies – The second screening was moved to April 20th to avoid conflicts with other events. Dr. Stebbins picked out a clip from Gunsmoke, as well as from the show Love That Bob, to show along with Saboteur (Bob Cummings). Ms. Coit said they have some photos of Bob Cummings' aerocart that was on the show that could be included, if needed/desired.
 - i. Mr. Bloss asked if partnering with C2C and paying the fee to use the Cornell for the Pauline Starke showing includes promotion via the Cornell's outdoor sign. Ms. Halbach said she would ask Ms. Emily Frankoski.
- g. Irises (May 13, 2023) – Please see the handout included in the meeting packet. Mr. Tuttle said the press release has gone out. Also, that a couple of private residences were added to the tour list, as well as some school locations. We're still working on the FHS and Mercy locations. Eventually, the growing instructions will go on the backside of the handout, with the tour map and other pertinent information on the front.
- h. Community Concert (tentative) – Mr. Tuttle said that FHS is on board for \$60k as the title sponsor and he is waiting callbacks from Downstream Casino for a \$50k sponsorship and Crossland Construction for a \$20k sponsorship. Mr. Tuttle said that we would still need \$110k more to do something worthwhile. If this comes to fruition, then it would be a two-day event at Landreth Park. Mr. Tuttle said we'd have a "houseband" that would play for about 4 hours and people could join in for jam sessions. The headliner act would play on Saturday. He said that we have about a two-week window to make this happen and if we don't raise enough funds, then we'll forego the idea. Mr. Tuttle said we have approval from the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce to use leftover funds from Boomtown days to pay for tents, portable bathrooms, and the like.
- i. Historic Preservation Conference (June 7-9, 2023) – Missouri Preservation's annual statewide conference. Ms. Halbach said the conference committee has received and approved of the sessions, though they are still fine-tuning the schedule. It's likely that the historic Scottish Rite Cathedral will be the hub of the conference, with a couple of breakout sessions in other TBD places. Ms. Halbach

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said that the conference committee seeks sponsorships, so if anyone is interested, then let her know.

- j. Lecture series (dates TBD) – Ms. Halbach and Mr. Belk said that this will be a three- or four- part series consisting of a program about: oral histories (tentative); Joplin architecture, focusing on Austin Allen and the Michaelis brothers; how to conduct local/house/building history research; and genealogy. All dates are TBD. The library will be the location for all of the lectures. Ideally, all will be determined prior to our next meeting, with one lecture per quarter of our celebration year.
- k. Gabby Street presentation (March 21, 2023) – Please see the handout distributed with the meeting packet. Dr. Galen Irwin will exhibit his Gabby Street memorabilia and speak about Gabby Street. The Joplin Historical Society is involved in this program.
- l. The Great Race – No update.
- m. Heritage Trail – Renovations are happening soon at Spiva Park and we need to move forward with those trail signs. Mr. Tuttle said Keller One could potentially fund one of the signs. Also, the Scottish Rite Cathedral would like a sign on the trail that they will fund for the 100th anniversary (2023). Dr. Stebbins, Ms. Halbach, and Mr. Tuttle will meet to determine next steps and make recommendations to the commission.

IV. **Marketing/Merch and Website/Social**

- a. Commemorative coins – Mr. Tuttle said he collected the coin money from SMB locations. So far, \$5,760 is collected, with us selling 346 of the 500 coins ordered.
- b. The website is updated with all of the events, though our FB page needs updated.

V. **Other Discussion**


- a. Mr. Tuttle attended a Scottish Rite meeting. Nick Breedlove will reach out to Mr. Belk for some information about the cathedral, as the building turns 100 on February 21, 2023. They are having a convention on July 22, 2023. They are exploring the idea of connecting their celebration to the Schifferdecker House. Also, they are working on a documentary of the building.
 - i. Discussion between Mr. Tuttle and Dr. Reid Adams about dresses from the Centennial era being exhibited during this celebration, perhaps in their tea room. The museum has three dresses.
- b. Discussion about hosting a beard growing contest. Men would start out clean shaven on March 1st and grow beards to a certain date, or men with beards could measure them and grow longer beards. TBD whether or not we will do this or have anything to do with it if it does happen.
- c. Mr. Tuttle will speak at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, January 17, 2023 to update them about our commission.

VI. **Meeting Adjourned**

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Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 7, 2023 at 4pm at City Hall, 5th Floor

Approved: 
Jill Halbach, Secretary

Approved: 
Patrick Tuttle, Co-Chair

