

**LIBRARY MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
16 OCTOBER 2023**

The regular meeting of the Joplin Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:04 p.m. by President Mary Gaarder. Board Members Andrea Cullers, Emily Stanley, Jim Fleischaker, Jennifer Baldwin and Diane Reid Adams, and Library Director Jeana Gockley were present.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Lisa Erickson, Jean Coltharp, and David Layne.

BOARD EDUCATION: There was no Board Education.

MINUTES: Minutes from the September 2023 regular meeting were reviewed. There was a motion by Ms. Baldwin to approve the minutes, with a second by Dr. Reid Adams. Motion passed. **4/0** Minutes from the September 2023 closed meeting were reviewed. There was a motion by Mr. Fleischaker to approve the minutes, with a second by Ms. Baldwin. Motion passed. **4/0**

VOUCHERS: September non-salary expenditures in the amount of \$66,358.04 were approved. **(Baldwin/Fleischaker) 4/0**

COMMITTEE REPORTS: There were no committee reports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1. Board Meeting Dates.** The Board further discussed moving meetings to the third Tuesday of the month. Ms. Stanley made a motion to move the regular Board meeting to the third Tuesday of the month, beginning January 2024. Dr. Reid Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed. **5/0**
- 2. Library Director's Yearly Goals.** The Board President distributed a list of possible goals for the Library Director that she had condensed after last month's discussion. The Board reviewed and narrowed down the goals. There was a motion by Ms. Baldwin to adopt the following goals:
 - a. Develop and provide robust, non-traditional programs for all ages.
 - b. Expand outreach to often underserved groups.
 - c. Develop a comprehensive, long-range plan for maintaining the Library building and grounds.
 - d. Develop a pay scale that helps to attract and retain top quality employees.

The motion was seconded by Ms. Stanley. Motion passed. **5/0**

NEW BUSINESS: There was no New Business.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT:

Media Engagement

- Pollinator Garden
 - On September 18, [KSN](#) aired a story.
 - On September 18, [KOAM](#) aired a story.
 - On September 19, [The Joplin Globe](#) featured an article on the front page.
 - On September 19, [KZRG](#) aired a story.
- Hobbit Day Collaboration
 - On September 22, [The Joplin Globe](#) shared about the Hobbit Day event in the “Five things to do this weekend” section.
 - On September 22, [KOAM](#) aired a story.
- On September 26, [KSN](#) aired a story about National Library Card Sign Up month.
- On September 28, [The Joplin Globe](#) shared about the STEAM Club event in the “Five things to do this weekend” section.
- 2023 Writers' Faire
 - On October 3, I shared about it on KSN's Living Well.
 - On October 3, [KZRG](#) shared about it.
 - On October 4, [The Joplin Globe](#) shared about the event in the “Five things to do this weekend” section.
 - October 7, [KSN](#) aired a story.
- On October 7, [The Joplin Globe](#) featured a story about book challenges and how they are affecting libraries. Linda Cannon, Joplin Public Library's collection development librarian, was quoted in the article.
- On October 12, PR/Marketing Assistant Lori Crockett shared about the cost savings the Library provides on [KODE](#)'s Good Morning Four States.
- On October 13, [The Joplin Globe](#) shared about awards and grants won at MLA by Library staff.

Programs

- The Library's Hobbit Day collaboration with Empire Market on September 22 and September 23 was well received. At the Library on Friday, 100 people made flower crowns with Makerspace Assistant Jen Lewis, and approximately 200 took part in passive activities throughout the Library. At the Market on Saturday, 979 visitors interacted with vendors and 536 guests were counted in the gardens. Vendors reported having a good time and better or average sales for the day.
- In a collaboration with Community Support Services, Adult Programming Coordinator Sarah Turner-Hill hosted a new event for adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities in September. The event was open to the public and two day-camp groups attended, with one group driving in from Columbus, Kansas. Seventy-three adults attended.
- Library staff attended two community outreach events in September: Pride Fest on September 9 and NALA's Literacy Liftoff on September 15.

Training, Awards & Grants

- Several staff members attended the Missouri Library Association Conference October 4-6, in Columbia, Missouri. This year's theme was Celebrating a Culture of Care, with American Library Association's President Emily Drabinski giving the opening keynote.
- Current and former staff were winners of multiple Missouri Library Association's Awards and a grant at the 2023 Awards Gala.
 - Beth Snow, JPL Teen Services Librarian, was awarded the Community Partnership Award, alongside Lisa Nelson from Landmark Builds, for their Iconic Joplin collaboration.
 - Snow also was awarded the Show Me Youth Services Award, which recognizes a library employee, Friend, or Trustee who serves as and/or advocates for children or young adults and who demonstrates notable and outstanding performance in planning, developing, and promoting programs, services, collections, reading activities or advocating for children and/or teenagers in their libraries and communities.
 - Carolyn Trout, retired JPL Director, received the Meritorious Achievement Award, which recognizes an individual who has made a significant contribution to libraries in Missouri.

STATISTICS: There was discussion of increased gate counts, patron registrations and circulation over last year.

STAFF COMMENTS: IT Manager Justin Kelly was awarded a \$3,000 Access and Innovation Grant. The grant will be used to upgrade internal wireless access points to offer WiFi6e protocol to accommodate more users at higher internet speeds. This is part of an ongoing effort to keep in step with national "broadband" standards. It will also bring a higher level of wireless security, along with new network monitoring tools.

BOARD COMMENTS: Dr. Reid Adams gave a Friends of the Library report. She shared that the annual membership meeting was held last week; the Writers Faire attracted nearly 250 attendees; Friends t-shirts are now for sale; and the sale shelf's appearance has been updated.

Ms. Baldwin reported that one of her colleagues had a nice report after participating in the Writers Faire.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Written by

Administrative Assistant

Approved by

Library Director

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Joplin Public Library will be held at 4 p.m. Monday, 20 November 2023.