

**LIBRARY MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
21 OCTOBER 2025**

The regular meeting of the Joplin Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Board President Mary Gaarder. Board Members Heather Van Otterloo, Jennifer Baldwin, Veda Boyd Jones, Jean Coltharp, and Andrea Cullers, and Library Director Jeana Gockley were present.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Lisa Erickson and Emily Stanley.

BOARD EDUCATION: None.

MINUTES: Minutes from the September 2025 regular meeting were reviewed. There was a motion by Ms. Boyd Jones to approve the minutes as presented, with a second by Dr. Van Ottlerloo. Motion passed. **5/0** Minutes from the September 2025 closed session were reviewed. There was a motion by Ms. Baldwin to approve the minutes as presented, with a second by Ms. Boyd Jones. Motion passed. **5/0**

VOUCHER: September non-salary expenditures in the amount of \$51,870.99 were approved. **(Boyd Jones/Coltharp) 5/0**

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Media Engagement

- On September 21, [KSN](#) aired a story about the Library's Hispanic Heritage Month display and resources.
- On September 23, [KSN](#) & [KOAM](#) aired stories about the Library discontinuing Hoopla.
- Friends of the Library
 - On September 24, Board Member at Large Scott Meeker shared about Trivia Night on [KSN](#)'s Living Well.
 - On September 24, [KZRG](#) aired a story about Mahjong.
 - On October 13, [KSN](#) aired a story about Mahjohn.
- Writers' Faire
 - On October 25, [The Joplin Globe](#) shared a story.
 - On October 11, [KZRG](#) aired a story.
- Passports
 - On September 30, [KOAM](#) aired a story about the Library expanding passport services.
 - On October 3, [KSN](#) aired a story.
 - On October 3, [The Joplin Globe](#) shared an article.

- On October 7, Lori Crockett shared about the passport services on [KSN](#)'s Living Well.
 - On October 9, Lori Crockett shared about passport services [KOAM](#)'s Good Morning Four States.
- On September 30, [KOAM](#) aired a story about the October Adult 101 class on College Admissions.

Programs

- Adult Programming Coordinator Sarah Turner-Hill hosted a Book Swap program on September 20; 90 people attended.
- The 2025 Writers' Faire was October 11; Forty-five writers were part of the event and over 300 people attended.

Training

- Four Library staff members - Jeana Gockley, Eden Kendall, Lori Crockett & Christina Matekel-Gibson - attended an advocacy training hosted by Southwest Library Directors on October 1, in Monett. Representatives from the Springfield Chamber shared ways to advocate at the state level and Steve Potter, a private library consultant, strategized ways to advocate at the local level.
- The Missouri Library Association Conference was held in St. Louis on October 8 and 9. Five Library staff members attended - Jeana Gockley, Sarah Turner-Hill, Christina Matekel-Gibson, Alyssa Berry and Eden Kendall.

Personnel

- On October 21, Youth Services Assistant Becee McNally celebrated her 10 year anniversary with JPL.
- Missouri Southern State University student Megan Meeker is volunteering at the Library, as part of her Service Learning class. She is working closely with PR/Marketing Assistant Lori Crockett to help get the word out about the Library's passport services.
- Former Library Board Member R. Douglas "Doug" Glynn passed away on October 16. Mr. Glynn served on the Library Board from 2011 to 2020.

Jeana also provided an update on the Library's TrueNorth investments.

STATISTICS: There was discussion of numbers for meeting and study rooms. Board Members noted that checkouts are higher than they were this time last year.

STAFF COMMENTS: None.

BOARD COMMENTS: Ms. Boyd Jones reported on the latest Friends of the Library news:

- The Friends Board met last Tuesday.
- There have been 10 renewals and one new membership.
- Books sales were over \$1,000 in September, but donations are needed!
- There have been 183 deliveries for the Friends Homebound Delivery program.
- Trivia Night raised about \$6,000.

- The first mahjong event had a huge response. There was more teaching than playing, but people had fun!
- The annual membership meeting is this Thursday.
- The next Friends Board meeting will be Nov. 20.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no Public Comments.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 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. Tuesday, November 18, 2025.

