

**LIBRARY MINUTES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY  
20 NOVEMBER 2023**

The regular meeting of the Joplin Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Vice-President Emily Stanley. Board Members Lisa Erickson, Jean Coltharp, David Layne, Jim Fleischaker, Jennifer Baldwin and Diane Reid Adams, and Library Director Jeana Gockley were present.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Mary Gaarder and Andrea Cullers.

**BOARD EDUCATION:** There was no Board Education.

**MINUTES:** Minutes from the October 2023 regular meeting were reviewed. There was a motion by Mr. Fleischaker to approve the minutes, with a second by Dr. Coltharp. Motion passed. **6/0**

**VOUCHERS:** October non-salary expenditures in the amount of \$88,757.62 were approved. **(Layne/Fleischaker) 6/0**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** There were no committee reports.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** There was no Unfinished Business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Grounds Maintenance.** Earlier this month, the Library Director put out a call for bids for grounds maintenance. Three companies submitted bids. The Board reviewed and discussed the documents. There was a motion by Mr. Layne to proceed with David Toney Landscaping's proposal, with a second by Dr. Reid Adams. The motion passed. **(6/0)**

**LIBRARIAN'S REPORT:**

**Media Engagement**

- On October 17, [KSN](#) aired a story about awards and grants won at MLA by Library staff.
- On October 18, [The Joplin Globe](#) shared about the Blacksmith Demonstration event in the "Five things to do this weekend" section.
- On October 24, [The Joplin Globe](#) featured an editorial entitled, "Joplin Library is a treasure."
- On October 25, [The Joplin Globe](#) shared about the Monster Madness Children's event in the "Five things to do this weekend" section.
- On October 26, [KSN](#) aired a story about the All About Bats program.
- Native American Heritage Month
  - On November 2, on [KODE](#)'s Good Morning Four States aired a story.

- On November 3, [KSN](#) aired a story.
- On November 9, [The Joplin Globe](#) encouraged readers to Celebrate Native American Heritage Month by visiting the Library to see the new exhibit featuring Native art and cultural items in the “Five things to do this weekend” section.
- On November 3, [KOAM](#) aired a story about Missouri libraries receiving technology mini grants from the Missouri State Library, including Joplin Public Library receiving \$7,514.
- StoryWalk
  - On November 7, Jeana shared about the StoryWalk launch and ribbon cutting on [KSN](#)’s Living Well.
  - On November 9, PR/Marketing Assistant Lori Crockett shared about the StoryWalk launch and the upcoming Harry Potter Day on [KODE](#)’s Good Morning Four States.
  - On November 13, [KSN](#) aired a story.
  - On November 13, [KOAM](#) aired a story.
- On November 16, [The Joplin Globe](#) shared about the anime/manga club for teens event in the “Five things to do this weekend” section.

### **Programs**

- Makerspace staff hosted a Blacksmith Demonstration on October 21, in the outdoor classroom. Sixty-seven people turned out to watch Monty from Laughing Dragon Forge.
- The Library’s “All About Bats” collaboration with Missouri Department of Conservation on October 25 was well received. Ninety-one people learned facts about bats, and what they can do to help them. After the program, children made bat masks to take home and explored a bat “cave.”
- Joplin Public Library and Post Art Library have partnered with the Quapaw Nation to honor Native American Heritage Month with an exhibit featuring Native art and cultural items from regional artists and local collections. An opening reception was held on November 2, in the Local History area. The exhibit will be on display through the month of November.

### **Building & Grounds**

- Thanks to a generous donation from Logan, Emily, Reid and Marianne Stanley, a permanent StoryWalk feature has been installed in the Library’s outdoor classroom area. A ribbon cutting for the space was held on November 13. Special thanks to the City of Joplin Parks and Recreation staff who helped install the StoryWalk’s aluminum fixtures.
- Satterlee has made the final repairs to the HVAC system.

### **Training & Grants**

- The Library’s Staff Development Day was held on November 10, with staff taking part in team-building games and breakout sessions presented by community partners and staff. Children’s Assistant Brittany Wood was voted 2023 Employee of the Year by the staff.
- IT Manager Justin Kelly wrote and received a technology mini grant from the Missouri State Library. The grant, totaling \$7,514, will be used to help fund two new computers for the Library’s automated materials handling machines.

### **Foundation Update**

- Jeana provided a Foundation and Hager fund investment update, as conveyed to her by Troy Stovern from Vowels Stovern Wealth on November 15.

**STATISTICS:** Jeana presented a year’s worth of statistics and compared current numbers to previous years. Almost every category has increased.

**STAFF COMMENTS:** Jeana welcome MLIS practicum student Shela Ward to the meeting and thanked her for all her work in the Teen Department this fall.

**BOARD COMMENTS:** Dr. Reid Adams gave a Friends of the Library report. She shared that book sales are strong, and that t-shirts are still available. The record albums have sold well, and jigsaw puzzles are a popular item. The Friends group hopes to help underwrite the expenses for next year’s Joplin Reads Together community read. There will also be a Giving Tuesday fundraiser after Thanksgiving.

Dr. Coltharp asked for clarification on upcoming Board meetings. There is no December meeting, and in 2024, Board meetings will move to the third Tuesday of the month at 4 p.m. The next meeting is January 16.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

Written by

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Administrative Assistant

Approved by

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Library Director

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Joplin Public Library will be held at 4 p.m. Tuesday, January 16, 2024.