

**LIBRARY MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
20 FEBRUARY 2024**

The regular meeting of the Joplin Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by President Mary Gaarder. Board Members Emily Stanley, Jim Fleischaker, Jennifer Baldwin, Jean Coltharp, Diane Reid Adams and, and Library Director Jeana Gockley were present.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Andrea Cullers, David Layne and Lisa Erickson.

BOARD EDUCATION: There was no Board Education.

MINUTES: Minutes from the January 2024 regular meeting were reviewed. There was a motion by Ms. Baldwin to approve the minutes, with a second by Ms. Stanley. Motion passed. **5/0**

VOUCHERS: January non-salary expenditures in the amount of \$60,029.06 were approved. **(Stanley/Fleischaker) 5/0**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- 1. Personnel.** Committee Chair Ms. Baldwin reported that at a Jan. 29th meeting, the Committee examined the current Library salary schedule, as well as a salary study from a comparable library. The next step would require a Board vote on whether to obtain a consultant for a JPL salary study. The committee plans to meet again Feb. 26.
- 2. Building and Grounds.** Committee Chair Dr. Coltharp reported that Jeana has a meeting planned with an architect to determine the cost of a five-year maintenance plan for the building.

The Committee also looked at obtaining an estimate for new tunnels in the Children's Department, as the current ones are an injury risk.

Additionally, pavers in the parking lot and on walkways are sinking and have become a trip risk. Jeana met today with Dan and Troy from the City of Joplin to discuss options.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There is no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Gifts and Donations Policy.** Currently, the interest made on memorial funds is what is used to buy new materials; the prime rate guides how much interest to spend. However, the present prime rate is high enough that that would mean spending the principal. The Board discussed options. There was a motion by Dr. Coltharp to use

- the interest rate for the previous year in the coming year, with a second by Mr. Fleischaker. Motion passed. **5/0**
- 2. Investment Interest from True North.** Jeana reported on the interest from Library investments at True North.
 - 3. March Board Meeting Date.** Several people will be absent during the regularly scheduled Board meeting on March 19. Therefore, the meeting was pushed back to March 26th.
 - 4. Kiwanis Club Memorandum of Understanding.** The Kiwanis Club has presented the Board with an MOU for the replacement statue. Essentially, the Kiwanis would retain ownership so that they can insure the piece. There was a motion by Dr. Coltharp to approve the MOU, with a second by Dr. Reid Adams. Motion passed **5/0**, with Mr. Fleischaker abstaining.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT:

Media Engagement

- Summer Reading Grant
 - On January 30, [KOAM](#) and [KZRG](#) aired stories.
- Black History Fair
 - On February 6, Christina Matekel Gibson shared about the event on KSN's Living Well.
 - On February 8, Lori Crockett shared about the event on [KODE](#)'s Good Morning Four States.
 - On February 10, [KOAM](#) and [KSN](#) aired a story.
- On February 13, [KOAM](#) aired a story about the Palentine's Day Cookie Decorating event.

Programs

- Book Swap on January 16 was held downtown at Coley's Cookies Co. Sarah Turner-Hill hosted the program and the place was packed with sixty-five people swapping books.
- The Library's Winter Reading Challenge for Adults saw 169 total signups, with 107 individuals completing the challenge. The top 3 categories of reading were Children's Book, Listen to a Book, and About a Person. Kudos to Adult Programming Coordinator [Sarah Turner-Hill](#) for planning and facilitating the challenge.
- February's all ages Black History Fair featured a storyteller and community booths. Ninety people participated in the event.
- Makerspace staff partnered with Post Art Library staff to offer a Palentine's Day Cookie Decorating event on February 13. Twenty-nine people attended. A big thanks to Nicole Kaufmann, owner of Coley's Cookies Co. for presenting and providing the decorating supplies.

Outreach & Grants

- The Missouri Library Association's Library Advocacy Day was held in Jefferson City on February 6. Lori Crockett and I attended and met with Senator Carter, Representatives Roberts, Baker, Bromley and Kelly.

- The Library had a booth at the Joplin Area Chamber of Commerce’s 2024 Business Expo on January 24.
- The Library was awarded a 2024 Summer Reading grant totaling \$11,887.

STATISTICS: The Board discussed January 2024 statistics.

STAFF COMMENTS: There were no Staff Comments.

BOARD COMMENTS: Dr. Reid Adams gave a Friends of the Library report. Among the news:

- The Feb. 3 Elks Lodge breakfast brought in \$1,575.
- Book sales are nearing \$1,000 per month consistently.
- Homebound delivery committee met on Jan. 29.
- Spring for a Book Fundraiser will be revisited this year.
- The FOL will donate to Joplin Reads Together and the adult bingo program.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no Public Comments.

The meeting adjourned at 5:46 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, March 26, 2024.