**LIBRARY MINUTES**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**25 FEBRUARY 2025**

The regular meeting of the Joplin Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 3:59 p.m. by President Mary Gaarder. Board Members Emily Stanley, Heather Van Otterloo, Veda Boyd Jones, Lisa Erickson, Andrea Cullers, Diane Reid Adams, Jennifer Baldwin, and Jean Coltharp, and Library Director Jeana Gockley were present.

**BOARD EDUCATION:** Circulation Manager Eden Kendall provided a brief tour of her department, as well as introductions to some of her staff.

**MINUTES:** Minutes from the January 2025 regular meeting were reviewed. There was a motion by Ms. Boyd Jones to approve the minutes as presented, with a second by Ms. Erickson. Motion passed. **8/0**

**VOUCHERS:** January non-salary expenditures in the amount of $55,825.35 were approved. **(Coltharp/Baldwin) 8/0**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** There were no Committee Reports.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. **City-Held Reserve Funds.** President Gaarder proposed that the Board consider investing $500,000 with True North Wealth Impact. The Board discussed the request. There was a motion by Ms. Stanley to invest $500,000 from the general Library fund with True North Wealth Impact. Dr. Reid Adams seconded the motion. Motion passed. **8/0**

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Confidentiality of Patron Records.** So that the Library may receive certain federal grants, the following verbiage is proposed to be added to Library policy: “The Library takes reasonable cybersecurity and other measures to safeguard information including protected personally identifiable information (PII) and other types of information. This also includes information the Federal agency or pass-through entity designates as sensitive or other information the recipient or sub-recipient considers sensitive and is consistent with applicable Federal, State, local and tribal laws regarding privacy and responsibility over confidentiality.” There was a motion by Ms. Boyd Jones to accept the policy as stated, with a second by Ms. Stanley. The motion passed. **8/0**

**DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

**Media Engagement**

* On January 21, [KSN](https://www.fourstateshomepage.com/news/joplin-librarys-story-corner-brings-generations-together/) aired a story about the Story Corner program that brings together Wildwood Senior Living residents and families with children for a monthly storytime event.
* On January 23, [KOAM](https://www.koamnewsnow.com/video/the-art-of-sowing-winter-seeds/video_1c9c7c57-a587-511b-9e72-40b03821a76f.html) aired a story about our Winter Seed Sowing program with Master Gardener Eric Osen.
* Black History Fair
  + KOAM shared information about the upcoming fair.
  + On January 28, [KZRG](https://www.newstalkkzrg.com/2025/01/28/joplin-public-library-black-history-fair-february-1st/) shared about it.
  + On January 29, [The Joplin Globe](https://www.joplinglobe.com/news/5-things/article_cd2818f8-dccb-11ef-a0e2-5be7ae3909ad.html) included it in the “Five fun things to do” section.
  + On January 31, Christina Matekel-Gibson was on [KSN](https://www.fourstateshomepage.com/news/living-well/black-history-fair-at-the-joplin-public-library/)’s Living Well.
  + On February 1, [KSN](https://www.fourstateshomepage.com/news/joplin-library-celebrates-black-history-month-through-dance-and-storytelling/) aired a story about the fair.
  + On February 20, [KSN](https://www.fourstateshomepage.com/news/hidden-history/black-history-month/joplin-library-highlighting-black-authors-this-month/) aired a story about highlighting books by Black authors.
* On January 28, [KOAM](https://www.koamnewsnow.com/video/teens-learn-mental-health-skills-at-the-joplin-public-library/video_06ec2e96-a28e-5c49-a62a-19f26acf4abb.html) aired a story about Adulting 101.
* On January 29, [KSN](https://www.fourstateshomepage.com/news/artists-small-scale-works-featured-at-joplin-library/) aired a story about Jesse McCormick’s “Miniature Paintings” exhibit in the Bramlage Willcoxon Gallery.
* On February 4, Sarah Turner-Hill was on [KSN](https://www.fourstateshomepage.com/news/living-well/dont-miss-the-superb-owl-on-saturday/)’s Living Well sharing about the Superb Owl Party.
* Joplin Reads Together
  + On February 10, I was on KSN’s Living Well sharing information.
  + On February 11, [The Joplin Globe](https://www.joplinglobe.com/news/the-lager-queen-of-minnesota-chosen-for-joplin-reads-together-event/article_e51775cc-e7c9-11ef-8cf2-a3c2fe83a5e9.html) shared an article.
  + On February 11, [KZRG](https://www.newstalkkzrg.com/2025/02/10/joplin-public-library-announces-the-title-selection-for-joplin-reads-together-2025/) aired a story.
  + On February 13, The Joplin Globe mentioned the program in the editorial section.

**Programs**

* The Book Swap at Joplin Avenue Coffee on January 25 had 90 people in attendance.
* The first of a series of Adulting 101 programs was hosted on January 28, focusing on the topic of Mental Health. Eight teens attended the hour-long session, and one teen shared this feedback in the after-program survey, *“I have constant Depersonalization-Derealization Disorder along with anxiety and neurodivergence. It is good to know that others might be struggling invisibly too and that people want to learn and help out too. Restores a bit of my faith in humanity lol. Thank you for seeing people like us.”*
* The Adult Winter Reading Challenge wrapped up on January 31 with 198 adults registered for the challenge and 116 completing it. The top three categories were *Been Meaning to Read, Suspense/Thriller*, and *One Word Title*.  Last year a total of 169 people registered and 107 completed.
* Two popular all ages events took place the first week in February. The Black History Fair on February 1 featured a performance by drummer and storyteller Kenya Ajanaku and had 115 attendees, and the Superb Owl program presented by Wonders of Wildlife on February 8 helped introduce over 170 attendees to several varieties of birds of prey.
* The Teen Next Gen Library Council wrapped up their Teen Comfort Item Drive for the Children's Center of Southwest Missouri on February 12.  This was a community service project, and a way to thank the Children’s Center for helping make the first session of the new Adulting 101 series possible.

**Building & Grounds**

* Satterlee and TMI continue to work on the HVAC systems Heat Pump 1. The replacement of six compressors started on February 3, but the unit was still showing issues after the replacement was complete, so it was off until February 13.  While it is on now, TMI will return in two weeks to continue to troubleshoot possible issues.
* The irrigation usage was estimated at zero on the December water bill; however, when we received the bill in January, over 5,000 gallons of water was used, indicating a leak. Work is being done to correct this issue.

**Miscellaneous**

* The Missouri Library Association’s Library Advocacy Day was held in Jefferson City on February 4. Lori Crockett and I represented the Library. In addition, trustee Jenn Baldwin was there representing MASL, SOS Council and the Library.  Combined we spoke with five area legislators about library funding and year end statistics.
* As the Co-Chair of the One Joplin Education and Literacy Team for One Joplin Christina Matekel-Gibson helped with the installation of an updated StoryWalk® at Leonard Park. The new story, *Run, Oscar, Run*! by Kelley Donner is offered through a partnership between One Joplin, Joplin Family YMCA, and Joplin Parks and Recreation. It will be on display at Leonard Park through April.

**STATISTICS:** There was a discussion of Teen Department programming, and Jeana reported Makerspace numbers.

**BOARD COMMENTS:**

* 1. **Dr. Reid Adams, Friends of the Library:** Reported that the FOL Board met Feb. 11. Book sales were over $1,000 in January. Homebound delivery is moving along. FOL is donating $20,000 to purchase new chairs and reupholster current ones. Approximately 40 people attended Dr. Bill Kumbier’s Charles Dickens program. The annual Spring for a Book fundraiser is planned for April. And April 3 is the Friends special event for Joplin Reads Together.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no Public Comments.

**STAFF COMMENTS:** Jeana reminded Board Members that March 18 is the next scheduled Board meeting, during the week of spring break. Although a few members will be absent, the Board decided to proceed with the meeting on that date.

The meeting adjourned at 5:19 p.m.

Written by

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Administative 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, March 18, 2025.