

**LIBRARY MINUTES  
SPECIAL MEETING  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY  
30 MARCH 2015**

A special meeting of the Joplin Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 4 p.m. in the Library's Large Meeting Room by President Courtney Dermott (also a Post Board member). Board Members Dorothy Willcoxon, Bobbi Myers, Charles Parker, Jill LaGasse, Bill Pate, Ellen Eastman, and Doug Glynn, and Library Director Jacque Gage were present.

Also present were Leslie Simpson, Post Library Director; Jill Sullivan, Post Library Director starting June 1; and Post Board members Shary Lee, Virginia Laas, Nick Kyle, Sara Newman, Sara Fisher, Val Christensen and Chuck Brown.

President Dermott explained the purpose of the meeting. Because Post will be integrated into the Joplin Public Library at the new location, the two Boards must come to an agreement about new parameters.

She read Post's new mission statement: "The mission of the Post Foundation is to perpetuate Dr. Winfred L. and Elizabeth C. Post's love of art, architecture, history and historic preservation through media and print resources, educational programming and exhibits."

The hope is that the new arrangement will lead to increased visibility and exposure for the Post Library.

Collection: Post Board members will evaluate the collection and determine if any items would be better utilized at MSSU. The remainder would be added to the JPL collection. The volumes that are too fragile to handle could be sold. The Post Board would like to have these books reappraised, as they haven't been appraised since 1981.

Leslie gave a brief history of the Post Memorial Art Reference Library.

The Post Board would like its director to be more visible in the new building. She would have an office, and Post would be a reading room separate from the rest of JPL.

Courtney asked if there were any questions about the function of the Post Director in the new library. Jill said her job description indicates she works for the Post Foundation but is also considered a JPL employee and a Department Head. This comes from the 1981 agreement with JPL. The Post Director is paid by the City out of the JPL budget, then JPL is reimbursed by Post.

Jacque:

- Would like the Post Director more integrated into JPL. Suggested that Jill attend every Department Head meeting and that the meetings be held in Post exclusively.
- Hopes for more programming offered by Post and JPL as partners. Post Board would like a greater emphasis on programming as part of its mission, as well.
- Requested that the 34-year-old memorandum of understanding to be re-evaluated and rewritten, at a meeting with Chuck Brown.

Jill: Would there be pockets of art/exhibits throughout entire library that she'd be responsible for? (People requested this during focus groups.) Jacque said yes.

Jill's current contract acknowledges that she is a JPL employee and a Department Head who answers to the JPL director but is in charge of Post.

Brief discussion about yesterday's architectural specs, particularly the location of Post and Local History. Right now there is duplicated info in both places and both deal with similar interests.

Jacque asked if Post plans to continue with part-time employees to supplement hours of director.

- Sara Fisher: guarding the room will not be as big a concern because the rare furnishings such as the settee will not be kept there.
- Jill: concerns about damage to displayed art.
- Chuck: normally the responsibility of galleries. He suggested that artists in new library need to be aware that their work will not be guarded round the clock and that it is not the responsibility of the libraries.
- Jacque suggested tagging the exhibit materials in the new building. which would entail Polaris license, pad, tags, etc. (more expenses for Post).
- Jill: working on method of using tags that will not damage pieces.

Jacque questioned what the next step will be.

- Courtney suggested forming a committee to work on a memorandum of understanding.
- Jacque said that the collection probably needs to be evaluated ASAP.
- Re-envisioning the use/purpose of Post.

Jacque mentioned issues to address in the new memorandum:

- JPL pays overhead charges to the City, based on the number of full-time employees. Post currently does not pay a share of it. However, the original contract does that specify that JPL can pass this charge onto Post.
- ownership of materials once collections are merged.
- method of transitioning into collection: who does classification?
- Jacque envisions Jill assisting Linda Cannon with collection development.

Jacque asked if Post keeps in-house statistics on what is used. Leslie doesn't track volume use, but does track types of reference questions.

Jill: How would periodicals owned by Post be integrated?

Will Post be expected to pay utilities? It's part of the current agreement with JPL that they pay a percentage. Chuck feels that because the reading room will be denoted as a public place/part of JPL, they shouldn't pay, except maybe for the Post Director's office.

The next steps:

- An "integration committee" will draft a memorandum of understanding. Committee members: Jill Sullivan, Leslie Simpson, Jacque Gage, Charles Parker and Sara Fisher, with Chuck Brown examining documents.
- Post will form a committee to evaluate the Post Library collection.
- Motion by Virginia Laas to establish an integration committee with Sara Fisher as the Post Board representative, second by Nick Kyle, motion passed by Post Board members. **(7/0)**
- Motion by Bobbi Myers to establish an integration committee with Charles Parker as the JPL Board representative, second by Dorothy Willcoxon, motion passed by JPL Board members. **(7/0)**

The meeting concluded with all Board members introducing themselves and noting their roles on their respective Boards, as well as their hopes for the new libraries and the reason they're involved.

The meeting adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Written by

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Lisa E. Brown  
Administrative Assistant

Approved by

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Jacque Gage  
Secretary