

**LIBRARY MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
17 AUGUST 2020**

The regular meeting of the Joplin Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:04 p.m. by President Mary Gaarder. Board Members Barbara Hicklin, David Layne, Lisa Erickson, Jim Fleischaker, Emily Stanley, Andrea Cullers, and Jennifer Baldwin, and Library Director Jeana Gockley were present. Children's Services Librarian Christina Matekel-Gibson and Teen Services Librarian Beth Snow were also present.

Excused absence: Nicole Shoaf.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the Library's reduced hours of operation, the meeting was streamed live on the Library's YouTube channel.

BOARD EDUCATION: Christina Matekel-Gibson and Beth Snow reported on the 2020 Summer Reading Program, which was entirely virtual due to COVID-19. Beth shared that of 53 participants in Beanstack, 52 completed the program. Programs included a sketch-along, virtual game nights, a Harry Potter party, a national teen lock-in, and Lego challenges. Christina noted that the Children's completion rate was 50 percent this summer, as opposed to 56 percent last summer. Programs included weekly story times, live programs via Zoom or Facebook, pre-recorded videos from Jay and Lesley's Laughing Matters, and grab and go craft kits, accompanied by an online tutorial. She also reported on the Adult Summer Reading Program. Last year, 125 people registered; this year, 151 registered, with 145 completing the program. Programs included two cooking demonstrations, a Dungeons and Dragons tutorial, and a book club.

MINUTES: Minutes from the regular July 2020 meeting were approved as distributed.
(Hicklin/Baldwin) 7/0

VOUCHERS: July non-salary expenditures in the amount of \$79,433.35 were approved.
(Fleischaker/Hicklin) 7/0

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Phased reopening.** Jeana expressed hopes that things will maintain through September. Still offering curbside pickup. Some Board Members asked whether it would be possible to extend hours into the evening in light of school starting.
2. **Kiwanis statue.** It's been installed in front of the building, near the entrance.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Ethics policy revision.** Jeana found an error in the policy and proposed a revision. Motion by Ms. Stanley to approve the revision, second by Mr. Fleischaker, motion passed. **7/0**
2. **Renewal of ethics policy.** The policy needs to be approved every two years. Motion by Mr Layne to approve the policy, second by Ms. Stanley, motion passed. **7/0**
3. **Tax levy hearing.** The public hearing will be held August 24 at City Hall to determine the tax levy rate for the Library. In 2021, the Library is expected to receive approximately \$1.4 million in property taxes, about \$100,000 more than usual thanks to an expired TIF.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT:

Announcements:

Community Engagement

- On July 25, [KSN](#) did a story about our Summer Read wrap up.
- On July 24, [The Joplin Globe](#) had an article about the CARES grant the Library received.
- On July 28, Jeana was one of 42 panelists that shared updates during [Connect2Culture's 5th Annual Joplin Arts & Cultural Preview](#).
- [Show Me the Ozarks](#) magazine featured a story about August programming.
- On the Library's monthly [KSN Living Well](#) spot, on August 4, Jeana shared information on Curbside Pickup and Virtual Programming.

Programs

- A newly formed Homeschool Committee is working on a plan to support virtual and [homeschooling families](#) this fall. Currently, the Library is [surveying](#) its patrons to find out their needs and to focus the initiative.

Building & Grounds

- Staff from RE Smith came on July 27, to do water testing to try to pinpoint the area of issue from the July 2 leak. More leaking was reported on July 31, and RE Smith returned on August 5, to do additional water testing.

Training

- Attended the virtual One Million Cups annual Organizers Summit at the Chamber on August 10 and 11.

Grants

- The Lemons Charitable Trust provided a grant for a new media collection of Binge Boxes. These boxes are themed collections of 4-6 movies packaged together for ease and convenience.
- CARES Grant
 - Twenty mobile hotspots were purchased and are being configured for check out.
 - A mobile Wireless Access Point was added to the building to allow users outdoor access to the internet 24/7.

- Purchased 302 additional e-books and e-audiobooks during July, using the Hoopla and Overdrive platforms.
- Submitted a reimbursement request of \$4,877.08 to the Jasper County Commissioners for [CARES Act funds](#).

Miscellaneous

- Larry Wood released a new book called “Midnight Assassinations and other Evildoings: A Criminal History of Jasper County, Mo.” His acknowledgements page offered a round of thank you notes to the Reference Department, especially Jason Sullivan and Patty Crane; the Local History Department, particularly Richard Porter; and Lydia Humphreys and Jill Sullivan for Makerspace help in designing the cover.

Statistics: Checkouts are up. E-books are holding steady. ILLs have returned to where they were at last year.

STAFF COMMENTS: None.

BOARD COMMENTS: None.

The meeting adjourned at 5:36 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. Monday, 21 September 2020.