

**LIBRARY MINUTES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY  
17 MAY 2021**

The regular meeting of the Joplin Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by President Mary Gaarder. Board Members Barbara Hicklin, David Layne, Jim Fleischaker, Andrea Cullers, Lisa Erickson, Emily Stanley and Jennifer Baldwin, and Library Director Jeana Gockley were present.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Nicole Shoaf.

**BOARD EDUCATION:** Children’s Librarian Christina Matekel-Gibson presented information about the Library’s all-ages Summer Reading Program, which will run June 1-July 25.

**MINUTES:** Minutes from the regular April 2021 meeting were approved as distributed. (Stanley/Layne) 7/0

**VOUCHERS:** April non-salary expenditures in the amount of \$57,922.86 were approved. (Fleischaker/Baldwin) 7/0

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

1. **Friends of the Library update.** The group met and selected officers. It can now move forward with filing for 501c3 status, as the EIN was received today. The group will soon move forward with a membership drive.
2. **Security gates.** The new security gates have been installed by the east entrance. They are not quite up and running yet, as software installation and training are needed.
3. **“Wings” statue.** The statue’s current placement has been evaluated. It will likely be a more complicated and expensive endeavor to move it than first thought.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**LIBRARIAN’S REPORT:**

**Announcements:**

**Media Engagement**

- On April 24, [KSN](#) shared a story about the Library’s partnership with the Creative Learning Alliance to provide STEM kits.
- On May 2, [KODE](#) featured a story about our upcoming Summer Reading Program.
- On May 5, appeared live on [KSN’s Living Well](#) and shared information about our Computer Lab and the Library’s art exhibits.
- On May 15, the [Joplin Globe](#) featured a story about the Joplin tornado prompting authors to “share the stories of heroes, survivors and the resilience of the community.” The

Library was used as a backdrop for photos of a grandmother reading her grandchild “Lily: A True Story of Courage and the Joplin Tornado” by Carolyn Mueller.

### **Programs**

- The Teen Department hosted a Takeout for Teens kit program in May - Stress Busters - with 155 kits being made and given out.

### **Outreach**

- Presented about the Library at an AAUW meeting on May 15.

### **Services Affected by COVID-19**

- Library services that remains affected:
  - Children’s toys, games and computers remain stored or blocked off
  - Computers remain distanced in the Computer Lab
  - All programming remains virtual or as a “to-go,” pick up format
  - The Library is open 57 hours per week, nine less than pre-COVID
- Changes from last month:
  - All Library furniture has been made available to patrons
  - Study rooms have been opened up to the public
  - The Library is adhering to CDC guidelines on masking.
- Staffing and county vaccine percentages
  - 86% of staff are fully vaccinated
  - 17% of Jasper County residents are fully vaccinated
  - 35% of Joplin residents are fully vaccinated

### **Training**

- Reminder - Trustees are invited to register for “[Effective Library Boards](#) webinar series,” led by Bonnie McKewon from the State Library of Iowa. The first session is *July 13, 2021: Problem-Solving the Upstream Way*

**STATISTICS:** Discussion of meeting room use and door count.

**STAFF COMMENTS:** Jeana reminded the Board that her evaluation will be due in July.

**BOARD COMMENTS:** None.

The meeting adjourned at 5:13 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. Monday, 21 June 2021.