

**LIBRARY MINUTES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY  
18 MARCH 2025**

The regular meeting of the Joplin Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Board Secretary Jean Coltharp. Board Members Heather Van Otterloo, Veda Boyd Jones, Lisa Erickson, Diane Reid Adams, and Jennifer Baldwin, and Library Director Jeana Gockley were present.

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:** Mary Gaarder, Andrea Cullers, and Emily Stanley.

**BOARD EDUCATION:** IT and Facilities Manager Justin Kelly reported on the Joplin Library Environmental Sensor Suite, the Library weather station also known as JLESS. It resides on the roof and has thus far tracked rain, lightning strikes, a dust storm and more.

**MINUTES:** Minutes from the February 2025 regular meeting were reviewed. There was a motion by Ms. Erickson to approve the minutes as presented, with a second by Ms. Baldwin. Motion passed. **5/0**

**VOUCHERS:** February non-salary expenditures in the amount of \$83,013.58 were approved. (Adams/Van Otterloo) **5/0**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

1. **Building and Grounds.** Committee Chair Dr. Coltharp reported that at its recent meeting Jeana presented the committee with a list of potential projects. Committee members provided feedback and indicated the Library Director and Facilities Manager were free to pursue them all. The Library budget and capital improvements money would be available to fund the projects.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

**Media Engagement**

- On February 26, [KOAM](#) aired a story about our Adult Library Learners program.
- On February 28, [KSN](#) aired a story about the new Storywalk in Leonard Park.
- On March 4, I was on [KSN](#)'s Living Well sharing information about Spring-related books and Library of Things items.
- On March 13, [The Joplin Globe](#) featured an article by Marta Churchwell about the call for entries for the "My Midwest" art exhibit that is part of Joplin Reads Together.

- On March 13, Lori Crockett appeared on [KOAM](#)'s Good Morning Joplin and shared about Spring Break activities and promoted Joplin Reads Together.
- On March 24, [KODE](#) aired a story about digital upgrades that were made possible thanks to a LSTA grant.

### **Programs**

- Our Adult Learners at the Library program for adults with developmental disabilities continues to grow. The program on February 26 had 85 attendees.
- The second in a series of Adulting 101 programs was hosted on February 28, focusing on the topic of Mental Health. Six teens attended the hour-long session that focused on media literacy.
- A Nintendo Switch tournament was held for teens on March 15, with seven competing.

### **Building & Grounds**

- Satterlee Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning and TMI continue to work on the HVAC systems Heat Pump 1. They returned on March 11 and found two systems have leaks, plus, settings for our OAP units were incorrect.
- Satterlee Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning fixed two plumbing issues for the Library - a toilet issue in the public restroom and no hot water in the staff restrooms.

**STATISTICS:** The gate count is up compared with January 2025 and February 2024. New cards issued are down a bit, as are checkouts, but Jeana reminded the Board that we were closed for three days in February due to weather and the Presidents Day holiday, plus February is a short month. Programming numbers are good.

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

**STAFF COMMENTS:** There were no Staff Comments.

### **BOARD COMMENTS:**

1. **Dr. Reid Adams, Friends of the Library:** Reported that the FOL Board met March 11. Book sales in February netted \$1,363.37. Three patron applications for homebound delivery have been received thus far; Reference Librarian Patty Crane selected materials for two of them, and Jeana delivered the items. The annual Spring for a Book fund-raiser happens in April, and there is a Friends-only Joplin Reads Together event at Chaos Brewing Co. April 3. There was discussion about the web site. FOL has received a donation of \$6,270 from the Arvest Foundation toward replacing and reupholstering furniture for the Children's Department and for adult sections; this amount will be combined with the \$20,000 donation from the Friends group. Library Appreciation Week is April 6-12; FOL will treat Library staff to pizza. The Board discussed acquiring a surety bond for its members.

The meeting adjourned at 4:40 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. Tuesday, April 15, 2025.