

**LIBRARY MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
17 MARCH 2026**

The regular meeting of the Joplin Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Board President Mary Gaarder. Board Members Andrea Cullers, Veda Boyd Jones, Jean Coltharp, Heather Van Otterloo, Jennifer Baldwin, and Mikh Gunderman, and Library Director Jeana Gockley were present.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Lisa Erickson and Emily Stanley.

The Board President introduced new Board Member Dr. Mikh Gunderman.

BOARD EDUCATION: Joplin City Manager Nick Edwards, Police Chief Richard Pearson, Deputy Fire Chief Andy Nimmo, and Tom Bowen of the Fraternal Order of Police addressed the Board in regards to the Proposition Police and Fire ballot issue.

MINUTES: Minutes from the February 2026 regular meeting were reviewed. There was a motion by Dr. Coltharp to approve the minutes as presented, with a second by Dr. Cullers. Motion passed. **6/0**

VOUCHER: February non-salary expenditures in the amount of \$34,480.95 were approved. **(Boyd Jones/Van Otterloo) 6/0**

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Media Engagement

- On February 18, [The Joplin Globe](#) published a notice about the Library's Kids Fair.
- On March 3, I shared about Spring Break activities on [KSN](#)'s Living Well.
- On March 11, [KSN](#) aired a story about the air plant program for teens.
- On March 14, [Inside Joplin](#) published a notice about the upcoming Book Swap.

Programs

- Tiny Art Night, a collaborative program where teens and adults are invited to create paintings on tiny canvases, saw 50 attendees on February 17.
- On February 19 Adult Programming Coordinator Sarah Turner-Hill and Circulation Manager Eden Kendall represented the Library at Leadership Joplin's Education Day event at Crowder College Joplin.
- According to Starry Eyed Girl, the Library's Book Swap partner and host for the February 19 event, "Books + wine are the perfect pairing." The popular event welcomed 90 attendees.

- The Next Gen. Library Council, JPL's teen advisory board, collected donations through the month of February for Children's Haven. As part of their effort, they hosted a Kids Fair on February 21 that drew 112 attendees. In total, over 1,000 diapers were collected, plus tons of pajamas and cleaning supplies.

Building & Grounds

- Layne Electric completed several projects. They replaced five GFCI receptacles on the roof, installed new exterior lights, updated bathroom lighting to LED and replaced several Emergency light relays.
- Branco Enterprises Inc. resolved an issue with a sagging Storytime Room door and are researching alternative, lighter weight options for doors. They also made a wall repair to the public restrooms.

STATISTICS: There was discussion of gate count and checkouts, programming numbers, Makerspace use, and the new CloudLibrary.

STAFF COMMENTS: None.

BOARD COMMENTS: Ms. Boyd Jones reported on the March 9 Friends of the Library Board meeting:

- The Joplin Reads Together electronic billboard near 20th St. and Rangeline launches March 18.
- Since the February Friends Board meeting, there have been two renewals and one new membership.
- Book sales netted \$1,410.18. This includes several copies of the JRT book.
- National Library Week is April 19-25. The Friends will treat the Library staff to breakfast and lunch.
- Mahjongg has been attracting around 30 people on the second and fourth Mondays of the month.
- April 7 is the next Friends Board meeting.
- The annual Spring for a Book fundraiser is April 12-25.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no Public Comments.

The Board reviewed the updated Committee list, Board contacts, and Board terms.

The meeting adjourned at 4:59 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. Tuesday, April 21, 2026.