

**LIBRARY MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
15 APRIL 2025**

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, Emily Stanley, Heather Van Otterloo, Veda Boyd Jones, Jean Coltharp, Diane Reid Adams, and Jennifer Baldwin, and Library Director Jeana Gockley were present.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Lisa Erickson.

BOARD EDUCATION: Technical Services Librarian Alyssa Berry provided a tour of the Library of Things collection.

MINUTES: Minutes from the March 2025 regular meeting were reviewed. There was a motion by Ms. Baldwin to approve the minutes as presented, with a second by Ms. Boyd Jones. Motion passed. 7/0

VOUCHERS: March non-salary expenditures in the amount of \$66,592.18 were approved. (Stanley/Van Otterloo) 7/0

COMMITTEE REPORTS: There were no Committee reports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS: There was no New Business.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Media Engagement

- On March 24, [KODE](#) aired a story about digital upgrades that were made possible thanks to a LSTA grant.
- Joplin Reads Together
 - On April 1, I was on [KSN](#)'s Living Well sharing information.
 - On April 10, Lori Crockett appeared on [KOAM](#)'s Good Morning Joplin and shared information.
- On April 10, [The Joplin Globe](#) shared an article about the Ken Southwick exhibit in Local History.

Programs

- The third in a series of Adulting 101 programs was hosted on March 25, focusing on the topic of Food. Thirteen teens attended the hour-long session presented by MSSU professor and Library Board Treasurer Dr. Andrea Cullers.

- The Youth Services Department hosted a Pokemon Party on March 22. Activities for the 123 attendees included a scavenger hunt, crafts, and the Pokemon card game.
- The Library held plant-related offerings for both teens and adults this spring. A Plant Swap program, on March 29, allowed 95 community members to swap plants, cuttings or seeds, and an event dubbed “Succulent Saturday,” on April 12, saw 20 teen attendees.

Building & Grounds

- A technician from Satterlee Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning repaired the two previously found system leaks on HP1 on March 31. They have advised the unit is fully functional.
- The seven chairs that Friends of the Joplin Public Library and Arvest Bank donated funds to have reupholstered were delivered on April 11. Half of the eight new pieces should arrive at the end of April and the remaining pieces at the end of May.

Legislatively

- An executive order issued by the Trump administration on March 14 calls for the elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). The IMLS distributes Congressionally approved funds to libraries and museums. Specifically for Joplin Public Library, the IMLS elimination will affect: 1) Grants–Mini Technology \$8,682, Technology Ladder \$28,591, Summer Reading Library Program \$9,168; 2) Courier service \$6,552; 3) Databases–Missouri Digital Heritage and VetNow; and 4) Staff Resources–Homeless Training Institute, Niche Academy and TeachingBooks.

Personnel

Jacey Vangel and Ayla Dubry were hired as part-time Circulation Assistants. They both started on March 24.

STATISTICS: There was discussion of gate count, digital usage and Makerspace numbers.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no Public Comments.

STAFF COMMENTS: There were no Staff Comments.

BOARD COMMENTS: Ms. Gaarder announced that the Personnel Committee will need to meet to begin the Library Director’s evaluation process.

1. **Dr. Reid Adams, Friends of the Library:** Reported that the Friends met April 8. As of the meeting, the Spring for a Book campaign had raised \$1,250. March book sales netted \$1,411.74. The Homebound Delivery program has received six volunteer applications. The member’s-only event at Chaos Brewing Co. on April 3, was very well-received with 35 people attending, including several members of the Joplin Homebrewers Club. The Joplin Reads Together author visit is April 24; the Friends will be selling copies of “The Lager Queen of Minnesota” and other books by J. Ryan Stradal.

The meeting adjourned at 5:01 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, May 20, 2025.