

**LIBRARY MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
15 MAY 2023**

The regular meeting of the Joplin Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by President Mary Gaarder. Board Members Andrea Cullers, Jim Fleischaker, Jean Coltharp, Jennifer Baldwin and Diane Reid Adams, and Library Director Jeana Gockley were present.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Barbara Hicklin, Lisa Erickson, David Layne, and Emily Stanley.

BOARD INTRODUCTIONS: President Gaarder introduced new Board Member Dr. Diane Reid Adams, who is replacing Barbara Hicklin. The President thanked Ms. Hicklin for her service, in particular her work on the search committee that resulted in Jeana Gockley being hired as Library Director in 2019.

BOARD EDUCATION: Children's Librarian Christina Matekel-Gibson presented information about the all-ages 2023 Summer Reading Program, which runs May 30-July 23. She showed the PSA that KSN-TV created for the Library and shared game boards (an online option is available again this year via Beanstack) Joplin R-8 will also offer free lunches for children 18 and under on site, starting in July and continuing for a few weeks in August.

MINUTES: Minutes from the April 2023 regular meeting were reviewed. There was a motion by Mr. Fleischaker to approve the minutes as presented, with a second by Dr. Coltharp. Motion passed. **5/0**

VOUCHERS: April non-salary expenditures in the amount of \$50,078.95 were approved. **(Baldwin/Fleischaker) 5/0**

COMMITTEE REPORTS: The Board President assigned Dr. Reid Adams to the Building and Grounds Committee.

- 1. Friends of the Library.** Jeana reported that the Spring for a Book fundraiser raised over \$4,000 dollars, and that the Friends group will host a membership celebration at the Library on June 17.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Safety deposit box access.** The Library has a safety deposit box at a local bank in the Foundation's name. The current listed signers are long gone as Board Members and Library administrators, so the Board was asked to designate new signers on the account.

There was a motion by Mr. Fleischaker to name Jeana Gockley as a signer on the account, with a second by Ms. Baldwin. Motion passed. **5/0**

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT:

Media Engagement

- Missouri House Representatives zero out State Aid funds to libraries
 - On April 18, [The Joplin Globe](#) ran a story.
 - On April 20, [The Joplin Globe](#) editorial board wrote an article.
- Joplin Reads Together
 - On April 26, [The Joplin Globe](#) ran a front page story about Shelby Van Pelt's author visit.
 - On April 26, [KZRG](#) shared a story.
 - On April 27, Fred and Jessica Fletcher-Fierro from [KRPS](#) interviewed Shelby Van Pelt about her book and her visit to the Library.
- On May 2, Jeana Gockley shared about the Library's Star Wars Day activities on [KSN](#)'s Living Well.
- Library of Things
 - On May 11, Lori Crockett appeared on [KOAM](#)'s Good Morning Four States and shared information about the Meet the Things event.
 - On May 12, [The Joplin Globe](#) published a front page article about the new non-traditional collection.
 - On May 13, [The Joplin Globe](#) shared an article praising the new collection.

Programs

- On April 27, the Library's inaugural community reading event, Joplin Reads Together, came to a festive close with an author visit from Shelby Van Pelt. During the month-long event the Library:
 - Hosted a total of 10 programs at the Library.
 - Provided 562 individuals the opportunity to participate in Library events; including 153 individuals at Shelby Van Pelt's author visit. The most attended program was Wonders of Wildlife, attracting over 261 attendees.
 - Helped facility approximately 105 people get books signed by Van Pelt.
 - Welcomed travelers from Pittsburgh and Baxter Springs, Kansas City, St. Louis, and Columbia, and Chicago to the author visit.
- On May 4, aka, May the Fourth Be With You, the Library hosted its second Star Wars Day event from 11 am to 8 pm. Activities included a mix of drop-in programs - the Lost Jedi Text scavenger hunt, a Yoda headband craft and a Star Wars themed photo booth; along with some scheduled offerings - a children's Jedi training course, a teen painting kit, 3-D printed earrings and keychains in the Makerspace and an interactive movie. Attendance was outstanding with approximately 120 participating in the drop-in activities and of those 16 printed 3D items, 37 watched the movie, 55 learned the ways of the Jedi, and 30 picked up painting kits.
- On May 11, the Library hosted a Meet the Things event for our new Library of Things collection. This is a collection of non-traditional materials including tools, games, kitchen

items, and electronics. All items are available to check out for free with a library card. Forty-eight participants stopped in during the kick-off event; and along with viewing all 34 Things, many had one-on-one Q&A with Library staff, snacked on refreshments and checked out items during the two hour event.

Legislative Update

- On Friday, May 5, the Missouri House and the Missouri Senate passed HB12, which included the restored \$4.5 million in state aid to public libraries. All three of our legislators voted in favor. This was the last step for library funding to move through before it goes to the Governor for his signature.

Find Your Way @ JPL

- Thanks to the Bramlage Willcoxon Foundation for funding not only a new informational Library brochure, but a new library card registration welcome packet. The packet includes the brochure, a reading list bookmark, an informational magnet, a phone prop and a chip clip holds it all together. Staff started handing out the new packets the week of May 1.
- The Library contracted with Iowa based company Midwest Pano to create a [virtual library tour](#); with the Friends of the Joplin Public Library generously agreeing to fund the \$3,288 project. The tour was completed last month and with just a few slight revisions and has been added to the website. In addition, the panoramic images will soon be added to the Library's Google Business page.

STATISTICS: There was discussion of door counts and why numbers might be lower in April than March, as well as programming numbers, including the Joplin Reads Together figures. Makerspace counts were also mentioned.

STAFF COMMENTS: President Gaarder reminded the Board that the next meeting will be June 12.

BOARD COMMENTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 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, 12 June 2023.