

**LIBRARY MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
20 May 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 Lisa Erickson, Emily Stanley, Heather Van Otterloo, Veda Boyd Jones, Diane Reid Adams, and Jennifer Baldwin, and Library Director Jeana Gockley were present.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Jean Coltharp, Andrea Cullers.

BOARD EDUCATION: Sarah Turner Hill, Adult Programming Coordinator, provided an overview of the 2025 Summer Reading Program. Presentation included a 30-second PSA created by Lori Crockett, Public Relations.

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

VOUCHERS: April non-salary expenditures in the amount of \$61,592.18 were approved. (Stanley/Boyd Jones) 7/0

COMMITTEE REPORTS: There were no Committee reports.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS: Confidentiality of Patron Records Policy was approved (Baldwin/Stamley) 7/0.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Media Engagement

- Joplin Reads Together
 - In the April edition of Show Me the Ozarks Magazine, there was an interview with Sarah-Turner Hill about the book and the events.
 - In the April/May edition of Joplin Magazine there was a listing for the My Midwest exhibit and information about the community read.
 - On April 17, The Joplin Globe shared about the events and the author visit as part of their "5 things to do."
 - On April 17, The Joplin Globe listed the author event in their special edition Puzzle Book.
 - On April 24, [The Joplin Globe](#) shared about the author's visit as part of their "5 things to do."
 - On April 24, J Ryan Stradal appeared on KSN's Living Well.
 - On April 30, [The Joplin Globe](#) published a photo of the author's visit.
- On May 6, I was on [KSN](#)'s Living Well talking about books to read during summer 2025.

- On May 14, [The Joplin Globe](#) shared an article about the upcoming summer reading program.
- On May 15, [KODE](#) aired a story about the Library getting new furniture.

Programs

- Joplin Reads Together 2025 wrapped up on April 25 with an author visit from J. Ryan Stanley. He discussed his path to authorship and his inspiration for books. One hundred and three individuals attended the event and he signed 74 books.
- The fourth in a series of Adulting 101 programs was hosted on April 29, focusing on the topic of Finance. Ten teens attended the hour-long session presented by Logan Stanley.
- On April 25 and May 2, Youth Services Assistant Kelsey Phipps visited Joplin High School to promote Summer Reading and the Next Gen. Library Council. She talked to over 1,500 students in high school English classes. In addition, she handed out applications for the Council and Teen SRP calendars.

Legislatively

- On April 24, MOSL Library Development Coordinator Terry Blauvelt reported, “The State Library received three drawdown payments from IMLS which were requested last week. Two payments were for FFY24 and one was from FFY25. This is good news and at the moment, appears to have the drawdown payments back on a normal schedule. Based on this information alone, I believe approved and eligible LSTA grant purchases can resume with a more timely expectation of reimbursement.”

Grants

- The Library received an award of \$750 from the Freeman Johnson Charitable Trust. Funds will be used to purchase WhaZoodle units from Playaway. Using a WhaZoodle kids can explore a world of podcasts, music, short stories and more on an easy-to-use speaker. It’s screen-free and requires no Wi-Fi, downloads, or extra pieces necessary.
- The Library received an LSTA Technology Ladder Grant from the Missouri State Library. This grant, written by IT Manager Justin Kelly, will pay for a portion of the Library’s public computers to be replaced.

Training

- Summer Reading training workshops were held for all staff the first two weeks of May.
- Thanks to a partnership with One Joplin, on May 15, four staff members attended a Color Code training workshop presented by Motive Matters.

Goals

- Provided an update to the board-set goal of *Investigate the feasibility of changing Library hours.*

STATISTICS: There was discussion of Teen Services.

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 Friends met May 15. Discussion included planning of the trivia night fundraiser. April book sales netted \$1,121. Total sales since November are \$8,843, more than half-way toward the annual goal of \$15,000. Members who organize the sale shelf met on May 20. Arvest Foundation presented a check to the Friends on May 15.
2. Discussion was had by board members on ideas and objectives to be considered for the next budget year.

The meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Written by

Circulation Manager

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, June 17, 2025.