

**LIBRARY MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
19 MAY 2026**

The regular meeting of the Joplin Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Board Vice-President Emily Stanley. Board Members Andrea Cullers, Veda Boyd Jones, Jean Coltharp, Heather Van Otterloo, Jennifer Baldwin, and Lisa Erickson, and Library Director Jeana Gockley were present.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Mary Gaarder and Mikh Gunderman.

BOARD EDUCATION: Adult Programming Coordinator Sarah Turner-Hill presented on the 2026 all-ages Summer Reading Program. The theme is Unearth a Story; the program runs May 26-July 19.

MINUTES: Minutes from the April 2026 regular meeting were reviewed. There was a motion by Dr. Coltharp to approve the minutes as presented, with a second by Ms. Baldwin. Motion passed. 7/0

VOUCHER: April non-salary expenditures in the amount of \$77,144.28 were approved. **(Boyd Jones/Van Otterloo)** 7/0

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Coffee Shop Committee (Ad Hoc).** Committee members will meet with City of Joplin officials May 28. Ms. Stanley reported on Mary Gaarder's visit to the Frontenac (Kansas) Public Library, which has a coffee shop.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Media Engagement

- On May 5, I shared about the Library's nontraditional services on [KSN](#)'s Living Well.
- On May 8, Youth Services Librarian Christina Matekel-Gibson shared about the Storywalks available in Joplin on [KSN](#)'s Living Well.
- On May 14, Marketing/PR Assistant Lori Crockett shared about Summer Reading on [KODE](#)'s Good Morning Four States.
- On May 18, [The Joplin Globe](#) shared a press release about the Library's Summer Reading program.
- On May 18, Library Board Vice President Emily Stanley shared about Summer Reading while hosting [KSN](#)'s Living Well.

Programs

- Joplin Reads Together 2026 wrapped up on April 28 with an author visit from Virginia Evans. This year's author visit featured a new style of program, Evans was interviewed

by local media personality Gary Bandy. Three hundred and forty individuals attended the event and Evans signed approximately 200 books.

- On May 2, Makerspace Assistant Jen Lewis hosted a live demonstration where an artist showed attendees how to make glass flowers, as well as some basic glass-cutting techniques. There were 30 attendees.
- Thanks to a partnership with the librarian at Joplin High School, the Library had the opportunity to host the entire freshman class, May 13-15. Youth Service staff used the visits to promote Summer Reading, share about teen programs and give the students tours of the Library. They coordinated five trips over three days.
- In addition to students visiting the Library, Youth Service staff made trips to elementary and secondary schools in Joplin to promote the Summer Reading program. The list of schools includes: Joplin High School, South Middle School, East Middle School, Irving, Cecil Floyd, Soaring Heights and McKinley.

Building & Grounds

- Satterlee Plumbing & HVAC completed the annual spring maintenance on the HVAC units.
- Overhead Door performed an annual inspection and preventative maintenance on the Library's front doors.

Personnel

- Darci Heritage and Sunny Turner were hired as part-time Circulation Assistants. Darci started on April 9. Sunny started on April 20.
- Sage Austin and Alex Teeter were hired as Summer Library Assistants. Sage started on May 4 and works in the Youth Services Department. Alex started on May 18 and works in the Circulation Department.

STATISTICS: Compared with April 2025, April 2026 gate count was down. Checkouts are also down, in keeping with trends. However, interlibrary loan numbers are up.

STAFF COMMENTS: None.

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

- There were two new memberships and nine renewals.
- April book sales netted nearly \$1,400.
- Library staff sent the Friends a thank you card after the Friends provided breakfast, lunch and dinner as part of National Library Workers Day.
- The Spring for a Book fund-raiser took in \$1,725.00.
- Trivia night will be Sept. 26.
- The annual meeting will be Oct. 15, featuring a guest speaker.
- The Friends sponsored a presentation by Dr. Kerry Sachetta for Joplin Reads Together; it was well-received and garnered 52 attendees.
- Mahjong sessions are on a summer break but might return in the fall.
- The group is working on Friends swag.
- June 9 is the next Board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no Public Comments.

The meeting adjourned at 4:58 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, June 16, 2026.