

**LIBRARY MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
17 JUNE 2025**

The regular meeting of the Joplin Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:01 p.m. by Board President Mary Gaarder. Board Members Lisa Erickson, Jean Coltharp, Andrea Cullers, Emily Stanley, Heather Van Otterloo, Veda Boyd Jones, Diane Reid Adams, and Jennifer Baldwin, and Library Director Jeana Gockley were present.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: None.

BOARD EDUCATION: There was no Board Education.

MINUTES: Minutes from the May 2025 regular meeting were reviewed. There was a motion by Dr. Coltharp to approve the minutes as presented, with a second by Dr. Reid Adams. Motion passed. **8/0**

VOUCHERS: May non-salary expenditures in the amount of \$88,799.31 were approved. (**Boyd Jones/Van Otterloo**) **8/0**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: There was no Unfinished Business.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Committee Assignments.** There were no changes to Committee Assignments. They are as follows, with the Board President serving as ex officio on all committees:
 - a. Budget and Finance: Andrea Cullers, chair; Veda Boyd Jones; Heather Van Otterloo
 - b. Personnel: Jennifer Baldwin, chair; Emily Stanley
 - c. Building and Grounds: Jean Coltharp, chair; Lisa Erickson; Diane Reid Adams
2. **Sales Tax Legislation.** As Missouri legislators have introduced legislation that chips away at property tax revenue, Jeana advised Board members that there is another option: sales tax revenue. Several Missouri libraries are joining together to investigate legislation that would add the counties their libraries are located in to the existing law that lists only nine counties. There was a motion by Dr. Cullers to pursue sales tax legislation, with a second by Ms. Baldwin. The motion passed. **8/0**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Media Engagement

- Summer Reading Challenge
 - On May 28, [KSN](#) aired a story
 - On May 31, [KOAM](#) aired a story about the Tiny Library Desk Concert hosted at the Library by Youth Services.
 - On June 6, Christina Matekel-Gibson and Lori Crockett, plus three special guests, were on [KSN](#)'s Living Well.
 - On June 10, [KOAM](#) aired a story.

- On June 12, Lori Crockett was on Good Morning Four States.
 - On June 14, [KSN](#) aired a story about the pollinator crochet workshop presented by the Missouri Department of Conservation.
- On May 29, [The Joplin Globe](#) and [KZRG](#) shared details about an upcoming ribbon cutting for the new Storywalk story at Leonard Park.

Programs

- Thanks to Summer Reading being in full swing, there have been so many well-received programs. Here are just a few:
 - Tiny Library Desk, A JPL Teen Concert with teenager Keegan Wood on May 31; 30 attendees.
 - The Art of Sourdough on June 5 and 12; 34 attendees.
 - Glass Mosaic Art for teens on June 6; 26 attendees.
 - All Ages Art Night on June 10; 155 attendees.
 - Bee Crochet Workshop on June 14; 27 attendees.
- The Post Art Library's Summer Reading Art Challenge invites community members to create original artwork related to the "Color Our World" theme and return it to the Library by June 29 to be included in an exhibit. An opening reception will be held on July 10, at 5:30 pm.

Building & Grounds

- The Children's Department received several updates - eight new chairs, three reupholstered chairs, a new play carpet, and three newly-installed window seats.
- River rock was installed in the three landscaping beds in the parking lot.
- The Library received a \$50 restitution check from Larry Hart for the theft of the bench/statue.

Training

- I attended the Missouri Public Library Directors (MPLD) conference, which was held in Branson, on June 5 and 6. The slate of programs was themed around "Sustainability" and included advocacy, succession planning and investment topics.
- Circulation Assistants Abi Jones and Brinley Owens completed their training/paperwork and were authorized as Passport Acceptance Agents.

STATISTICS: Ms. Gaarder questioned the door count versus programming numbers. There was also discussion of Teen programming.

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:
 - Since the May 15 meeting, there has been one new membership and five renewals.
 - DreamHost will host the Friends website for free.

- May book sales netted \$1,186.39
- On June 2, there was a training session for five homebound delivery volunteers.
- Board members agreed there is no longer a reason to pursue a surety bond.
- Trivia night is tentatively scheduled for September 27.
- FOL book bags have been reordered.
- Mah Jong games are in the works.

The meeting adjourned at 4:47 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, July 15, 2025.