

**LIBRARY MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
16 JUNE 2026**

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

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Heather Van Otterloo.

Mary presented a plaque to outgoing Board Member Lisa Erickson that commemorated her nine years of service.

BOARD EDUCATION: None.

MINUTES: Minutes from the May 2026 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

VOUCHER: May non-salary expenditures in the amount of \$55,441.58 were approved. (Stanley/Erickson) 7/0

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Coffee Shop Committee (Ad Hoc).** Committee Members and Jeana have met with City Manager Nick Edwards and other City Department Heads. Ms. Gaarder presented a proposed addendum to the lease the Library signed with the City several years ago. The Board discussed plans to build a coffee shop at length. There was a motion by Dr. Coltharp to approve the lease addendum, with a second by Dr. Cullers. Members voted: 5 ayes, 1 nay and 1 abstention.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Christmas Holiday 2027.** Jeana has requested a four-day closure in 2027, from December 24-27, to accommodate Christmas falling on a Saturday. There was a motion by Dr. Gunderman to approve the December 2027 holiday schedule, with a second by Dr. Coltharp. Motion passed. 7/0

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jeana announced that Dr. Gunderman and Ms. Baldwin were reappointed to the Board by the City Council at last night's meeting. In other news, she reported that:

Media Engagement

- Summer Reading
 - On May 21, [KOAM](#) shared a story about Summer Reading.
 - On May 27, [KSN](#) aired a story.

- On June , Youth Services Librarian Christina Matekel-Gibson shared about Summer Reading on [KSN](#)'s Living Well.
- On June 11, Marketing/PR Assistant Lori Crockett shared about Summer Reading events on [KODE](#)'s Good Morning Four States.

Summer Reading Statistics

- May 26 (first day of SR):
 - 69 patrons renewed their SR cards; 28 new patrons registered with SR cards
 - 259 reading challenge registrations yesterday; overall, we have 598 people registered. This number includes those who pre-registered.
 - There were 1,593 checkouts, 935 check-ins and 378 checkout sessions
- May 31:
 - 622 children's registrations
 - 109 teen registrations
 - 365 adult registrations
 - Versus last year at this time, we had:
 - 489 children's registrations
 - 94 teen registrations
 - 124 adult registrations
- June 12:
 - We had 40 fewer people signed up so far for summer reading than we had all summer reading last year!

Programs

- The Brown Bag Travelogue program on June 3 had 23 adults in attendance.
- On June 9, there were 95 at the preschool playdate, 75 at the Missouri Department of Conservation program and all 20 teen kits were gone in less than an hour.
- In the first two weeks of summer reading, seven teen programs have been hosted, with 91 teens participating.

Grants

- The Library received a Lemons Trust award of \$2,000 to use for a website redesign.
- Justin Kelly submitted the final reports for the Tech Mini and Tech Ladder grants.

Building & Grounds

- Satterlee Plumbing & HVAC made a repair to HP1 units. Some wires were burnt out.

Training

- She attended the Missouri Public Library Directors (MPLD) conference, which was held in Poplar Bluff, June 3-6. The slate of programs included sessions on maximizing digital resources, investing options and advocacy.

STATISTICS: New patron cards are up compared with last year, Overdrive use has increased, and ILLs are strong. Teen numbers are looking great, too.

STAFF COMMENTS: None.

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

- May book sales netted \$1,021.00
- The homebound delivery program has signed up two new patrons.
- The Friends trivia fundraising night is Sept. 26.
- Oct. 15 is the annual meeting; the guest speaker will be the owner of the Joplin Carnegie Library building.
- The Board is still working on t-shirts.
- Oct. 10 is the Writers Faire; the Friends of the Library will donate \$500 to support it.
- The next Friends Board meeting is July 7.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no Public Comments.

The meeting adjourned at 5:02 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 21, 2026.