

**LIBRARY MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
17 JULY 2023**

The regular meeting of the Joplin Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by President Mary Gaarder. Board Members Andrea Cullers, Jim Fleischaker, Jean Coltharp, David Layne, Jennifer Baldwin and Diane Reid Adams, and Library Director Jeana Gockley were present.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Lisa Erickson and Emily Stanley.

BOARD EDUCATION: None.

MINUTES: Minutes from the June 2023 regular meeting were reviewed. There was a motion by Mr. Fleischaker to approve the minutes as presented, with a second by Ms. Baldwin. Motion passed. **6/0** Minutes from the June 2023 closed session were reviewed. There was a motion by Mr. Fleischaker to approve the minutes as presented, with a second by Dr. Reid Adams. Motion passed. **6/0**

VOUCHERS: June non-salary expenditures in the amount of \$40,118.76 were approved. **(Fleischaker/Coltharp) 6/0**

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Friends of the Library.** On behalf of Ms. Stanley, Jeana reported that the Friends of the Library membership celebration hosted more than 30 people. At least one-third of the membership has renewed. The after-hours trivia fund-raiser will be Sept. 23, and the Friends group is going to sponsor the JPL Writers Faire, as well.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Friends of the Library liaison.** President Gaarder announced that Dr. Reid Adams has volunteered to be the Board liaison, replacing Ms. Stanley. There was a motion by Ms. Baldwin to nominate Dr. Reid Adams, with a second by Dr. Coltharp. Motion passed. **6/0**
2. **Committee assignments.** The Board President queried Board Members on which committees they wished to serve on this coming year. All agreed to remain on their respective committees. The Board President serves as Ex Officio on all committees.
 - a. Budget and Finance: David Layne (chair), Jim Fleischaker, Andrea Cullers
 - b. Building and Grounds: Lisa Erickson (chair), Jean Coltharp, Diane Reid Adams
 - c. Personnel: Jennifer Baldwin (chair), Emily Stanley

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1. Public services policies.** The Board continued to review the policies. Dr. Cullers made a motion to approve Section D with the discussed modifications; second by Mr. Fleischaker; motion passed. **6/0** There was a motion by Mr. Fleischaker to approve the sections on Library Cards, Meeting and Study Rooms, Teen Services, and Displays and Artwork. Second by Mr. Layne. Motion passed. **6/0**

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT:

Media Engagement

- Summer Reading at JPL
 - On June 20, The Joplin Globe: As part of a promotional package purchased from the Joplin Globe, a sticky note with information about SR was on the front page, a fourth of a page write up about Library services was in section B, and digital ads were included with the online edition.
 - On June 21, Kevin Badgley from the Missouri Department of Conservation appeared on [KSN](#)'s Local News Today and shared information about their partnership with the Library for an escape room program for teens.
 - On June 22, [The Joplin Globe](#) shared about the Book Swap event in the "Five things to do this weekend" section.
 - On June 23, [The Joplin Globe](#) published a brief about the Library's escape room for adults.
 - On June 29, [The Joplin Globe](#) shared about the Camp Read-A-Lotta event in the "Five things to do this weekend" section.
 - On July 6, [The Joplin Globe](#) editorial board wrote a piece about supporting the Library's summer reading program.
 - On July 11, I shared about summer reading on [KSN](#)'s Living Well
 - On July 17, I shared about summer reading on [KODE](#)'s Good Morning Four States.
- Summer Lunches
 - On June 4, [KOAM](#) aired a story.
 - On June 5, [The Joplin Globe](#) published a brief.
 - On June 5, [KSN](#) aired a story.
 - On July 13, [KSN](#) aired a piece on the Library's "Reflections of Hunger" artwork exhibit.

Summer Reading

- Continued kudos to Library staff who have been working so hard to provide a welcoming environment during a very busy 2023 Summer Reading Program (SRP). The program winds down this weekend, with an ending celebration on Saturday, from 11 to 1 pm.
 - 1,290 individuals are registered for the SRP and 838 have finished a level/earned a prize (a 64% completion rate).
 - 1,137 new registrations (including SRP), with 610 active SRP cards and 317 are new to the Library. Registrations are up 26% over the same period last year

Programs

- In June, Makerspace staff partnered with the Teen Services Librarian to host two programs. “Jewelry Making with Jen” on June 13 had thirty-nine in attendance and “Sew to Share” on June 22 had eleven attending.
- On June 27, one hundred-twenty individuals attended an all ages interactive sing along movie.
- Escape Rooms at the Library have been a hit this summer! On June 29, the Teen Services Librarian offered one in collaboration with the Missouri Department of Conservation. Thirty-two teens participated. On July 6, the adult services coordinator hosted one in partnership with Escape Joplin. Fifty-four adults participated.
- July’s “Reflections of Hunger” art exhibit had a turnout of one hundred-sixteen at the opening reception on June 29.
- July 14, the Children’s Department hosted Mad Science of Greater Kansas City, with sixty-seven in attendance.
- Thanks to a partnership with Joplin Schools, lunch for children is being provided at the Library until August 11.

Miscellaneous

- On July 13, Judge Hensley found there to be enough evidence for the suspected bench/statue thief to be bound over for trial. I served as a witness on behalf of the Library, and Detective Watkins testified on behalf of the Joplin Police Department.
- The Library was awarded two local grants. One in the amount of \$2,160 from the Frederick and Rebecca Hughes Charitable Trust to provide new 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten bags. And one in the amount of \$1,000 from the Freeman Johnson Charitable Trust to purchase new items for the Library of Things collection.

STATISTICS: There was discussion of Teen statistics and program attendance. Gate count and meeting room and study room use are up compared with last year.

STAFF COMMENTS: None.

BOARD COMMENTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

The meeting adjourned at 5:16 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, 17 July 2023.