

**LIBRARY MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
21 JULY 2026**

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 Heather Van Otterloo, Mikh Gunderman, Veda Boyd Jones, Jean Coltharp, Jennifer Baldwin, and Eric Deatherage, and Library Director Jeana Gockley were present.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Emily Stanley and Andrea Cullers.

Mary welcomed new Library Board Member Eric Deatherage.

BOARD EDUCATION: None.

MINUTES: Minutes from the June 2026 regular meeting were reviewed. There was a motion by Ms. Boyd Jones to approve the minutes as presented, with a second by Dr Gunderman. Motion passed. 6/0 Minutes from the June 2026 closed session were reviewed. There was a motion by Ms. Boyd Jones to approve the minutes as presented, with a second by Dr Gunderman. Motion passed. 6/0

VOUCHER: June non-salary expenditures in the amount of \$53,838.95 were approved. (Baldwin/Van Otterloo) 6/0

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Coffee Shop Committee (Ad Hoc).** President Gaarder presented the committee's Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Board's examination. Members asked questions and discussed the document. There was a motion by Dr. Coltharp to send the RFP to an attorney, followed by City officials; afterward, the Board will re-examine it. Seconded by Ms. Baldwin. Motion passed. 6/0

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Designating Board Officers.** Board Members agreed to table this matter until next month's meeting.
2. **Committee Appointments.** Board Members agreed to table this matter until next month's meeting.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Jeana reported that:

Media Engagement

- American Indian Center of Springfield programming event on July 2
 - On July 2, [KSN](#) aired a story
 - On July 2, [KODE](#) aired a story
- On July 7, she shared about the Summer Meals partnership on [KSN](#)'s Living Well.
- On July 9, Marketing/PR Assistant Lori Crockett shared about Summer Meals and the Library's SR Ending Celebration on [KODE](#)'s Good Morning Four States.

- On July 16, Marketing/PR Assistant Lori Crockett added a social media post about Youth Services Librarian Christina Matekel-Gibson being “Fired” up about the ending celebration. It received a whopping 232,000 views!

Programs

- Joplin Schools started serving Summer Meals onsite on July 6. So far around 330 meals have been served.
- During July, Adult Programming Coordinator Sarah Grace hosted two music-themed programs that had 64 people in attendance and two craft-themed ones that had 87 people in attendance.
- Summer Reading wrapped up on Sunday, July 19. Youth Services Librarian Christina Matekel-Gibson will provide an end of summer update at August’s meeting.

Outreach

- She threw out the first pitch at the Joplin Jailbirds Library Night baseball game on June 24.
- On July 17, Lori Crockett and Eden Kendall represented the Library at an Incoming Student Resource Fair for Medical Students at the KCU campus. Eighty-four students registered for a library card.

Building & Grounds

- After having an issue with clogged gutters, IT & Facilities Manager Justin Kelly and Custodian Brian Brown worked to trim several trees away from the building and pressure wash gutters.
- The City Maintenance team changed HVAC filters at the end of June, this is done every six months. Also, a technician from Satterlee HVAC & Plumbing was onsite to change all the OAP filters on July 15.
- The red Jorge Leyva sculpture is being repainted by A+ Decor. Thanks to Friends of the Joplin Public Library for funding this project!

Personnel

- Reference Librarian Patty Crane is retiring on August 1. A public reception will be held in her honor on July 31, from 1 to 3 pm.
- Samantha Monk was hired as Reference Librarian. Her first day was July 13.

STATISTICS: The Board discussed door count, study room usage, and Teen program attendance. Jeana pointed out that June 2026 door count was higher than June 2025.

STAFF COMMENTS: None.

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

- June book sales took in \$1,331.04.
- No changes in the homebound delivery program.
- Oct. 15 is the annual membership meeting.
- Sept. 26 is the trivia fund-raiser.

- A slogan for the FOL shirts has been selected. After they are printed, the shirts will be sold for \$20.
- Aug. 4 is the next FOL Board meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no Public Comments.

The meeting adjourned at 5:14 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, August 18, 2026.