

**LIBRARY MINUTES  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY  
20 AUGUST 2024**

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

**EXCUSED ABSENCES:** None

**BOARD EDUCATION:** Children's Librarian Christina Matekel-Gibson provided a Summer Reading 2024 wrap-up. There were 3,135 program attendees, and 1,503 participated in the reading challenge. This all-ages program saw growth and record numbers in some categories this year, due to collaborating with our community partners and with each other, and prioritizing connections with patrons.

**MINUTES:** Minutes from the July 2024 regular meeting were reviewed. There was a motion by Ms. Erickson to approve the minutes, with a second by Ms. Stanley. Motion passed. **8/0** Minutes from the July 2024 closed session were reviewed. There was a motion by Ms. Stanley to approve the minutes as presented, with a second by Dr. Coltharp. Motion passed. **8/0**

**VOUCHERS:** July non-salary expenditures in the amount of \$54,849.81 were approved. **(Baldwin/Jones) 8/0**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS: Budget and Finance.** Dr. Cullers reported on the Aug. 13 meeting. The committee and Jeana presented the proposed FY24-25 budget to the Board. There was discussion of revenues and expenses. A 6 percent cost of living allowance for all staff was proposed. There was a motion by Dr. Cullers to accept the FY24-25 budget as presented, with a second by Dr. Coltharp. Motion passed. **8/0**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. **Tax levy hearing.** By law, the Library must have a tax levy hearing annually. The current rate is .2459 cents, with the same rate proposed for 2025. The Joplin City Council will also have a hearing on Aug. 26<sup>th</sup>. There was a motion by Ms. Jones to accept the .2459 rate, with a second by Dr. Reid Adams. Motion passed. **8/0**
2. **Update on signatory resolution.** This resolution outlines who can sign official documents in the absence of other Board Members. There was a motion by Dr. Van

Otterloo to approve the updated resolution, with a second by Ms. Stanley. Motion passed. 8/0

3. **Library Director's goal-setting.** There was preliminary brainstorming of goals for the Director.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

### **Media Engagement**

- On July 23, [The Joplin Globe](#) shared a story about the hiring of Teen Services Librarian Jill Williams.
- On July 24, [The Joplin Globe](#) shared about the LEGO Club event in their "5 things to do" section.
- On August 3, [KOAM](#) and [The Joplin Globe](#) shared information about the Writers' Faire booth applications being open.
- On August 6, Lori Crockett talked about Libby and downloading ebooks on [Living Well](#).
- On August 8, Lori Crockett shared about e-book resources on [KODE](#)'s Good Morning Four States.
- On August 20, [The Joplin Globe](#) printed an article about the Ozark Center's "Reflections of Hunger" exhibit that will be at the Library on September 5. The deadline for artwork submission is August 30.

### **Programs**

- Summer Reading Program Wrap Up: Participation numbers for the Library's summer reading challenge largely increased in 2024. Overall, 948 children participated, 123 teens participated, and 432 adults participated, for a total of 1,503, as compared to 1,331 in 2023. Participation numbers increased by almost 200 people for the Children's program and almost 40 for the adult challenge. Completion rates for all three age groups averaged about 55%. Total programs hosted were 81 with 3,135 people attending.
- The Library is accepting applications to fill booths for the 2024 Joplin Writers' Faire, an event scheduled for Saturday, October 12 from 10 am - 1 pm inside the Library. Applications opened Thursday, August 1st and will close Saturday, August 31st. The 2024 Joplin Writers' Faire is a collaboration between Joplin Public Library, Friends of the Joplin Public Library, and Post Art Library.

### **Building & Grounds**

- Four new reading nooks were installed on July 19 in the Children's Department. They were custom built by MSW Inc, and coordinate with other furnishings in the Children's Department. Many thanks to the Library staff who helped move them into place.
- The Library's pollinator garden is thriving. The garden was installed last fall thanks to help from Chert Glades Missouri Master Naturalist and native plant enthusiast Val Frankoski and twenty volunteers who helped with the planting. Jolene Alexander, a volunteer with Friends of the JPL, is generously caring for the garden.
- Heat Pump 4 - Condenser 2 - Compressors 1 and 2 were replaced. Also, two condensate pumps on Heat Pump 4 were replaced due to bad bearings (units FCU 4.1 and FCU 4.3).

**STATISTICS:** There was discussion of circulation of digital media and meeting room uses.

**STAFF COMMENTS:** There were no Staff Comments.

**BOARD COMMENTS:** Dr. Reid Adams provided a Friends of the Library report. She shared that there will be a FOL trivia fund-raiser on Sept. 28.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** There were no Public Comments.

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Written by

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Administrative Assistant

Approved by

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Library Director

The next regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Joplin Public Library will be held at 4 p.m. Tuesday, September 17, 2024.