

**LIBRARY MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
16 SEPTEMBER 2025**

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, Heather Van Otterloo, Jennifer Baldwin, Veda Boyd Jones, Jean Coltharp, and Andrea Cullers, and Library Director Jeana Gockley were present.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: Lisa Erickson.

BOARD EDUCATION: None.

MINUTES: Minutes from the August 2025 regular meeting were reviewed. There was a motion by Dr. Coltharp to approve the minutes as presented, with a second by Dr. Van Otterloo. Motion passed. **6/0**

VOUCHER: August non-salary expenditures in the amount of \$61,032.40 were approved. **(Cullers/Coltharp) 6/0**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **FY26 Proposed Budget.** Board Members discussed details of the proposed budget for FY26. Budget and Finance Committee Chair Dr. Cullers reviewed a few key points, including that staff would receive a 5% cost of living adjustment. There was a motion by Dr. Cullers to approve the proposed FY26 budget, with a second by Ms. Baldwin. Motion passed. **6/0**

NEW BUSINESS:

1. **Friends of the Library Board Liaison.** Ms. Boyd Jones has agreed to serve as the Library Board liaison to the Friends of the Library.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Media Engagement

- On September 21, [KSN](#) aired a story about the Library's Hispanic Heritage Month display and resources.
- On September 2, I shared about the Library's new computers on [KSN's](#) Living Well.
- On September 11, Lori Crockett shared about fall programming on [KOAM's](#) Good Morning Four States.

Programs

- Youth Services and the Makerspace hosted a collaborative "Journals with Jen" program on September 5; with twelve teens attended.
- September's Chat & Craft "Pressed Flower Jar" program had 15 attendees.
- Applications for the 2025 Writers' Faire closed on August 31; we have 51 applicants.

Building & Grounds

- Dan Johnson, the City's Director of Public Works, visited the library on September 3 to look at the parking lot pavers and the issue with sinking. His team speculated that the pavers might have a defect, leading to their breaking apart. He will work with the team at the City to reach out to the company that provided the bricks.
- Five volunteers from Ozark Christian College helped prune and weed the Library's pollination garden on September 12.

Personnel

- Senior Technical Services Assistant Missy Gilbert celebrated her 20 year anniversary with the Library!
- Jessica Morris was hired as a part-time Custodian. Her first day was Sept. 2.

STATISTICS: There was discussion of numbers for teen programming, study rooms, meeting rooms, circulation, and adult programming.

STAFF COMMENTS: Jeana reported for Friends of the Library:

- Mah jong is happening soon! The first event will be Oct. 13 at 1:30 p.m.
- The trivia night fund-raiser is Sept. 27; the theme is wrestling, with local wrestler Barry Linduff serving as the event MC.
- The annual Friends membership meeting is Thursday, Oct. 23 at 5:30 p.m.
- The next Friends Board meeting is Oct. 14.

BOARD COMMENTS:

- Ms. Baldwin reported that IMLS has cleared a legislative hurdle: Senate and House Appropriations approved the budget, with \$180 million in grants to states. However, final news will not be known until November.
- Ms. Stanley has gained a valuable contact with Allo Fiber.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no Public Comments.

The meeting adjourned at 4:42 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, October 21, 2025.