

**LIBRARY MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
26 MARCH 2024**

The regular meeting of the Joplin Public Library Board of Trustees was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by President Mary Gaarder. Board Members Emily Stanley, Jim Fleischaker, Andrea Cullers, Lisa Erickson, Jean Coltharp, Diane Reid Adams and, and Library Director Jeana Gockley were present.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: David Layne and Jennifer Baldwin.

BOARD EDUCATION: There was no Board Education.

MINUTES: Minutes from the February 2024 regular meeting were reviewed. There was a motion by Dr. Reid Adams to approve the minutes, with a second by Ms. Stanley. Motion passed. **6/0**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. **Investments Interest.** Troy Stovern from True North presented to the Board on the Library's investment accounts and answered questions.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

1. **Personnel.** In the absence of Chair Jennifer Baldwin, there was no report. The committee will meet again April.
2. **Building and Grounds.** Dan Johnson, Public Works Director of the City of Joplin, was in attendance to answer Board questions. Committee Chair Dr. Coltharp reported that:
 - a. Replacing the pavers in the parking lot is likely the best option, over laying down asphalt or concrete. The current quote per row is \$8,100, but Mr. Johnson is going to provide more names for quotes.
 - b. The pavers are sinking on the east side of the building as well. The committee decided to see if they could be fixed. If not, concrete will be laid down instead of pavers.
 - c. Jeana has two quotes for replacing the tunnels in the Children's Department with reading nooks, one for \$4,000 with a local company. Dr. Coltharp motion that the Board accept the \$4,000 bid for the reading nooks, with a second by Ms. Stanley. Motion passed. **6/0**
 - d. Jeana and IT Manager Justin Kelly recently met with Springfield, Missouri, architectural firm Dake-Wells about creating a five-year plan for building maintenance. The intent is to identify what needs fixing now, as well as future

needs. The cost would be \$17,000. There was a motion by Dr. Coltharp to move forward with the bid, with a second by Mr. Fleischaker. Motion passed. **6/0**

VOUCHERS: February non-salary expenditures in the amount of \$55,868.65 were approved. (Coltharp/Erickson) **6/0**

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Public Participation Policy.** The Board approved the current policy in September 2023. In addition to the current JPL policy, Board Members examined a similar policy from Cape Girardeau Public Library. They opted to table the discussion until next month's meeting.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT:

Media Engagement

- On February 28, [The Joplin Globe](#) shared about the Library's Yoga event in their "5 things to do this weekend" section.
- Joplin Reads Together
 - On March 3, [The Joplin Globe](#) shared an "Our View: Libraries Help Building Sense of Community" editorial about the Library and the JRT event.
 - On March 3, Sarah Turner-Hill's [The Joplin Globe](#) book review shared information about JRT and Alka Joshi's visit.
 - On March 3, [KOAM](#) aired a story.
 - On March 5, Sarah Turner-Hill shared about the event on KSN's Living Well.
 - On March 14, Lori Crockett shared about the event on [KODE](#)'s Good Morning Four States.
- On March 13, [The Joplin Globe](#) shared about the Library's Yoga event in their "5 things to do this weekend" section.
- On March 18, [The Joplin Globe](#) shared information about the Library's zen garden take home kit for adults.

Programs

- Book Swap on March 16 was held downtown at Joplin Avenue Coffee. The place was packed with 73 people exchanging books and chatting.
- The Children's Department's first-ever Pokemon Party on March 16 was well-received, with 177 people participating. Kudos to the department for moving forward the brainchild of a young library patron after he shared his idea for a Pokemon-themed event.

Personnel

- Four part-time library assistants were hired to work in the Circulation Department. Hazel Overman started February 12, Bobbi Comer and Laurie Sullens started March 14, and Abigail Jones started on March 25.
- After eight years of passionate service to Library and its patrons, Teen Services Librarian Beth Snow's final day with the Library was March 5.

Miscellaneous

- The Library hosted the Leadership Joplin class of 2024 on March 14. Attendees learned about education-based topics throughout the day and were given a tour of the Library.

STATISTICS: The Board discussed door count and circulation from February 2023 versus February 2024.

STAFF COMMENTS: There were no Staff Comments.

BOARD COMMENTS:

1. Dr. Reid Adams gave a Friends of the Library report on the group’s projected goals and expenses from November 2023-November 2024. She also announced that there would be a members-only Joplin Reads Together event called Taste of India, on April 18, when Friends members may sample food from a local Indian restaurant.
2. Ms. Stanley reported on the Joplin Regional Foundation and that this year Dorothy and Bob Willcoxon would be honored with a dinner and other activities. The dinner is April 11 and tickets are \$100. Library staff and Board Members are invited to attend.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no Public Comments.

The meeting adjourned at 5:52 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, April 16, 2024.