

**LIBRARY MINUTES
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
JOPLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
16 APRIL 2024**

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 Emily Stanley, Jim Fleischaker, Andrea Cullers, Jennifer Baldwin, Jean Coltharp, Diane Reid Adams and, and Library Director Jeana Gockley were present.

EXCUSED ABSENCES: David Layne and Lisa Erickson.

BOARD EDUCATION: There was no Board Education.

MINUTES: Minutes from the March 2024 regular meeting were reviewed. There was a motion by Dr. Coltharp to approve the minutes, with a second by Mr. Fleischaker. Motion passed. **6/0**

VOUCHERS: March non-salary expenditures in the amount of \$75,868.70 were approved. **(Coltharp/Reid Adams) 6/0**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- 1. Public Participation Policy.** The Board reviewed the Library’s public participation policy that was approved in September 2023, as well as Cape Girardeau Public Library’s policy. They discussed revisions of JPL’s policy and will re-examine them next month.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- 1. Personnel.** Ms. Baldwin reported on two Personnel Committee meetings. The Committee had asked the Director: a.) how best to reward long-term employees; and b) how to adequately compensate employees via the salary schedule. The Committee examined longevity pay and benefits and proposed increasing the pay. There was a motion by Dr. Coltharp to approve the longevity pay proposal, as well as have the Director add it to the FY25 budget. Second by Mr. Fleischaker. Motion passed. **6/0**

NEW BUSINESS: None.

LIBRARIAN’S REPORT:

Media Engagement

- Children’s LEGO Club
 - On March 27, [The Joplin Globe](#) shared about the event in their “5 things to do this weekend” section.
 - On March 30, [KSN](#) aired a story about the event.

- Joplin Reads Together
 - On March 30, April 2 and 6, The Joplin Globe shared a listing of events related to JRT.
 - On April 3, [The Joplin Globe](#) shared about the Library's book discussion event in their "5 things to do this weekend" section. Plus, included detailed information about The Henna Artist author visit.
 - On April 11, Lori Crockett shared about the events on [KODE](#)'s Good Morning Four States.
- Health & Wellness - Library of Things
 - On April 1, [The Joplin Globe](#) published an article about the new category of items.
 - On April 1, [KOAM](#) aired a story.
 - On April 11, Lori Crockett shared about the collection on [KODE](#)'s Good Morning Four States.
- On April 1, [KOAM](#) aired a story about the Friends of the Library's Spring for a Book fundraising campaign.
- On April 4, [KSN](#) aired a story about Solar-bration, the partnership between the Library and the Creative Learning Alliance to celebrate the eclipse.

Programs

- On April 13, the Joplin Reads Together Plant Swap event had seventy attendees.
- As part of the Creative Learning Alliance's Solar-bration, Children's Library Assistant Kelsey Phipps conducted a Storytime at their location on Sunday, April 7.
- The Children's Department's Chapter Book Club: STEM Edition wrapped up on Monday April 15. The chapter book club, for kids ages 8-12, focused on a STEM-related story and activities, with each participant receiving a copy of *Rosie Revere and the Raucous Riveters* by Andrea Beaty. Participants discussed the book and took inspiration from Rosie and her friends to conduct their own experiments.

Personnel

- Ronny Reddell was hired as the Library's part-time custodian. His first day was March 28.
- Justin Kelly has taken on the additional role of Facilities Manager. Moving forward he will serve as the Library's "Information Technology & Facilities Manager" and in addition to his IT manager duties, he will be responsible for overseeing and managing facilities and grounds-related activities.

Miscellaneous

- Public Relations and Marketing Assistant Lori Crockett made an "April Fools" themed social media post about the Library starting to shelve all books by color on April 1. People loved it! Facebook showed a reach of 70,483, engagement of 4,607, 1,449 reactions, 81 comments and 67 shares.
- The Library is excited to host "Billy" the Rock Snake out front. This community art project was started by high school student Alex and his siblings. Library users are encouraged to paint a rock and add it to the collection.

- On April 1, the Library launched a new Health & Wellness category as part of the Library of Things collection, thanks to a Bramlage & Willcoxon Foundation Grant. Twenty new items were purchased for the newly added category, including a professional grade carpet cleaner, a blood pressure monitor, light therapy lamp and exercise equipment.
- The Library received a comment on library resources on March 23, about *The Wind Began to Howl I*, a piece of artwork in the Bramlage & Willcoxon Foundation Gallery. The print was on loan from Spiva's permanent collection. The committee found that the artwork should not be considered for removal and mailed their findings in a response to the commenter.

STATISTICS: There was discussion of discarded materials, door counts, and patron registrations.

STAFF COMMENTS: There were no Staff Comments.

BOARD COMMENTS:

1. Dr. Reid Adams gave a Friends of the Library report.
2. Ms. Stanley reported on the Joplin Regional Foundation event that honored Dorothy and Robert Willcoxon. Library administrative staff and department heads attended..

PUBLIC COMMENTS: There were no Public Comments.

The meeting adjourned at 5:17 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, May 21, 2024.