

# Jefferson-Madison Regional Library

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## APPROVED

### MINUTES OF THE MARCH 24, 2025 MEETING OF THE LIBRARY'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

#### TRUSTEES PRESENT

President Tony Townsend (Albemarle)  
Meredith Cole (Charlottesville)  
Brandy Polanowski (Louisa)  
Michael Powers (Albemarle)  
Siri Russell (Charlottesville)

Vice President Aleta Childs (Nelson)  
Martha Ledford (Greene)  
Peter Morville (Albemarle)  
Anne Hemenway (Charlottesville)

#### OTHERS PRESENT

David Plunkett, Library Director  
EJ Dowling, Greene County Library Branch Manager

Sierra Nafziger, Collection Specialist

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#### CALL TO ORDER, REMOTE PARTICIPATION CONFIRMATION, & DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The regular monthly meeting of the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library's (JMRL) Board of Trustees was convened on Monday, March 24, 2025 at 3:00 PM, at the Greene County Library (222 Main Street Suite 101, Stanardsville, VA 22973), and live streamed using videoconferencing software. (A recording of the meeting is available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OdiU3CKbBfU>.) Trustee Polanowski moved that Trustee Meredith Cole's request to attend today's meeting of the JMRL Board remotely due to a personal matter, specifically work obligations, be approved. Motion passed unanimously. Trustee Polanowski moved to accept the minutes for the February 24, 2025 Board Meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

No announcements. No public comments.

#### TRUSTEE CONTINUING EDUCATION

EJ Dowling, Greene County Library Branch Manager, presented to the Board information on the Greene County Library Cookbook Bookclub program.

#### COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS

##### *1. Fines and Fees Working Group Report*

Trustee Polanowski reported that the Fines and Fees Working Group met and discussed the goal of the working group, possible evaluation metrics, and potential timeframes for any next steps. The Fines and Fees Working Group will meet again next month, on April 14, 2025. The Fines and Fees Working Group will also focus on removing barriers to access, as well as defining what that means.

#### OLD BUSINESS

##### *1. FY24 Audit Update*

Director Plunkett reported that the FY24 Audit is finished and with the auditors. Director Plunkett also reported that the JMRL FY24 Audit showed no findings and showed no money owed back to the jurisdictions. There was no current draft of the JMRL FY24 Audit for the Board to review. Director Plunkett stated that an auditor could be scheduled to appear before the Board to discuss the JMRL FY24 Audit findings, once available, if the Board is interested. The Board expressed no concerns at this time, but did express possible interest for next year, as well as every five years going forward.

## *2. Hartman Estate Distribution*

Director Plunkett announced that JMRL has received a third, and final, disbursement from the Hartman Estate of \$70,000. Director Plunkett's recommendation to the Board is that the check be deposited in the Art and Jane Hess fund of the Friends of the Library Family of Funds at the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation. Discussion ensued. Trustee Hemenway moved that JMRL deposit the third interim distribution of \$70,000 from the estate of J. Leonard Hartman to the Art and Jane Hess Fund of the Friends of the Library Family of Funds at the Charlottesville Area Community Foundation. Motion passed unanimously.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### *1. FY26 Schedule of Library Closings*

Trustee Powers moved that the Board accept the 2025-2026 Schedule of Library Closings as proposed. Motion passed unanimously.

### *2. Board Self-Evaluation*

President Townsend presented to the Board the results of the Board Self-Evaluation. Director Plunkett announced that the results of the Board Self-Evaluation were also available in the Board handouts and on the JMRL website. Discussion ensued.

## **LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Plunkett reported that all five jurisdictions have FY26 Draft Budgets that include full funding for JMRL. Voting and adoptions of the FY26 Draft Budget will start in April 2025 and end in June 2025. Director Plunkett also reported that JMRL FY26 Equipment requests have come in to the administrative staff. The Budget Committee will potentially meet in May 2025 to discuss FY26 Equipment requests, which will be voted on and appended to the finalized FY26 Budget by the full Board in June 2025. Director Plunkett announced that September 5, 2025 marks the 75th anniversary of the Swanson Case that was tried in the Swanson Case Courtroom at the Central Library. JMRL is working with a group from the Bar Association, the UVA Law Library, Charlottesville-Albemarle Historical Society, the NAACP, and the Jefferson School for program planning. Director Plunkett reminded the Board that the Friends of the Library Spring Book Sale is April 5-13, 2025, with members' only night being April 4, 2025. Director Plunkett received questions last weekend regarding the President's Executive Order eliminating the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) and what it means for JMRL. Director Plunkett reported that JMRL receives no direct funding from IMLS, but does get broad support from the Library of Virginia that receives direct federal funding from IMLS, which does not include State Aid. A major service that is funded by IMLS via the Library of Virginia that might potentially be impacted is FindIt Virginia, which includes online databases such as Novelist, Homework Help, Universal Class, Universal Language, and more. The Scottsville Library's Food Pantry is now up and running. Director Plunkett announced that Albemarle County is working on a new comprehensive plan, which includes objectives for library services. Director Plunkett will be away from JMRL all of next week.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

NA

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Possible future agenda items include a FY26 Budget Update, a Policy Committee report, a Technology Committee report, a Fines and Fees Working Group report, and a Five-year Plan Review update. The next Board Meeting will be April 28, 2025 at the Nelson Memorial Library.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:06pm.

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