

# Jefferson-Madison Regional Library

201 East Market Street | Charlottesville, Virginia 22902 | (434) 979-7151 | FAX (434) 971-7035

## APPROVED

### MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 25, 2025 MEETING OF THE LIBRARY'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

#### TRUSTEES PRESENT

President Aleta Childs (Nelson)  
Meredith Cole (Charlottesville)  
Tony Townsend (Albemarle)  
Michael Powers (Albemarle)

Vice President Brandy Polanowski (Louisa)  
Martha Ledford (Greene)  
Peter Morville (Albemarle)  
Anne Hemenway (Charlottesville)

#### TRUSTEES ABSENT

Siri Russell (Charlottesville)

#### OTHERS PRESENT

David Plunkett, Library Director  
Jerry Carchedi, Business Manager  
Megan Smead, Children's Services Manager

Krista Farrell, Assistant Library Director  
Sierra Nafziger, Collection Specialist  
Heather Peh nec, Young Adult Services Manager

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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, August 25, 2025 at 3:00 PM, at the Northside Library (705 West Rio Rd, Charlottesville, VA 22901), and live streamed using videoconferencing software. (A recording of the meeting is available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=anBY3Dyo5BA>.) Trustee Ledford moved that Trustee Brandy Polanowski's request to attend today's meeting of the JMRL Board remotely due to a temporary or permanent disability or other medical condition that prevents physical attendance be approved. Motion passed unanimously. Trustee Hemenway moved to accept the minutes for the July 28, 2025 Board Meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

#### ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

Director Plunkett announced that Trustee Cole was reappointed by the City of Charlottesville for a second term on the Library Board, lasting until June 30, 2029. Director Plunkett also announced that Trustee Russell had her baby last week. Trustee Cole announced that UVA is working with the Library to launch a speaker series this fall called U Ask, UVA Answers. The series will be held at the Central Library on the second Sunday of every month. The first session will be on grief and end of life, the second will be on dementia, and the third will be on AI and self-driving cars.

#### TRUSTEE CONTINUING EDUCATION

Heather Peh nec, JMRL's Young Adult Services Manager, and Megan Smead, JMRL's Children Services Manager, presented to the Board information on JMRL's 2025 Summer Reading Challenge. JMRL's 2025 Summer Reading Challenge was the most successful Summer Reading Challenge in at least the last twenty years.

#### COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS

##### *1. Policy Committee Report*

The Policy Committee met prior to the Board meeting and discussed Policy 4.61 (Monticello Avenue Community Information Network), a potential Makerspace policy, Policy 1.23 (JMRL Board Committees), and Policy 1.7 (Records Retention). Policy 4.61 (Monticello Avenue Community Information Network) will be presented to the Board in New Business. JMRL's potential Makerspace Policy, Policy 1.23 (JMRL Board Committees), and Policy 1.7 (Records Retention) are still undergoing review. Trustee Powers reported that Policy 1.23 (JMRL Board Committees) will potentially be presented to the Board in October for a first reading.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

### *1. JMRL Overdue Fines Discussion*

Director Plunkett shared with the Board a recap of gathered information, metrics, and data from the Fines and Fees Working Group. Director Plunkett also shared a potential three year plan for funding JMRL equipment in the event of loss of revenue by removing overdue fines. Discussion ensued regarding potential removal of JMRL overdue fines. The Board will potentially vote on the removal of JMRL overdue fines next month.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### *1. Potential First Reading for Removal of JMRL Policy 4.61 (Monticello Avenue Community Information Network)*

Policy 4.61 (Monticello Avenue Community Information Network) was presented to the Board for a first reading. Trustee Powers reported that the Policy Committee is recommending the Board vote to remove Policy 4.61. Policy 4.61 will be presented to the Board next month for a potential vote of removal.

### *2. Virginia Commission for the Arts Grant Acceptance*

Trustee Hemenway moved that JMRL accept the Virginia Commission for the Arts Touring Artists granted allocation of up to \$600 and authorize the expenditure of that funding for the support of library services. Motion passed unanimously.

## **LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Plunkett reminded the Board that on Friday, September 5, 2025 at 2pm there is an event at the Central Library for the 75th Anniversary of the Swanson v. UVA Court Case. JMRL will host a series of speakers, with refreshments provided afterward. The UVA Law Library will also have a walking tour on Saturday, September 6, 2025, with required registration. Director Plunkett reported that he met with the Charlottesville City Council and the Albemarle County Budget staff and discussed the Central Library Renovation project. Both groups have planned funding for architecture and engineering for the Central Library Renovation Project in their Capital Improvement Plan for next year. The Louisa County Library served over 6,000 meals as part of the Louisa County Public School's Summer Community Meals Program. JMRL's All-Staff Training Day is Monday, October 13, 2025 and will be at the Hillsdale Conference Center in Charlottesville; Trustees are invited to attend. Director Plunkett reported that JMRL will be partnering with the radio station 106.1 The Corner, who will present live broadcasts each month at each JMRL location, starting with the Central Library in September 2025.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

NA

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Possible future agenda items include a potential vote on Policy 4.61 (Monticello Avenue Community Information Network), a potential vote on JMRL Overdue Fines Removal, a Continuing Education from the State Library on the survey results on the use of AI in Public Libraries, and the Board will also set Budgetary Priorities for the FY27 Budget. The next Board Meeting will be September 22, 2025 at the Northside Library.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 4:18pm.

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