

Jefferson-Madison Regional Library

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APPROVED

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 22, 2025 MEETING OF THE LIBRARY'S BOARD OF TRUSTEES

TRUSTEES PRESENT

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

Anne Hemenway (Charlottesville)
Martha Ledford (Greene)
Peter Morville (Albemarle)

TRUSTEES ABSENT

President Aleta Childs (Nelson)

Siri Russell (Charlottesville)

OTHERS PRESENT

David Plunkett, Library Director
Jerry Carchedi, Business Manager

Sierra Nafziger, Collection Specialist
Barry Trott, Adult Services Consultant, Library of Virginia

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, September 22, 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=Gz2Oa9RL8Lg>.) Trustee Townsend moved to accept the minutes for the August 25, 2025 Board Meeting as presented. Motion passed unanimously.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

Director Plunkett announced that Sierra Nafziger will be on leave for the next several Board meetings, starting next month, and that Krista Farrell will be stepping in as Board Secretary until Sierra returns. No public comments.

TRUSTEE CONTINUING EDUCATION

Barry Trott, Adult Services Consultant from the Library of Virginia, presented to the Board AI in Virginia Public Libraries Survey Results. Surveys went out to Virginia library directors and library staff. Director Plunkett announced that JMRL currently has a staff working group talking about the use of AI in public libraries.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS AND REPORTS

NA

OLD BUSINESS

1. *Second 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 last month for a first reading. Trustee Powers reported that the Policy Committee's recommendation is to remove Policy 4.61 (Monticello Avenue Community Information Network), which would no longer require JMRL staff to offer this service and would enable JMRL staff to transition current users to other services. Trustee Townsend moved to remove Policy 4.61 (Monticello Avenue Community Information Network) from the JMRL Policy Manual. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and Potential Motion and Vote for the Removal of JMRL Fines for Most Overdue Materials Beginning July 1, 2026

Trustee Morville moved that JMRL cease collecting late fines for most overdue materials beginning July 1, 2026, with any exceptions outlined in JMRL Policy: Section 4.225, Circulation Fines and Fees. Motion passed unanimously. JMRL Policy: Section 4.225, Circulation Fines and Fees will be added to the Board Agenda before July 1, 2026 for review.

2. FY27 JMRL Budgetary Priorities

Director Plunkett presented suggestions for potential JMRL Board Budget Priorities for FY27, which included 1) Secure funding to continue positive progression on JMRL's pay scale, 2) Secure funding from Albemarle and Charlottesville for the Architecture and Engineering phase of the Central Library renovation project, 3) Secure funding for FY27 equipment needs, and 4) Secure funding to maintain current levels of library service in the region. The Personnel Committee is scheduled to meet next week to discuss JMRL personnel requests. The Budget Committee will be meeting at the end of October 2025. Trustee Townsend moved that the Board adopt these four priorities as Budget Priorities for FY27. Motion passed unanimously.

LIBRARY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Plunkett reported that the JMRL Friends of the Library annual Fall Book Sale will be October 4-12, 2025, at the Albemarle Square Shopping Center (300 Albemarle Square), with member's night being Friday, October 3, 2025. The Paramount Theater on the Charlottesville Downtown Mall will be showing the documentary film "The Librarians" on Wednesday, October 8, 2025. After the film there will be a conversation with Lisa Varga, the Associate Executive Director of the American Library Association's Public Policy and Advocacy Office in Washington, D.C., and Director Plunkett. JMRL will meet with executive departments from Charlottesville, Albemarle, Greene, Louisa, and Nelson for a pre-budget meeting, which will be held the week of October 6, 2025. Director Plunkett will report back to the Board on the pre-budget meeting during the October 2025 Board meeting. The Gordon Avenue Library recently had a major emergency repair project in the front yard near the seated garden due to the original sewage line needing to be replaced. Director Plunkett extended thanks to the City of Charlottesville for identifying the issue and fixing it very quickly. There will need to be some landscaping work done at Gordon Avenue Library to help re-beautify the affected area. Director Plunkett reminded the Board that JMRL will be closed to the public on Monday, October 13, 2025 for JMRL's All-Staff Training Day, which will be at the Hillsdale Conference Center in Charlottesville. Local author Bruce Holsinger will be speaking at Central Library on Sunday, September 28, 2025 to talk about his novel "Culpability" which was named Oprah's Book Club Choice for this summer. The Bruce Holsinger event is free and open to the public, and does not require registration. The Crozet Library will be hosting an after-hours event with bestselling author Jan Karon on Friday, October 10, 2025; the event does require registration and is already full with a waitlist.

OTHER MATTERS

Trustee Hemenway inquired about possible PR announcements for the Board's motion to eliminate most overdue fines. Director Plunkett stated that any big PR announcement will most likely take place in the Spring 2026.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Possible future agenda items include a FY27 Budget update and committee reports from the Personnel Committee and the Policy Committee. The next Board Meeting will be October 27, 2025 at the Northside Library.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:16pm.
