

WATAUGA COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD

Minutes

Thursday, November 3, 2022 (Hybrid)

1:30 pm

Present: Carol Deal, Patricia Swartzbaugh, Natalie Harkey, Melony Winkelmann, Billy Kennedy, County Commissioner

Present via Zoom: Roberta Jackson, Margaret Love, Cheryl Angel, Max Ruthless, Dr. Scott Elliott

Present for the library: Monica Caruso (Watauga County Librarian), Tammy Holston Finance Officer for Appalachian Regional Library

Guests: Aaron Barlow and Rachel Leahy, The Appalachian

Absent: Sandra Basel, Laura Johnson, Jane Blackburn (Appalachian Regional Library Director)

1. Call to Order & Welcome

In the absence of Sandra Basel, Patty called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. We had some issues with sound quality through the OWL so those on zoom could not hear us well. Monica introduced staff members Randy Feimster, Circulation Manager and Amber Combs, our new Youth Services Manager, Deb Sluder, Adult Services Librarian to the board as well as guests Rachel Leahy and Aaron Barlow. Board members introduced themselves as well for the purpose of minutes since Margaret could not hear well.

2. Approval of Minutes – Meeting from September 1, 2022

Billy made a motion to approve the minutes and Melony seconded it. The minutes were approved.

3. Correspondence and Communication - None to report

4. Report of Watauga County Public Library/Five Year Plan Progress – Monica Caruso

Monica announced that there is a farewell for retiring Appalachian Regional Library director Jane Blackburn on December 15 from Noon to 1:30. Monica requested that if anyone had speeches, stories, or anecdotes to share in Jane's honor, to let her know. In staffing news, the WCPL is hiring for an Adult Services Specialist. They have received 6 applications and will be starting interviews within the next week. This position has been modified to be solely an Adult Services Specialist; a separate position has been created for a Digital Watauga Coordinator.

We have two more authors coming as we wind down the year in celebration of Boone 150. Jim Hamilton, author of "The Last Entry" will speak on November 10 and Joe's son of Cheap Joe's Art Stuff will read his father's book titled "One Night, Two Moons" on December 21 at 11:00 a.m. for the regular story time. "The Last Entry" is fictional and about the ginseng trade.

Further details are outlined in Monica's report.

5. Report of the Regional Director – Jane Blackburn

Monica read the report in Jane's absence. Jane's report discussed the status of personnel including retirements and hiring in the region. A grant is being written for a new outreach van to the Local Federal Government Credit Union. Bonus checks went out to staff from ARPA money.

Jane submitted a report online (see attached).

6. Report of the Friends of the Library – Melony Winkelmann

Melony presented a detailed report of the Friends of the Library. She mentioned that the first delivery to Thrift Books in Atlanta was made and we will see how lucrative this is with time. She also mentioned that they are getting ready for the December 1-3 book sale and will make baskets again this year. A quilt on display will be raffled off at the end of the book sale (\$5/ticket). Friends are investigating with the state whether we need to charge sales tax for these kinds of sales.

The Friends are considering entering into a contract with Whitney Jones, Inc. for library expansion fundraising. At \$10,000/month, the expense is daunting. A feasibility study report has been sent, and the Friends Board will meet to approve action on November 15. Billy Kennedy suggested engaging an attorney to review the contract. Melony mentioned that we can shorten the contract and can get out of it if we need to. A free fund has been set up for expansion donations with Allen Wealth.

7. Report of Western Watauga Friends – Cheryl Angel

Fundraising for fall continues for the Western Watauga Friends. Cheryl Angel reported that the themed raffle basket project is going well, with a drawing scheduled on December 14 (the same day as the Drive-through Christmas at the Senior Center). So far, 1000 tickets have been printed and all are expected to sell. Baskets have gift cards and hand-crafted items. They put them out for display while early voting was happening, which helped sales.

Speaking of the Drive-Through Christmas, 100 bags have been donated; Revolution Boone will be helping to decorate the bags. December 21 is the rain date for the event.

Thanks to Jane Blackburn, a grant of \$25,000 has been written to fund a new van. Matching funds will be needed, if we are awarded funding.

The Western Watauga Branch continues to be a distribution site for COVID tests, but with only 20 left, more will need to be ordered.

In-house head start library programming continues twice a month at 9:30 a.m.

There continues to be accelerated interest in the Dementia Support group, which now meets twice monthly. They are working on a "Care Café", which would allow for caregivers to drop off patients so that they can run errands and have some respite time. There is a website and Facebook page. The resource directory booklet has been updated and the Library has copies.

<https://wataugadementiaproject.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/WDP.NC/>

Memory kits are available for checkout at the Branch and will also be available at the main Library.

8. Old Business

Two new members for Endowment Board from the Library board are still needed. The Endowment Board meets approximately 3 times a year.

9. New Business

Jane will be Campaign Treasurer after her retirement. Her last day will be January 6. An Assistant Campaign Treasurer is also needed.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret L. Love