

WATAUGA COUNTY LIBRARY BOARD

Minutes

Thursday, September 1, 2022 (Hybrid)

1:30 pm

Present: Cheryl Angel, Carol Deal, Margaret Love, Patricia Swartzbaugh, Melony Winkelmann

Present via Zoom: Natalie Harkey, Roberta Jackson, Laura Johnson

Present for the library: Monica Caruso (Watauga County Librarian), Jane Blackburn (Appalachian Regional Library Director)

Absent: Sandra Basel, Scott Elliott, Laura Johnson, Billy Kennedy, Max Ruthless

1. Call to Order & Welcome

In the absence of Sandra Basel, Margaret Love called the meeting to order at 1:37 p.m.

2. Approval of Minutes – Meeting from July 7, 2022

Roberta Jackson made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 7, 2022 meeting. Carol Deal seconded. The minutes were approved.

3. Correspondence and Communication - None to report

4. Report of Watauga County Public Library/Five Year Plan Progress – Monica Caruso (*See attached for details*)

Monica announced a potential community quilt project in collaboration with the 2022 Common Read selection of *Junaluska: Oral Histories of a Black Appalachian Community*. Appstate Librarian and Common Read Committee member Mark Coltrane will write a grant to support this work.

The expansion feasibility study is ongoing; there will be a meeting to discuss results of the study on September 14 with the campaign planning committee and the Friends of the Library. A request will be made to open a separate account for donations to the expansion project under the Friends' nonprofit umbrella.

Monica announced several upcoming events:

- Dr. Susan Keefe and Roberta Jackson will be sharing a presentation on the Junaluska Community on the following dates:
 - September 10 at 10:00 as part of the Boone 150 celebrations
 - September 20 at 7:00 p.m. at the Schaeffer Center. The events are free.
- There will be a reception honoring Library volunteers on September 24 from 1:30-3:00 p.m.
- A farewell retirement party for Judith Winecoff, Youth Services Manager, will be September 28 at 11:30 a.m.

5. Report of the Regional Director – Jane Blackburn (*See attached for details*)

Jane reported that new Youth Services Librarian Amber Coombs has been hired as Judith Winecoff's replacement. Current job openings in the region are:

- Adult Services Specialist in Ashe County
- Part-time Circulation Assistants

The ARL system has received \$216,982 from ARPA (the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021). We have until the end of 2026 to either spend or encumber it.

There are no budget and financial reports for this meeting, although in general all county libraries are on a typical track for revenue and expenditures.

Grant activity: \$15,000 in LSTA (Library Services and Technology Act) funds has been spent. In Watauga County, a new microfilm reader was purchased, with software included that allows one to search for specific words.

No update on the search for a new regional director, other than that the search committee is still reviewing applications.

6. Report of the Friends of the Library – No report given

7. Report of Western Watauga Branch –Cheryl Angel

Cheryl Angel reported that a special meeting was held to discuss fundraising ideas. There will be a raffle in November for gift baskets. Tickets will be \$2 each or 8 for \$5. The Mast Store is sponsoring the raffle. Donations have continued to come in from private families as well.

Retired academic librarian and artist Mark Palkovic has designed a new logo for the Western Watauga Branch. The Western Watauga Branch will repeat its successful drive-through Christmas with Santa at the Senior Center on December 14. Rain date will be December 21.

The Western Watauga book club continues to meet monthly.

Book sales have been going well.

The van has had \$1,000 worth of repairs done. A discussion of what grant opportunities might assist with replacing the van ensued.

Cheryl reported the sad news that Western Watauga regular and High Country stalwart Addie Mae Maynard has passed away. She was 97 years old.

8. Old Business –

Monica asked if Carol Deal was willing to continue on the WCL Board, which was affirmed.

9. New Business – None to report.

The next WCL board meeting will be on Thursday, November 3 at 1:30 p.m.

10. Adjournment

Margaret Love motioned to adjourn the meeting. Cheryl Angel seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Margaret L. Love