



**MINUTES**

**WATAUGA LIBRARY BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING  
WATAUGA CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025  
6:00 PM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Woodruff called the meeting to order at 6:36 pm.

**ROLL CALL**

The meeting convened with the following members present:

Kip Woodruff  
Lindsey Neal  
Kristen Chapman  
Samantha Ostendorp  
Sian Brannon  
Vacant  
Whitney Isbell

Chairperson/Place 7  
Vice-Chairperson/Place 1  
Secretary/Place 6  
Place 2  
Place 3  
Place 4  
Place 5

and

Arthur Miner  
Andrew Neal  
Lisa Benavidez  
Lana Ewell

Mayor  
City Council Liaison  
Assistant to the City Secretary  
Director of Library Services

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No requests for public comment were received.

**PUBLIC TESTIMONY FOR ACTION ITEMS**

No requests for public testimony were received.

**REPORTS**

**1. Library Director's Report**

Director Ewell reported that the library won the 2024 Texas Municipal Director's Award of Excellence. December and January programs had good attendance. The *Nutcracker* performance drew 327 attendees and *Read to a Reindeer* had 376 participants. The third Independent Author Day had 73 in attendance. Dana Harper hosted an adult jigsaw puzzle competition, which was very well received. The youth department held a New Year's Eve Day activity with a strong attendance of 155. An Adult Legos program was launched, with starter donations from Director Ewell, and it has been going well. Therapy dog visits continue to be popular with the community.

Circulation has increased, and overall program participation is up 19%. There has been a dip due to challenges in relaunching the ESL program. While there is a community need, attendance has been hesitant due to the current climate. Library visits are up 16%, with higher numbers expected during the summer. Volunteer participation has also increased significantly. The library maintains one of the more prominent web pages in the city, with traffic up 10%.

The library is still awaiting the arrival of the central desk, which Director Ewell expects to be installed by the next meeting.

Chairperson Woodruff inquired about the lack of school visits mentioned in the report.

Director Ewell explained that most school visits typically occur later in the calendar year and that she expects an increase as the Summer Reading Program approaches.

## **2. Report from Dana Harper regarding Art Programming in Adult Services**

Adult Services Librarian Dana Harper presented a report on Fostering Creativity in Adult Services. Ms. Harper holds a master's degree in art history from Vanderbilt University and previously worked at the Dallas Museum of Art as an Assistant Librarian. She has been with the Watauga Public Library for 12 years.

Ms. Harper is passionate about bringing art and creativity to adults. She recognizes a community need for creative outlets, especially given the distance and entry fees associated with nearby art museums. Her programs typically begin with a short, often historical, presentation on a specific art method or artist, followed by a hands-on session where participants create similar works. She has designed classes and presentations that align with exhibits at the Kimbell Art Museum.

Ms. Harper notes that many adults haven't created art since elementary school and are deeply appreciative of the opportunity to do so in an accessible environment. She regularly receives community feedback on preferred topics and interests. Some classes are structured, while others—such as *Color Me Calm* and *Bad Art Night*—encourage freeform creativity without pressure.

Through the MetroShare Library partnership, the library accesses resources and specialized art instructors, resulting in highly attended programs. Offerings have included painting, Zentangle, junk journaling, and an upcoming slow stitching class. Mr. Steve Novy is a consistent favorite, with many participants returning each time his class is offered. The library has also partnered with The Modern, the Amon Carter Museum, and the Welman Project for supplies and training.

The classes consistently receive enthusiastic reviews, with participants expressing gratitude for the library's role in facilitating these creative opportunities and wisely using its resources. Ms. Harper also discussed upcoming events, including a zine-making class taught by a UNT librarian and a metal embossing class she will lead herself.

Vice Chairperson Neal asked Ms. Harper to elaborate on one of the upcoming events. She described the Moroccan Mosaic class, scheduled for April, which will be taught by a Moroccan instructor affiliated with UNT. He previously led a well-attended class on Moroccan tea service.

This August will mark the fourth year of the Library's Art Show, hosted by Mayor Miner and featuring fun refreshments. Another planned art show will be humor-based, providing lighthearted and engaging experience for residents.

Ms. Harper concluded by emphasizing how these art classes foster community and combat loneliness. Participants include friends, couples on date nights, parents and children, and older residents seeking connection.

### CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consider approval of the March 12, 2024, Library Board Meeting minutes
2. Consider approval of the January 14, 2025, Library Board meeting minutes.

Vice Chairperson Neal made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Member Isbell seconded the motion.

Motion passed 6-0-0-0.

Ayes, Woodruff, Neal, Chapman, Rivera, Ostendorp, Bannon,

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: None

### ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for future agendas


### ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chairperson Neal adjourned the meeting at 7:01 pm.

Approved: this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025


Signed: this 13<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2025

APPROVED:

  
/s/ Kip Woodruff

Kip Woodruff, Chairperson

ATTEST:

  
/s/ Kristen Chapman

Kristen Chapman, Secretary