



MINUTES

WATAUGA LIBRARY BOARD REGULAR MEETING WATAUGA CITY HALL COUNCIL CHAMBERS TUESDAY, MAY 13, 2025 6:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Woodruff called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

ROLL CALL

The meeting convened with the following members present:

| | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|
| Kip Woodruff | Chairperson/Place 7 |
| Lindsey Neal | Vice-Chairperson/Place 1 |
| Kristen Chapman | Secretary/Place 6 |
| Samantha Ostendorp | Place 2 |
| Sian Brannon | Place 3 (Absent with notice) |
| Vacant | Place 4 |
| Whitney Isbell | Place 5 (Absent with notice) |
| and | |
| Andrew Neal | City Council Liaison |
| Lisa Benavidez | Assistant to the City Secretary |
| Lana Ewell | 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 began by reporting that the Annual Report for 2024 had been completed and submitted before its due date.

Circulation is up 7.9%. Programs, library cards issued, and visits are also on the rise. Volunteer hours have increased by a striking 473%. March was an excellent month for programs. Big Vehicle Day was moved to Spring Break in hopes of better weather, and it was a big hit, drawing 1,325 attendees. Director Ewell thanked all the other city departments that helped make the event possible.

The other two top events for adults were the Irish Concert and the Humorous Art Show, each with 50 attendees. Music & Movement, a youth program, had 109 attendees over three sessions, and a scavenger hunt drew 107 participants.

Director Ewell also noted that it is time to update the Long-Range Study. The library will review current census data and surveys to develop a new plan, as required by the state every five years.

2. **Report from Barbara Goss, Senior Youth Services Librarian**

Ms. Goss reported on the Summer Reading Program and the library's recent changes and improvements to its community outreach methods. While continuing to collaborate with local schools, staff are also establishing a presence at local businesses in an effort to reach more of the community. Summer Reading sign-ups will be held at Target, Half Price Books, Sol Dias, and other locations.

The community center received a major and unexpected donation from Five Below for the Summer Reading Program. Marco's Pizza is also donating pizza for the teen and tween events. In return, the library is assisting with their reading program.

The Summer Reading Kick-Off is scheduled for June 2 and will include a petting zoo, the To Chai For truck, Kona Ice, and other treats for children as they sign up. The first event will feature Darrel the Snake Guy. June will be focused on events, while July will shift to classes, with an emphasis on the arts. There will also be phonics and math camps intended to support children in preparing for the upcoming school year.

Tosha Con will return in July for its third year and will feature a voice artist and a graphic artist. The End of Summer Reading Party will take place on July 31 and will include cake, ice cream, and an activity where attendees receive a canvas bag to decorate with patches earned throughout the summer. Efforts are being made to secure the Perot Bus for the event.

Adults will also have a Summer Reading Program, complete with prizes.

Vice Chairperson Neal asked if NRH2O was a sponsor. Ms. Goss confirmed that there would be NRH2O prizes and listed many other sponsors. Chairperson Woodruff asked if there was a way to honor the sponsors, such as mentioning them in the city newsletter or before the City Council. Ms. Goss responded that sponsors are recognized in several ways: they are listed on the front page of the Summer Reading Program sign-up, displayed at the library, and featured on the library's social media accounts. She also said she would send the full list to Chairperson Woodruff. Chairperson Woodruff praised Ms. Goss and her team for their extensive efforts.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Consider action on March 11, 2025, Library Board Meeting Minutes Consider

Vice Chairperson Neal made a motion to approve the minutes as presented. Secretary Chapman seconded the motion.

Motion passed 4-0-0-2.

Ayes, Woodruff, Neal, Chapman, Ostendorp,

Nays: None

Abstain: None

Absent: Bannon and Isbell

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

There were no items for future agendas

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Woodruff adjourned the meeting at 6:28 pm

Approved: this 8th day of July, 2025

Signed: this 8th day of July, 2025

APPROVED:

/s/ L. Neal

Kip Woodruff, Chairperson

Lindsey Neal Vice

ATTEST: _____

/s/ S. Brannon

Secretary

Sian Brannon, Place 3