

THE CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Minutes of August 8, 2017

The Catawba County Library Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, August 8, 2017, 12 Noon, in the Conference Room of the Main Library in Newton.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Amanda Edwards, Brenda Sigmon, Carol Preston, Sylvia Ray and Suzanne White, Library Director.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Susan Hunsucker, Kevin Morte, Nicky Setzer

OTHERS PRESENT

Patricia Gibson

CALL TO ORDER

Brenda Sigmon, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 12:09 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public attended.

MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Staffing Update

Jaimee Hellwege-Library Services Specialist at Conover Branch Library
Erin Shull-Library Services Specialist at Newton
Tara Quintos-Johnson-Library Services Specialist at St Stephens Branch Library
Lindsay Lewis-Full-Time Library Assistant at Sherrills Ford/Terrell Branch Library
Melissa Henderson-Sherrills Ford/Terrell Branch Librarian
Touger Vang-Southwest Branch Librarian

Budget/Outcomes Update

On July 1, 2017, the new budget year began for the Library which resulted in a 6% increase from the previous budget year. Outcomes for the library align with the library and county strategic plan and are now combined into one system-wide set to better highlight and share the overall mission and impact of the library.

Project Update- Born to Read and Wi-Fi Lending

The Library is currently working with hospitals, Centro Latino, The Hickory Public Library, Partnership for Children, Social Services, Public Health, and early literacy partners to implement the ***Born to Read*** Project as a way to get parents excited and confident about reading with and practicing vital early literacy skills with their children. The library provides early literacy training to prenatal clinics and Centro Latino and provides a Born to Read Bag with baby's first board book and library card providing access to online resources and interactive storybooks, as well as a variety of early literacy and infant wellness resources. The Born to Read Project is a beneficial precursor to the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten initiative designed to keep preschoolers reading and ready to excel as they enter Kindergarten. The library has given 10 presentations to over 100 parents, and delivered 385 bags since January. 1000 Books Before Kindergarten program starts in August 2017.

The Library is also progressing with the Home Free Internet to Go initiative, preparing 40 laptops and 30 Wi-Fi hot spots for the Wi-Fi Lending Project. The project provides internet access to students at home in an effort to expand access to critical educational and career preparedness resources. Library staff will work with school systems to identify students that could benefit from the program and provide training for the equipment and in accessing empowering resources. The equipment that is going out into the community is coming back in good condition.

Update- Grants

The letter of intent was submitted for the ***Pop Up Library Grant***, a two-year project to initiate a mobile outreach library to help reach the underserved. The grant proposal included a full-time and part time position to implement outreach programming in the community. The grant was approved and appropriated in the Library's 17-18 budget.

The ***NEH Hmong Digitization Project Grant*** will allow the library to work with partners in the Hmong community to collect and digitize artifacts and oral histories, and provides an avenue for storytelling and sharing diverse cultures in the community. This grant project should be starting in a couple of months.

Summer Reading/Learning Update

Summer Learning is set to officially end on August 15, 2017. Summer Learning is going well this year. We've received a lot of positive feedback from the summer learning theme, Build a Better World. This is the first summer that we participated in the Summer Feeding Program. We are working to gather some feedback to see if it is feasible to continue this program in the future. We are also getting ready for the Solar Eclipse Program scheduled for August 21, 2017. The Library will have a program about the eclipse and will also have eye glasses to safely view the eclipse.

Strategic Planning

The Library continues to advance the library strategic plan as well as align library services and resources in support of the developing strategic plan for Catawba County, including in the Arts and Culture, K64, Healthy and Safe Communities, and Broadband strategic initiative areas.

Library Endowment

Board members are encouraged to make an annual contribution, of any amount, to the Library Endowment, in order for the library to best continue to advocate for community donations.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:08 p.m.

Next Regular Scheduled Library Board Meeting: Tuesday, November 14, 2017, Newton Library

Respectfully submitted,
Tyler Garrison