

THE CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Minutes of February 14, 2017

The Catawba County Library Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, February 14, 2017, 12 Noon, in the Conference Room of the Main Library in Newton.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Amanda Edwards, Kevin Moretz, Brenda Sigmon, Carol Preston, Nicky Setzer and Suzanne White, Library Director.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Susan Hunsucker, Pat Gibson

CALL TO ORDER

Brenda Sigmon, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 12:02 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

Cheri Hudson- Librarian-Conover/Claremont.

Wanda Rozzelle- Retired effective 2/1/2017.

Currently recruiting for a Collaborative Services Librarian.

PROJECT UPDATE-TURNING OUTWARD

Suzanne introduced Paul Foster, who spoke about a new project called Turning Outward, where conveners and facilitators walk through conversations, structured outside the walls of the library, to connect with the community. Getting an outside perspective by asking about community aspirations in order to identify any obstacles is part of the plan to work with the community and share public knowledge. Information learned from the conversations can then be shared with appropriate groups and key stakeholders. Initially, the plan is to target existing groups, then work with groups that are engaged to produce new blended groups. Paul is currently involved in conversations with the Hickory Housing Authority and plans to have conversations with PTO groups, area churches, Centro Latino and groups such as the Hickory Young Professionals. Any ideas for potential groups can be emailed to pfoster@catawbacountync.gov. The community is ever increasingly the heart of the library,

and our goal is for this valuable public knowledge to be curated and shared, and integrated and aligned with library and county strategic planning.

Budget/Outcome Update

The Library is currently working with the budget office and county management to forecast and submit budget requests for the 17-18 fiscal year. Outcomes for the library branches have now been combined into one system wide set to better define the mission and the impact of the library. Some key library outcomes that are highlighted include early literacy, lifelong learning, and workforce development initiatives that work to tie into the K-64 (Countywide) initiative. Additional outcomes include connecting citizens with NC Works for employment opportunities, working to bridge the digital divide, and reaching out in the community to find new ways to connect.

Project Update- Born to Read and Wi-Fi Lending

The Library is currently working with hospitals, Centro Latino, The Hickory Public Library, 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 their children. The library provides early literacy training with prenatal clinics 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 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.

Update- Grants

The letter of intent has been 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 includes a full-time and part time position to implement the outreach programming in the community. Also in the works is the Hmong Digitization Project Grant which 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.

Summer Reading/Learning Update

Plans are already in the works for a busy Summer Learning program set to begin in a few months. The Library is working with school systems to promote this year's summer learning theme, *Build a Better World*. Additionally, we are planning to incorporate the theme for teen and adult summer learning as well. This year, summer learning will be accompanied with a summer feeding program where children between the ages of 2-18 can come to the library during lunch and receive a meal. The schools provide and deliver the lunches to the Library during the summer weeks.

Advocacy Update

Legislative Day in the District is set for 9:30 a.m. on March 10, 2017 at the Catawba County Library in Newton. It is a chance to thank state and local leaders for their support and highlight the impactful services provided at the Library. This year, North Carolina Legislature provided \$250,000 in funding for the NC Kids Digital Library, significantly increasing statewide access to early learning and reading resources across the state. Please write, email, or call local leaders to advocate for an additional 7 million dollars in state aid that can be used to provide vital library services for communities across North Carolina. Additionally, our library is seeking increased local funding from the City of Newton to cover increased operational costs at the Newton Library and to allow for continued excellence in resources and services.

Volunteer Update

The Library understands that there are area individuals and groups interested in volunteering, and there is always a need for assistance at the library, especially with our newly initiated homework helpers program and in the community garden. Staff will continue to brainstorm ways to best facilitate this interest and need effectively.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Next Regular Scheduled Library Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 9, 2017, Newton Library

Respectfully submitted,
Tyler Garrison