

CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Minutes of February 10, 2026

The Catawba County Library Advisory Board met on Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 12pm, in the genealogy conference room of the Main Library in Newton.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Morgan Williams-Board Chair, Donna Reese- Vice Chair, Carmen Isenhower, Pam Cansler, Katie Perkins, Ed Sain
Siobhan Loendorf, Library Director

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Jeanne Lebens

CALL TO ORDER

at 12pm

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public attended.

MINUTES

Board reviewed and voted to approve minutes.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Staffing Update

- a. Katherine Sisak from library assistant from Sherrills Ford Terrell has taken the LSSII at Maiden Branch Library. Betty Xiong and Laura Trent both formerly hourly employees, were hired as part-time library assistants here at Newton.
- b. Katherine left an open part time library assistant position at Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch. And part time library assistant Ava Pendley from Conover has gotten a full-time job at Hart Square so we are interviewing for that position this week. We will also post for hourly positions again since we moved two of them up and another one left for full-time work.
- c. We have 3-4 people out on medical leave around the system but some of those folks should be coming back soon. We have been juggling.

Facilities: The staff elevator has been repaired, and we are waiting on a part for them to fix the public elevator.

Programming –

1. Library's 90th Birthday Party – all of March
 - a. Special programs at each branch to celebrate the library's 90th birthday
 - b. Asking for donations to the library's endowment as birthday gifts and if you give \$19.36 the year we were established you will get a cool tote bag. And if you give \$90 to celebrate our 90 years you will get a tote bag filled with goodies- like books.
 - c. We will be getting the library staff a T-shirt they can wear to work.
 - d. We will be getting balloons, decorations and birthday cupcakes at each branch during their birthday programming.
 - e. We will be asking people to record themselves singing happy birthday to the library so we can post it on our website.
2. America's 250 Celebrations – we'll be working to host programming related to the America's 250 anniversary celebration. I know over the summer we have the Army bands scheduled to come back to the library, we are working with the Historical Museum to host some Hands on History days.

3. Summer Learning – the theme this year is Unearth a Story – we have already got several things planned. We will have the history days for America’s 250, the army bands, Critter Keeper animal show will be coming in July and we’ll have the Greenbean players, Catawba County Parks doing a dinosaur program and salamander search at Baker’s mountain park, and staff led programs.

Grants

Continuing Education Scholarships for conference attendance:

April Green, the managing librarian at Southwest Branch, will be attending the Public Library Association in Minneapolis for the first time.

Chanda Platania, the digital services librarian, will be attending the Computers in Libraries conference in Arlington, Va. for the first time.

Both staff were awarded full conference scholarships of \$2,500 to attend these events.

LSTA Planning Grant: Stronger by Design

- a. Thank you to everyone who participated in the SOAR session at our last meeting. And thank you to Morgan for helping us out with the focus group and thank you to Katie for being on the steering committee.
- b. We have completed SOAR sessions with library board and with library staff.
- c. We have completed a staff survey with nearly 100% participation.
- d. We have completed a community survey with about 780 survey results. The survey ended on 1-31-26 but there are a few paper surveys still trickling in.
- e. We conducted passive feedback boards at CVCC Challenger and Fred T Foard High schools with about 100 comments from students. We had plans to do 3 more engagement boards but had to cancel those due to weather.
- f. The consultants have conducted interviews with folks like Mary Furtado, Ingrid Keller, Lindsay Kiesler, Elisabeth Thao to ask more in depth questions about the community.
- g. Next steps...the consultants are busy compiling all of the information they have gathered through the surveys and meetings and they will do a data walk with the steering committee on February 23 at 10 am.
- h. Then they will roll up their sleeves and write a draft version of the new strategic plan. That will be presented to leadership and then I think it will go to the steering committee again for review. Once it is finalized it will go before the Board of Commissioners for approval.

Library Endowment

Our balances as of 2-9-26:

Endowment Amount:	\$ 131,049.83
PayPal Amount:	\$ 48.06
<u>County account</u>	<u>\$ 1,818.94</u>
Total	\$132,916.83

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1pm.

Next Regular Scheduled Library Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 12th, 2026 at the Newton Library at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Candi Dula, Business Manager