

**CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**Minutes of February 4, 2020**

The Catawba County Library Advisory Board met on Tuesday, February 4, 2020, 12 noon, in the Conference Room of the Main Library in Newton.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Kevin Moretz, Honey Estrada, Nicky Setzer, Carmen Isenhower, and Suzanne White, Library Director, Siobhan Loendorf, Assistant Library Director, Lyndsay Beaulieu, Business Manager, and guest Erica Derr, Librarian at the Newton Library.

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Tamara Shavers, Carol Preston, and Greg Kain

**CALL TO ORDER**

Kevin Moretz, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Staffing Update**

Lyndsay Beaulieu, the new Library Business Manager, started on December 2. Debbie Hosford, St. Stephens Librarian, retired December 30 and Shelley Orr, Digital Services Librarian at Newton transferred to manage the St. Stephens Branch. The Digital Services Librarian position currently open is in active recruitment to backfill that position. Kathy Freeman, Library Services Specialist II, transferred from St. Stephens to Newton Youth Services. The Library Services Specialist II at St. Stephens was filled by Lindsay Robins from Maiden branch, and the now-vacant position in Maiden is in recruitment.

**Outcomes**

Library Outcomes are what we commit to accomplish each year as we work to empower lives and build community, and they drive major library services and resources. The outcomes typically measure positive impact in the community, and include service areas such as early literacy, summer learning, supporting educational excellence and career readiness, bridging the digital divide, workforce development, lifelong learning, and engaging our community. A draft of library outcomes for July 2020 – June 2021 was shared with the board for review and informational purposes.

### **Strategic Planning**

The Library's strategic planning consultant has been analyzing data received from the focus groups and facility reviews conducted in October and December. The amount of community input was very impressive, and the consultants were pleased with the library's ability to reach so many targeted areas of the community. Facility reviews were conducted, along with mapping and demographic data. Some quick takeaways from initial community input indicated that small to medium work/study/meeting spaces, refreshed facilities and furnishings to provide more vibrant and engaging library spaces, and enhanced mobile outreach are several emerging priorities. A survey will be published to gain additional community input. Board members are encouraged to complete and share the survey with community members. Additionally, a strategic planning retreat of 20-25 people is planned for Wednesday, April 1 (time and place TBD). As board members, your participation and input are valuable. More information will follow soon.

### **Programming and Services**

The library is participating in a community collaborative celebration of the 100 year anniversary of Women's Right to Vote, partnering with the Hickory Public Library, League of Women Voters, Catawba County Historical Museum, Hickory Museum of Art and others to offer panel exhibits, marches, movies, discussions, theater programs, art exhibits, and other programming in 2020. Erica Derr, Collaborative Services Librarian, gave the board an update regarding the upcoming events, and shared flyers and other marketing materials that will be used to promote the celebration.

Siobhan Loendorf, Assistant Director, reported on the Library's role and work aligned with the county-wide effort to ensure broader participation in the 2020 Census. March 10 will be the first day of the 2020 Census. This is the first year it will be online, and the library is working to help educate the public to feel comfortable with completing the Census and to increase participation in order to maximize federal resources for the County.

The Library has been collaborating with partners to provide Tuskegee Airmen programming and a children's read on the topic. The community collaborative was able to bring the off-Broadway play *Black Angels Over Tuskegee* to be performed in Catawba County for groups of local students as well as for the public. The board was invited to the evening performance at 7 pm February 4 at LRU's PE Monroe Auditorium.

The Claremont Friends of the Library are hosting a *Working Title Farm Radio Hour with Radney Foster and friends*. It is a variety hour evening entertainment event that will take place on February 20 at 6 PM at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Claremont. Board members are invited, and asked to promote the event to friends and family.

Catawba County has embraced specific core organizational values, and county departments are working to promote these values in our workplaces. The Library has created boxes and

comment cards that staff or patrons can use to recognize each other for exemplifying those values. They were recently deployed at each of the branch locations.

### **Board Member Advocacy/Input**

Instead of hosting a large Day in the District event this year, the library may refresh this effort with a Library in a Bag--information and resources sent to legislators with an invitation to attend local library programming and learn about the value of library services in the community. Library Board members are encouraged to write notes advocating the importance of libraries to draw elected officials to participate in programming events.

Municipal Council Meetings will take place in April in Newton, Maiden, Claremont, Conover, and Catawba, surrounding National Library Week April 19-25. Meeting dates and times will be shared by mid to late March, and board members are encouraged to attend these meetings to show support for the Library.

The Library Endowment is going well. The Library is discussing all avenues to increase participation and is thankful for past and future contributions from board members.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:55 pm

The next regularly-scheduled Library Board Meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 12, 2020 at the Newton Library at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lyndsay Beaulieu