

CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Minutes of February 8th, 2022

The Catawba County Library Advisory Board met on Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 12 noon, in the Community Room of the Main Library in Newton.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tamara Shavers-Vice Chair, Mary Canrobert, Carol Preston, Carmen Isenhower, Morgan Williams, Siobhan Loendorf, Library Director, Jenny Gerami-Markham, Assistant Library Director and Candi Dula, Business Manager.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Honey Estrada-Board Chair

CALL TO ORDER

Tamara Shavers-Vice Chair at 12:00 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

Library Services Specialist II at Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library – Kacy Steiger accepted this position. Kacy is a certified yoga instructor and has been leading yoga classes both online and in person at branches.

Library Services Specialist II at Maiden Branch Library – Chaoya Yang is a library school student pursuing her MLS who started out as a library intern before moving on to working as an hourly employee we are happy to have her on in a part time benefitted role.

Community Navigator at the Main Library – Mychaela Brown – Human Services student from Lenoir-Rhyne.

Strategic Planning

-Annual Library Customer Survey coming up in April

-National Library Giving Day Wednesday, April 6th

Beanstack Challenges –

We currently have several online challenges for folks of all ages.

1. The yearlong adult reading challenge- choose a book a month that meets the challenge for example: Read a book that takes place in your home state, a book based on a true story, or a book that has been translated from a different language.
2. The Self-Care Project - Choose one repeatable activity to do each day for a month. Then choose one or two other activities to do during each month. Accumulate points and create positive habits!
3. **NEW!!! The Mo Willems Challenge starts on Feb 19 through May 15** – these are the same dates as the Mo Willems exhibit at the Hickory Museum of Art.
4. The Dinovember reading challenge had about 15 kids sign up and attend events in November.

Elephant and Piggie visits to the Library

The library will welcome the Mo Willems Piggie and Elephant characters to the library with the first visits Saturday February 26th at the Conover Branch in the morning and then here at the Main library. At each branch during the visit the library staff will also have self-directed stations where families can enjoy some Mo Willems related fun.

Saturday, March 5th the characters will be at Maiden and then St Stephens

Saturday, March 12 they will be at Southwest and Sherrills Ford-Terrell

Teen Advisory Councils

We have two teen advisory groups started now. One at Main library and one at St Stephens Branch Library.

Grants

Library Locker in Long View— Thank you to everyone was able to come out to the ribbon cutting! The Library to Go continues to visit the laundromat in Long View the 3rd Sunday of every month. The locker system is up and running and we have enjoyed two check outs. We are going to schedule some extra Saturdays to set up a table at Cleanwave to help get the word out and to get folks library cards so they can use the lockers.

Laundry Literacy Grant – We were awarded the Laundry Literacy Grant from the State Library and we have been purchasing the components. We will be setting up the equipment at Cleanwave Laundry in early March with little celebration in the space.

Millholland Foundation – awarded \$2,000 to offset cost for the installation of children’s early literacy interactives at the St Stephen’s Branch Library.

Broadband Internet Access and Technology Lending

- We have been awarded federal e-rate funding to update the laptops that we lend out to our patrons with Chromebooks with the goal of improving the patron’s experience and ease of use. We are working on getting updating the checkout process and we will be ordering them soon.
- The library continues to provide free internet at seven locations. Hickory Soup Kitchen, 2 locations of Nu Dimensions (aka Hickory Housing), Centro Latino, Plaza Latina, Central Rec Center in Newton, and the Town of Catawba, Town Hall. This is free internet available to anyone from these parking lots. This past week there were 473 unique devices using this internet access.
- Part two of the Wi-Fi for All project included the purchase of 53 Samsung Tab A 8” Wi-Fi enabled tablets that will be circulated by the library.
- We have 30 hotspots through TechSoup where we pay \$120 a year for unlimited service through Sprint. We are working now on updating those hotspots with new devices as they expire.

Advocacy Focus

Building positive relations with our elected officials. Feel free to send them a card or email just to say Hi and thank them for their support of public libraries. Or share a specific story of what the library means to our community.

National Library Week

The theme for National Library Week 2022, “Connect with Your Library,” promotes the idea that libraries are places to get connected to technology by using broadband, computers, and other resources. Libraries also offer opportunities to connect with media, programs, ideas, and classes—in addition to books. Most importantly, libraries also connect communities to each other. Molly Shannon, multiple Emmy-nominated and Spirit Award–winning actress and comedian will help celebrate our nation’s libraries as the honorary chair of National Library Week. Shannon stated “Libraries are places where communities connect—to things like broadband, computers, programs and classes, books, movies, videogames, and more. But most importantly, libraries connect us to each other.

- [Monday, April 4: Proclamation at the BOC meeting at 7pm](#)
- [Tuesday, April 5: National Library Workers Day](#), a day for library staff, users, administrators, and Friends groups to recognize the valuable contributions made by all library workers.
- [Wednesday, April 6: Library Giving Day & National Library Outreach Day](#) (formerly National Bookmobile Day), a day to celebrate library outreach and the dedicated library professionals who are meeting their patrons where they are.
- [Thursday, April 7: Take Action for Libraries Day](#), a day to rally advocates to support libraries.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Next Regular Scheduled Library Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 10th, 2022 at the Newton Library at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Candi Dula, Business Manager