

CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Minutes of May 14, 2019

The Catawba County Library Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, May 14, 2019, 12 Noon, in the Conference Room of the Main Library in Newton.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Brenda Sigmon, Amanda Edwards, Carol Preston, Nicky Setzer, Kevin Morte, Susan Hunsucker, Sylvia Ray and Suzanne White, Library Director.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

n/a

CALL TO ORDER

Brenda Sigmon, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public attended.

MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as written.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

New Board Member

Honey Estrada will officially join the library board in August 2019. Honey is from Fresno, California. She has worked for Catawba Valley Medical Center for over eleven years. She has a Public Health Degree and is currently the Coordinator of Mobile Wellness. She also partners with the library in teaching Zumba classes.

Staffing Update

Sarah Sherfey- Maiden Branch Librarian

Greta Caldwell- Library to Go Librarian

Sarah McElhone- Promoted to LSSII- Newton Branch

Karen Herron- Transfer to Southwest Branch Library-LSSII

Edith Murray-Escuder-Retiring from LSSI position at the Southwest Branch Library

Katie Hartley-Part-time Library Assistant at the Sherrills Ford Library.

Library Budget

The Library's budget presentation to the Board of Commissioners is scheduled for Thursday, May 23, 2019. The Budget Hearing for the citizens of Catawba County is scheduled for Thursday, May 30 2019, and the formal adoption of the budget is set for Wednesday, June 3, 2019. The library met the budget target set by the budget office. The Library to Go Librarian is now included in the library's ongoing operating budget.

Grants

The library will be focusing on library and facilities strategic planning by conducting space needs studies and community input sessions to learn what people want in facilities. A consultant will be hired to assist with this process. The planning process will begin after July 2019. Suzanne White and Siobhan Loendorf are going to be working with the consultants for a plan that will highlight strategic areas for improvements to library services, collections, and facilities.

Programming and Services

The libraries continue to collaborate with health and nutrition partners to provide excellent wellness programs like yoga classes, Tai Chi, Chair Dancing, Zumba, Nutrition, and Health Checks from CVMC; and to participate in the Community Health Assessment. Next year, the library is partnering with the Green Room, CVCC, Lenoir Rhyne University, and the Hickory Public Library for a presentation of the off-Broadway theatre production *Black Angels Over Tuskegee*.

Arts at the Library

The library is hosting a "My Catawba County" Photo contest. Judging the contest will be Randy Isehour, Paul Foster and Suzanne White. Suzanne will choose a director's award winner, and there will also be a people's choice award. One contestant shared some insight behind his entry titled *Helping Hands*. His photo was inspired by all of the help that he received from Catawba County while he was moving to the area. The library was able to provide this contestant with ESL classes and he was able to benefit from the Mango online language services as well.

Summer Learning

This year the theme for summer learning is *A Universe of Stories*. The library will have a star lab mini planetarium, Green Bean Players, Sharon Clarke, the Catawba Science Center, and an astronaut training program from "Stretch-n-Grow". Summer learning programs are set to start around the middle of June.

State Library Update

The New State Librarian, Timothy Owens was appointed, and the State Library Commission (Suzanne is a member representing NC Public Libraries) is currently involved in strategic planning efforts.

Library to Go

The Library to Go is now on the road and now has a presence at Catawba Rosenwald Education Center, Ridgecrest Apartments, Centro Latino, Hickory Career Arts and Magnet School, Tyndall Center and other childcare facilities, senior centers, and other community organizations. The mobile library service provides numerous resources, technologies, and programs for the underserved. The Library to Go has circulated 684 items and had issued 153 library cards, and provided 52 empowering programs for 1,694 community members. The Library to Go will also be visiting multi-cultural events, farmer's markets and the Old Soldiers Reunion in the next few months.

Wi-Fi Hotspots

The community has expressed appreciation of the Wi-Fi hotspots provided by the library. The library is adding 30-60 new hotspots to the collection over the next year in order to provide more of this service to the community. Individuals are using this service for possible employment opportunities, connecting with family through skype, completing homework, research, and continuing education programs, and reading eBooks, to name a few. The library worked with the legal department to develop an appropriate

system in an effort to ensure the hotspots/laptop were being returned to the library. The library has checked out 204 W-Fi hotspots and 166 laptop computers.

Advocacy Opportunities

Legislative Day in the District is scheduled for Friday, May 17, 2019, at 11 am.

Requested Library Board members to call our NC legislators with the NC Library Advocacy request for 5 million dollars to be added to the State Aid to Libraries Fund, and a reoccurring amount of \$250,000 for the NC Kids Digital Library.

Thank you

A very special thanks to Brenda Sigmon, Susan Hunsucker and Amanda Edwards for their services on the Library Board. Their vacant board seats will be replaced for the August Library Board Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Next Regular Scheduled Library Board Meeting: Tuesday, August 13, 2019, Newton Library.

(Note: subsequently updated to Tuesday, September 10, 2019, at 11:30 to allow for Library Board Orientation/Training)

Respectfully submitted,
Tyler Garrison