

CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Minutes of November 10, 2020

The Catawba County Library Advisory Board met on Tuesday, November 10, 2020, 12 noon, in the Community Room of the Main Library in Newton.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mary Canrobert, Carmen Isenhower, Greg Kain, Kevin Moretz, Carol Preston, Tamara Shavers and Siobhan Loendorf, Library Director, Michele Francois, Business Manager.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Honey Estrada

GUESTS PRESENT

Jennifer Schraw, Tech Connect & Digital Services Librarian, Kelly Sigmon, Community Engagement Specialist, Anna Conrad, Intern and Mallory Sherrill, Intern

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

MINUTES

The minutes of the August 11, 2020 meeting were approved as written.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Staffing Update

Assistant Library Director – position posted – interviews on Thursday 11-12-20
Jenn Schraw – New Digital Services Librarian –TechConnect Librarian
Kacy Steiger was an hourly employee and has moved to LSII at Maiden
Kari Salisbury has filled the vacancy for the part-time LSI in our Genealogy Department
Krystal Wells has been hired for the part-time Library Assistant vacancy at SW
Addition of four hourly library assistants

Strategic Planning

Wrapping up 2019-20 LSTA grant – working with a consultant who has guided the library through a comprehensive planning process to enable the library to engage community and stakeholders and evaluate library spaces to develop a robust and meaningful strategic and facilities plan, providing guidance and a touch stone for future services and outcomes. Still working on final layout of plan and waiting for

facilities plans from the consultant – then we will move forward with presenting it to the Board of Commissioners.

COVID-19 Status

- On Oct 12th, the library removed all limitations to access and reopened the library with normal hours and no capacity or time limits. We continue to provide curbside service at 5 library locations.
- We are still following CDC recommendations for social distancing and for safety and sanitizing protocols.
- We follow strict cleaning and sanitizing protocols, frequently disinfecting high touch surfaces and continue to isolating returned materials 96 hours, we have set up cleaning stations in the computer lab and patrons are responsible for cleaning their own station.
- We are not currently offering meeting room use or in-person programming, with the exception of outdoor Zumba classes that have been held on the Square in Newton during elections and will be held in the lower lot of the library parking lot in November.
- Library teams have been working hard to create engaging online programming. They have been partnering with the Catawba Science Center and with the Symphony to enhance their interactive Zoom story time programs.

Programming

ARTT program

The LRU Visiting Writers Series hosted author Jacqueline Woodson in October and the library hosted an ARTT show based one of the Ms. Woodson's children's books titled Harbor Me. In the book, six students meet for a weekly chat—by themselves in a room they soon dub the ARTT Room (short for “A Room to Talk”). The ARTT show solicited self-portraits from children and teens all over the county. The library had a display of the art at the Newton library and it was also highlighted online through Facebook. We are looking now at other collaborative opportunities with art and schools and homeschools.

Zoom Story Times with Catawba Science Center and the NC Symphony

Librarians have been partnering with the Catawba Science Center to create short videos that they can incorporate into their interactive Zoom story time programs. The NC Symphony will be hosting their first virtual music story time Thursday Nov 12 at 10 am on Zoom. This program is funded by PNC Grow Up Great. Geared for preschool and elementary age children and their families, this zoom session will feature a NC Symphony musician reading a book about music, talking about their instrument and how other instruments make their sounds, and leading kids in a sing-along – plus more surprises! Participants are invited to participate using toy instruments at home, such as maracas, bells, or tambourines.

Upcoming programming:

Understanding and Responding to Dementia-Related Behaviors

Tuesday, November 10 at 2 pm

Join us to learn to decode behavioral messages, identify common triggers, and learn strategies to help manage some of the most common behavioral challenges of Alzheimer's disease. Presented by the Alzheimer's Association Western Carolina Chapter via Zoom.

Grant Projects

Community Navigator: Anna Conrad and Mallory Sherrills are both Masters of Social Work students with Appalachian State University. They started working with the Library in August and are wrapping up their first semester of work here at the end of this month. They have created a Community Resource Guide for library staff to reference when helping connect community members with resources. They have also been working with individuals and they will be doing some staff training later this month.

Wi-Fi for All:

- Part one of the Wi-Fi for All project was to establish free internet access at outdoor locations in areas where internet is not readily available. We have worked with six partners to set up free internet at seven locations: Hickory Soup Kitchen, 2 locations of Hickory Housing (now Nu Dimensions), 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.
- 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. These began circulating Nov 2. They are internet ready devices and act as a hotspot for other devices in the household as well.

Library Endowment

Since the August library advisory board meeting, we have received gifts to the endowment fund totaling \$2,096 which includes donations in honor of Suzanne White's retirement, and a \$1,000 check from the LGFCU for an Innovation Award. The endowment account at the North Carolina Community Foundation has a balance of approximately \$49,193.

Library Giving Day

Last April the library participated in the first annual Library Giving Day, and we plan to host that again on April 7, 2021. We will be looking for ideas to host a signature fundraising event.

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, February 9, 2021 at the Newton Library at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Michele Francois, Library Business Manager