



**CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**Minutes of May 11, 2021**

The Catawba County Library Advisory Board met on Tuesday, May 11, 12 noon, in the Community Room of the Main Library in Newton.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mary Canrobert, Carmen Isenhower, Kevin Moretz, Tamara Shavers, Carol Preston and Siobhan Loendorf, Library Director. In attendance virtually through Zoom was Honey Estrada.

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Greg Kain

**GUESTS PRESENT**

Kelly Sigmon, Community Engagement Specialist  
Jenny Gerami-Markham, Assistant Library Director

**CALL TO ORDER**

Kevin Moretz, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:58 am.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

None.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the February 9, 2021 meeting were approved with one typographical correction.

**Director's Report**

Staffing Update

Jaqueline Collins – new part time library assistant at Sherrills Ford-Terrell

New Hourly Staff: Francois Xiong and Lance Lee

Karen Herron retiring after 24 years with the county effective July 1, 2021

Open positions: St Stephens Librarian III and the Southwest Library Services Specialist II.

Strategic Planning

The Board of Commissioners approved the Library's 2021-2025 Strategic Plan on May 3, 2021.

The library will move \$300,000 in reinventing fund balance to create a capital project line to begin saving for a future Main Library. The library will dedicate other reinventing fund balance to update and enhance library spaces at all seven branch locations

COVID-19 Status

- The library continues to operate with normal hours.
- The library continues to follow CDC recommendations for social distancing and for safety and sanitizing protocols.
- The library is no longer isolating returned library materials and will begin moving furniture back in to library spaces while still maintaining 6 ft. social distancing guidelines.
- On June 1 the library expects to begin opening up meeting rooms with previously establishing meeting

room use guidelines and the whatever restrictions the Governor has in place on June 1.

- The library will begin to explore in-person programming – primarily outdoors but in late summer we may try to do some indoor programs
- We still have cleaning stations in the computer lab and patrons are responsible for cleaning their own station.
- Library staff continues to support the Public Health department by staffing needed personnel at the Hickory Metro Convention Center vaccination clinic.

## Programming

### **Summer Learning**

Theme: Tails and Tales Registration will open May 17th

Summer Learning begins June 1st and ends August 8th

Children, teens and adults can register with the online software: Beanstack

<https://catawbacountync.beanstack.org/reader365>

Children and Teens will be asked to read 600 minutes and are invited to participate in activity challenges including attend a virtual program, check out a Playaway, walk a Literacy Trail, etc.

Some of the featured programs include:

- May Wildlife Rehabilitation Center – Lees-McRea Tuesday, June 8<sup>th</sup> at 10am and Wed. June 9<sup>th</sup> at 3pm
- Kennel Club – Newton Garden Area – Sat June 19<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am
- Owls with State Park Ranger – Tues, June 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11 am & Tues, July 13<sup>th</sup> at 5pm
- Animal Movement with Stretch & Grow (4 sessions) Wednesdays
- Tails and Tales in the Garden at Newton (4 sessions) bi-lingual story and outdoor fun at 6:30 pm Thursdays
- Caleb Sigmon – Mr. Chicken’s Barnyard Revue - Monday, July 19<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am
- Turtles with North Carolina Aquarium at Fort Fisher – Thursday, August 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 pm

### **Suffragette Exhibit**

The Main Library in Newton is hosting the Suffragette Exhibit “She was Heard, She Fought, She Won!” Featuring panels with photographs and history facts covering topics including Background, Early Efforts, Leaders in the Movement, Progress and Setbacks, Change on the Horizon, Protests Escalate, Road to Ratification, and the Legacy.

Another feature of the exhibit is a Stained Glass Art piece created by Beth S. Shuford, titled “Sisters of Tenacity” as an homage to the posters of the Suffragette movement.

**Homework Gap** – in collaboration with the State Library of NC

At the last meeting I talked about the HomeWork Gap project that Jenn Schraw is working on with the State Library of NC to virtually implement the HW Gap curriculum developed by SLNC. Jenn began visiting the Central Recreation Center in Newton to introduce library resources and offer digital literacy training.

### **Youth Council Homework Helpers**

The library has been partnering with the Cooperative Extension’s Catawba County Youth Council to provide drop in Homework help for students at Newton on Mondays and Wednesdays and at Conover on Saturdays. It has been going well. This was a very popular program for the Youth Council students and participating families expressed their appreciation for the homework assistance.

## Grants

### **Community Navigators:**

The two community navigator students have completed their internship with the library. One of them is graduating from the program and the other is moving on to a prestigious internship with the Veterans Affairs. We have a new bachelor of Social Work student who will begin in August. She is a non-traditional student in that she is a mature adult returning to school to pursue her degree in Social Work. She will work at the library for 32 hours a week continuing the Community Navigator program through the Fall semester.

According to the statistics from this program the students have formally met with 37 individuals during their work with the library. The demographics for those individuals are as follows:

**Age:** 21 people were age 46 or older; 15 were age 26-45 and only 1 was 25 or younger.

**Housing Situation:** 19 people indicated that they have housing, 10 people said they did not have secure housing, and 8 people chose not to disclose this information.

**Reasons Seen:** Top five reasons were Housing insecurity (10); Applying for benefits (6); stimulus check (6); Just wanted to talk (4); employment assistance (4).

### **NC Cares Wi-Fi for All and Tablet Lending**

- 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 established 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. In this past month there have been 1,337 unique users accessing the internet at these locations.
- 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. This fiscal year, since July 1, 2020 the library has circulated the tablets 363 times; Wi-Fi hotspots 474 times and the laptop computers 215 times. In comparison to fiscal year 2019-20 we have had 26% increase in checkout of technology items.

### **Advocacy Focus**

1. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) includes \$200 million for the Institute of Museum and Library Services
2. United Infrastructure Week (May 10-14, 2021): In the next few weeks Congress is going to make key decisions about the scope of an infrastructure package, including whether libraries will be in it or left out. United for Infrastructure Week is one opportunity for libraries to position themselves as critical infrastructure and advocate for the Build America's Libraries Act to support that role. S.127 Build America's Libraries Act - could mean \$10,000,000 for NC Libraries

The purpose of this Act is to support long-term improvements to library facilities (including addressing needs that have arisen due to COVID-19) in order for libraries to better serve underserved and distressed communities, low-income and rural areas, and people with disabilities and vulnerable library users including children and seniors.

### **Library Endowment**

- Library Giving Day April 2021 was a big success with \$3,193 from 30 separate donations.
- When added to the NCCF previous balance of \$59,654.42 we now have approximately \$62,847.00