

CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Minutes of August 9th, 2022

The Catawba County Library Advisory Board met on Tuesday, August 9th, 2022, 12 noon, in the conference room of the Main Library in Newton.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honey Estrada-Board Chair, Tamara Shavers-Vice Chair, Mary Canrobert, Pam Cansler, Morgan Williams, Siobhan Loendorf, Library Director, Jenny Gerami-Markham, Assistant Library Director and Candi Dula, Business Manager.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Carmen Isenhower

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

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Staffing Update

Library Assistant ½ time at Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library – filled with Keri Flowers

Librarian III at St Stephens Branch Library – filled Carole Dennis

Outreach Librarian III for Library to Go – Sam Woolhiser

Community Navigator – Bradley Fedele – Community Navigator intern will begin on September 1. His schedule will be Thursdays and Fridays from 9am – 5pm.

Librarian II at Maiden Branch Library – in final stages of hiring.

Library Services Specialist II at St Stephens – in final stages of hiring.

Programming

Summer Learning: this fiscal year we registered 1035 children (785 in FY21) and 292 teens (196 FY21) and 389 adults (239 FY21). Children logged nearly 3000 hours of reading and teens recorded over 1000 hours of reading.

Other ongoing reading challenges: 1000 Books Before Kindergarten – registered 189 new children this past fiscal year. The Adult year round reading challenge has 148 people signed up this year.

Storytime programs are going strong. The Main library here in Newton presents a Tiny to Two program on Mondays and a preschool storytime on Wednesdays and Fridays. (all at 10 am)

Sherrills Ford-Terrell and Southwest all provide 2 story times a week and St Stephens and Maiden are currently offering one a week on Thursdays. Back in April when we started in person storytime again we were averaging 7 attendees per program it went up in May to 9 attendees and in June we were up to 13 attendees per program.

Health and Wellness programs – Honey and Jossiah Zumba; Chair Yoga and Gentle Flow Yoga with Kacy; Aquarobics at Fitness Plus

We are hosting a Health Insurance and Legal Aid navigator one day a month from 2-7 pm. She will help people navigate the affordable health care insurance and provide free legal services.

Career and Workforce Development – continued partnership with NC Works for online programs including topics like NC Works Scholarships, Expungement Workshops, Resumes and Interviewing Tips.

Book Clubs - Piece of Cake, Mystery Mavens, Books Between Friends, Mountain View Book Buzz, St Stephens Theme Based

Book Club

NEW- the library is partnering with NCDHHS to help expand the At-Home Testing in NC by becoming a Community Access Point.

Grants

LSTA Children's Area at Southwest Branch – to add Main Street Kiosk, Light Table, Story Driven Block Play, fun furnishings.

Non-recurring State Aid- \$89,471 – we have not committed any funds but we are thinking of using some of these funds to update the Maiden Branch Library, update the outdoor programming area here at Newton and purchase a software program that provides training resources for the Skilled Trades including electrician, plumbing, HVAC repair, solar installation and facilities maintenance.

Facilities Updates:

St Stephens: carpet has been replaced and shelving and furnishings have been installed. We are working on wiring to shift the computer lab to the new cubicles. We will be installing the children's interactive equipment mid-September and hope to do a grand re-opening sometime in October to show off the new look.

Maiden: Has been completely repainted the interior and entry way. We have shifted all of the children's resources into the former council chambers and we will be looking to update the adult side of the library with some of the ARPA funds coming through the State Library.

Broadband Internet Access and Technology Lending

- We have 46 hotspots in circulation right now and will be adding 11 more this week for total of 57. We currently have 7 people on the waitlist for a hotspot.
- We are still working with the County's Broadband Taskforce to promote the NC Broadband Survey and to educate community members about the Affordable Connectivity Program- anyone at 200% or less of the poverty guideline is eligible. For a single person that means \$27,180 it will pay up to \$30 a month/household for internet service.

Board Member Advocacy / Input

- Thank legislators for supporting the NC Kids Digital Library with \$300,000 in recurring funding.
- The 2022-23 State Budget: last year State Aid was 14,182,131 this year it is 14,482,131 an additional \$1 million in non-recurring funds was added to State Aid, it is critical that we continue to push for recurring funding in the state budget.

2020 - 14,732,141

2019 – 14,682,131

2018 – 14,790,131

Library Endowment

Current balance at NC Community Foundation \$80,100.32 and \$130 in county account this fiscal year for a total of \$80,230.32.

Other Business - Awards

The Civic Excellence in Innovation Awards from North Carolina Association of County Commissioners for the Wi-Fi for All project where we set up WiFi networks in parking lots and added WiFi enabled tablet devices to circulation to the community. This award comes with \$1,000 in prize money which we will deposit to the Library Endowment.

We were also awarded 3 awards from the National Association of Counties.

1. WiFi for All
2. Community Navigators
3. Hmong Cultural Heritage – Best in Category Award

Presentation: Library to Go Sam Woolhiser

ADJOURNMENT

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

Next Regular Scheduled Library Board Meeting: Tuesday, November 11th, 2022 at the Newton Library at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Candi Dula, Business Manager