

**THE CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**Minutes of November 10, 2015**

The Catawba County Library Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, November 10, 2015, 12 Noon, in the Conference Room of the Main Library in Newton.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Amanda Edwards, Pat Gibson, Mary Bess Lawing, Kevin Moretz, Brenda Sigmon, Carol Preston and Suzanne White, Library Director.

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Susan Hunsucker

**CALL TO ORDER**

Brenda Sigmon, Chairman, called the meeting to order.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No members of the public attended.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting, August 11, 2015, were approved as written. Mary Bess Lawing made the motion; Carol Preston seconded; motion carried.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Main Library Refresh**

95 percent furnishings have been delivered; new reference and youth services desk should be delivered in the next 2-3 months. Additional shelving should be arriving soon.

**Staffing Update**

- Patricia Oliver resigned as the Public Information Officer. The position is in the hiring process with Interviews scheduled next week.
- Allison McKiernan is the new Adult Services Librarian. She will be providing reference services and coordinating adult programming at the Newton Library.
- Michelle (Shelley) Orr is the new Digital Services Librarian, providing technology training for staff and the public, and coordinating technology services for the library.
- Alyson Kent and Lindsey Lewis are the new ½ time Library Assistants at Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch.

### **Library Endowment**

There was a discussion on the library pursuing the development of a Library Endowment with the North Carolina Community Foundation. It was noted that a library endowment can provide a structure for people to show their appreciation for and support of extended library services, and provide a strong foundation for the future of library services in Catawba County. Creating a Library Endowment, the library will take another proactive step in strengthening community partnerships and encouraging advocacy for the library. Information on establishing a Library Endowment was distributed to the Board for discussion. After the discussion, Brenda Sigmon made a motion to establish an endowment. Carol Preston seconded the motion; motion carried. A main role for the Library Board in this endeavor will be to support the endowment, and to help advocate and fundraise for the endowment.

### **TechConnect Grand Opening – November 24, 2015**

TechConnect space opens November 24<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am at the Main Library. This space, provided by a LSTA Literacy & Lifelong Learning Grant, is to provide access to cutting edge resources that the public might not be able to afford, bridging the digital divide and enhancing the technology-career connection. The new space has 4 high powered computers-2 iMacs and 2 Dells, a Fusionc3 3D printer, a Curio Silhouette Digital Cutter, GoPro cameras, a sewing machine, and advanced engineering and design software to design and create. TechConnect is a place where anyone can explore new technology as well as design. Independent use of equipment and specialized 3D printing and cutting is also available by reservation, with nominal costs. In addition to library staff, the Western Piedmont Council of Governments plans to partner with the library by sending an NCWorks career specialist once a week. Another partnership with the Manufacturing Solutions Center offers access to professional tools, software applications, and training.

### **Big Read**

Catawba County Library will be partnering with the Green Room Theatre, Lenoir-Rhyne University, Hickory Public Library, Catawba Valley Community College, Catawba County Schools and others to read and provide programming centered around Harper Lee's "To Kill a Mockingbird" with a companion read of Bryan Stevenson's "Just Mercy".

### **Discussion of the publication "Rising to the Challenge"**

**Rising to the Challenge:** Book from the State Library

“Rising to the Challenge” was distributed to the Board members for review at the August meeting. There was a discussion on the theme of libraries expanding access to education, learning opportunities, and social connections as one of the great challenges of our time; and how the library is “Rising to the Challenge” and how it can continue to. Discussion highlighted included the library’s positive connection in the community, plans for establishing a Library Endowment to support services now and in the future, our continuing enhanced library services and outreach to the community, all contributing to the library being successful in the short and long term. The book is also available online:

<http://csreports.aspeninstitute.org/documents/AspentLibrariesReport.pdf>

## **VI. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:05 p.m.

Next Regular Scheduled Library Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 9, 2016, Newton Library

Respectfully submitted,  
Linda Shull