

CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Minutes of February 13, 2018

The Catawba County Library Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, February 13, 2018, 12 Noon, in the Conference Room of the Main Library in Newton.

MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Amanda Edwards

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

Staffing Update

Houa Yang accepted the ½ time Library Assistant position at Sherrills Ford.

Jana Glenn resigned as the Conover/Claremont Librarian position; however, she is staying on in an hourly position.

Kelly Sigmon, Community Engagement Specialist, was introduced to the Library Board.

Grant Award

The Catawba County Library was awarded a grant titled “Arts at the Library” from the United Arts Council. The library will partner with the Hickory Museum of Art, local artists’ collectives, and schools to curate and implement rotating art exhibits, and arts workshops to enhance community access to the arts and bring training and awareness for local artists. Additionally, an Art-O-Mat art machine will be installed at the Newton Library to both bring accessible and affordable art to the community and provide avenues for local artists to participate in the Art-o-Mat national network.

K-64

The library is committed to its work of being a critical component of our local K-64 initiatives by enhancing services from early literacy to higher education and workforce development. Catawba County students in the 7th grade will be receiving chrome books and the library is excited about providing services to both students and teachers. Additionally, Suzanne has been appointed to the Workforce Solutions Committee of K64, which will be an asset to address the needs of enhancing access and exposure to Career Pathways and Development for the Catawba County education and working community.

Wi-Fi Hot Spot Success

The project targets enhancing internet access to students and families at home in an effort to expand access to critical educational and career preparedness resources. Library staff are working with school systems to identify students that could benefit from the program, provide training for the equipment, and in accessing empowering resources. We've heard from many that our service increases their digital literacy, and that they used these resources for job search and online applications and participating in online classes as well as for homework and research, finding health and wellness information, news and weather, books, movies, and music, email and other communications, and social media and online games. We've heard success stories from secondary and college students that they were able to complete their homework, college coursework, or exams at home; and from community members that were able to access vital resources, find work, and enhance their job skills and careers.

The Library in the Community

The Library is partnering with Catawba Valley Community College for a community read that will take place in February and March. The Community Read of *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson, highlighting his work towards equity, reform, and mercy within the criminal justice system through his Equal Justice Initiative. The Library and CVCC will have a variety of programming throughout the Read, culminating in keynote speaker Anthony Ray Hinton--wrongly imprisoned and recently released after almost thirty years on death row--on March 20 at CVCC in the morning and at the 1924 Courthouse in the evening, followed by a reception hosted by the Historical Museum sponsored by the Friends of the Library. The second Community Read will be the book *Blue* by Joyce Hostetter, the story of a young girl who gains strength by joining her community in battling polio--based on the 1944 epidemic and the "Miracle of Hickory" Hospital in Hickory. The Library is collaborating with the Green Room Community Theatre and the Catawba County Historical Association for this read, which will include performances of the play, book talks, crafts, an exhibit at the museum, and showings of *The Miracle of Hickory*, Dr. Richard Eller's documentary highlighting Catawba County's remarkable response to the Polio Outbreak of 1944.

The **NEH Hmong Digitization Project Grant** will allow the library to work with partners in the Hmong community to collect and digitize artifacts and oral histories, and provides an avenue for storytelling and sharing diverse cultures in the community. The first collection date is scheduled for February 24, 2018. Through additional collections and work with the community, the library will produce digital copies that will highlight and share these artifacts and stories and be published through the NC Digital Heritage Center.

County/Library Branding

Catawba County recently introduced a new branding and communications initiative, focused on highlighting the unique features, assets, resources, and people of Catawba county, and the collaborative spirit towards Making. Living. Better. The branding initiative includes a new logo along with the new tag line that will be used and shared by all county departments. The library will soon be in the process of switching over to the new branding, and is excited about our role in furthering the shared message and story:



Library Endowment

The Library Endowment continues to grow, almost tripling since its inception. Suzanne expressed gratitude to Board Members and community donors for their support of the Endowment, and our goal towards long term sustainable funding for the Library System. Board members are encouraged to make an annual contribution, of any amount, to the Library Endowment, in order for the library to best continue to advocate for community donations.

Great American Read

The Great American Read is scheduled for May 22, 2018.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Next Regular Scheduled Library Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 8, 2018, Newton Library.

Respectfully submitted,
Tyler Garrison