

**CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**Minutes of November 14, 2017**

The Catawba County Library Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, November 14, 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 and Suzanne White, Library Director.

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Amanda Edwards, Carol Preston

**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**

Maiden-Library Services Specialist II--Alyson Kent  
Sherrills Ford-Librarian--Melissa Henderson  
Southwest-Librarian--Touger Vang  
Newton-Community Engagement Specialist II--Kelly Sigmon

**Annual Report**

Library statistics are compiled each year and a brief annual report is generated so numbers can be shared with the County and other community groups. Comparing trends in the past three years, we've noticed an increase in library users and visits to the library. There has been a decline in physical items and programming; however, children's materials are increasing and adults are utilizing more electronic resources. While we sometimes see less people in formal programming, we have noticed an increase in one-on-one help for homework help, career and technology assistance, and life skills enhancement.

**Wi-Fi Hot Spot Success**

The Library is also progressing with the Home Free Internet to Go initiative, preparing 40 laptops and 30 Wi-Fi hot spots for the Wi-Fi Lending Project. The project provides internet access to students at home in an effort to expand access to critical educational and career preparedness resources. Library staff will work with school systems to identify students that could benefit from the program and provide training for the equipment and in accessing empowering resources. The equipment that is going out into the community is coming back in good condition. 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. Recently a student at CVCC shared how the service is vital in helping her successfully continue her education.

### **Highlights from the Newsletter**

The Library is excited about a few programs that is happening in November. Alice's Ordinary People, taking place at the Newton Library and the Young People for Integrity Group at St. Stephens High School. During the month of November, the Library will again conduct the Food for Fines Program. Food collected between November 15-30, will be donated to help replenish the food banks at Public Health and Social Services in Catawba County.

### **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 will be *Just Mercy* by Bryan Stevenson that highlights the equal justice initiative. The Library and CVCC will have a variety of programming throughout the Read, culminating in the keynote speaker Anthony Ray Hinton, on March 20 at CVCC in the morning and at the 1924 Courthouse in the evening, followed by a reception at the Historical Museum. 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.

### **Advocacy**

The Library has created a new brochure that will be distributed in the community. Advocacy cheat sheets were provided to library board members detailing meeting dates and contact info of local and state leaders. Board members are encouraged to attend The Catawba County Board of Commissioners Meetings and a library program which helps to build relationships with local and state community members and leaders. Board members shared ideas and thoughts about how they personally can advocate for the Library in the community.

### **Library Endowment**

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.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Next Regular Scheduled Library Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 13, 2018, Newton Library

Respectfully submitted,  
Tyler Garrison