

CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Minutes of February 14th 2023

The Catawba County Library Advisory Board met on Tuesday, February 14th, 2023, 12 noon, in the conference room of the Main Library in Newton.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honey Estrada-President, Mary Canrobert, Pam Cansler, Morgan Williams, Jeanne Lebens, Siobhan Loendorf, Library Director, Jenny Gerami-Markham, Assistant Library Director

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Carmen Isenhower, Tamara Shavers-Vice Chair

CALL TO ORDER

Morgan Williams 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 Services Specialist at Maiden Branch Library – Kelyn Thorton

Open- Library Assistant at Main Library in Newton – interviews pending

We received the resignation for Soraya Place the part time Library Services Specialist II at Newton.

Programming - refer to the November Newsletter

- I. Green Book Display – we will be taking a “field trip” to view during the Presentation portion listed on the agenda – We will be moving the Green Book Exhibit to the Sherrills Ford Terrell Branch on Friday 18th in preparation for carpeting here at Newton.
- II. Early Literacy Programming
 - a. The system offers 9 Every Child Ready to Read preschool programs, 1- Tiny to Two, 1-Bilingual, and 1-Evening Storytime for a total of 12 weekly storytimes.
 - b. Pre-K Stations is an early literacy program with sensory, craft and STEAM stations held at the Conover Branch.
 - c. Other programming for the younger ones includes Pre-K Play (fitness-based program) at Conover, special evening storytime based on Coretta Scott King Award Winners here at Newton, and the Pearler Bead Club (great for fine motor skills, following directions, teambuilding) at Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch.
 - d. Take your child to library day was on Feb 4th – The goal of the day is to reach families who are not already library users. We worked with the school librarians to get the word out and held a competition for the school with the most children that visited the library. More than 111 children filled out entry forms which was an increase over the 86 children that registered last year. Startown Elementary was the winning school library. We'll be presenting a set of Dogman books to be added to their library on their student-led TV show. A drawing was held at each branch for one child to be awarded a Dogman book of their own.
 - e. The Green Room Theatre presented The Sword in the Stone at the Main Library and Southwest Branch on Take Your Child to the Library day and at the St Stephens Branch on Feb. 11. You can still catch them at the Conover Branch on Saturday, Feb. 25 at 11 am.
- III. Adult programming
 - a. Interplay Learning – added to our website in the Skill Mill gear in the middle- we have 3 folks signed up from the community. We have shared the site with Chris Reese from K-64 and we will be talking more with them about creating some articulation agreements so that people who get a certificate on Interplay Learning will be able to convert that into real school credits.
 - b. Adult Steam & Crafts – needle felting, macramé, VR experiences about the Green Book, Knitter's Circle, candle

- making, technology petting zoo
- c. Health and Wellness – Yoga, Zumba, Walking, stretching, Healthy eating: salad on a stick
- d. Community Navigator – Bradley Fedele returned for a 2nd semester; partnering with Backpack program to offer bags of food at CN, SS, & NW; helping folks with whatever they need. I passed him a call about housing and I know he was talking to a man who is homeless about getting a phone.
- e. AARP – using the meeting room on Tuesdays to offer tax prep – their appointments are already all booked.

IV. Teen programming

- a. Gaming with Switches & VR
- b. Basic First Aid at Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch on Feb. 21
- c. Escape Room at the Southwest Branch
- d. D & D club – starting at the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch

Career and Workforce Development – continued partnership with NC Works for online programs including topics like NC Works Scholarships, Expungement Workshops, Resumes and Interviewing Tips. New staff recently took a tour of their facility and met with staff to be able to better promote NCWorks and learn how we can help community members with their job search process. NC Works /Western Piedmont Council of Governments has also agreed to partner more with the library for a grant project to add more study room spaces. As part of that project NC Works would work out of the Newton Library to provide in person and Zoom career counseling and training.

Book Clubs - Will be featured in an upcoming Catawba County blog post: Piece of Cake, Mystery Mavens, Books Between Friends, Mountain View Book Buzz, St Stephens Theme Based Book Club, and the special NC Reads book club meetings through the NC Humanities Council (*Carolina Built* by Kianna Alexander)

NEW- the library is continuing to partner with NCDHHS to help expand the At-Home Testing in NC by being a Community Access Point to give Covid tests away at no charge. We give test to organizations including the Corner Table and ECCCM.

Grants

Bright Ideas Grant – Southwest Children’s Space

LSTA Children’s Area at Southwest Branch – to add Main Street Kiosk, Light Table, Story Driven Block Play, fun furnishings. Items have been delivered and painting is complete. April Green at Southwest reports that families come regularly just to play with the new equipment.

2023-24 Grant LSTA application – we are working on a grant to add 5 soundproof office pods at the Main Library on the Main Floor. We are moving some stuff during the carpeting project to open up a wall in the adult area where we can install 2 single person pods and 3 larger pods that can hold up to four people these spaces are perfect for making phone calls, video conferencing, meetings, work sessions or performing focused tasks.

Facilities Updates:

- i. Ribbon Cutting at St Stephens Dec. 8th Thank you for attending – we had a great turn out from the community and families there are also responding well to the new early literacy equipment and shelving. The check-out statistics from the new children’s browser bin shelving is very compelling. When looking at the timeframe of September 1 to February 14th year over year we see that

	current circulation	historic circulation	% increase
ABC Non Fiction	52	8	550%
ABC Fiction	1084	482	125%
Easy Picture Books	4071	2635	54%
Ready to Learn Bags	24	13	85%
	5231	3138	67%

- ii. Carpet at Newton – the carpet company estimates that it could take up to two weeks maybe more to carpet the upstairs at Newton. Since it would not be feasible to close for that period of time the library will be offering library services from

the ground floor. Beginning this Saturday Feb. 18th we will set up the community room as a temporary library with public access computers, newspapers and magazines, seating and tables for people to use. We will maintain regular business hours with the exception of Monday, Feb. 20 when we will be closed all day for a staff training on Mental Health First Aid provided by Atrium Health. On Tuesday Feb 21 we will resume services from the bottom level until the carpeting is complete.

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 \$ 83,469.25 and \$2450 in county account this fiscal year for a total of \$85,919.25.

Other Business

Presentation: Green Book Exhibit <https://aahc.nc.gov/green-book-project>

Video link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t7_cy7uUcqk

ADJOURNMENT

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

Next Regular Scheduled Library Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 9th, 2023 at the Newton Library at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Candi Dula, Business Manager