

CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Minutes of May 9th 2023

The Catawba County Library Advisory Board met on Tuesday, May 9th, 2023, 12 noon, in the conference room of the Main Library in Newton.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Honey Estrada-President, Tamara Shavers-Vice Chair, Carmen Isenhower,
Mary Canrobert, Pam Cansler, Morgan Williams, Jeanne Lebens, Siobhan Loendorf, Library Director, Jenny Gerami-Markham,
Assistant Library Director, Candi Dula, Business Manager

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

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

Main Library in Newton – Library Assistant Part Time – Brett Herron

St Stephens Branch Library – Managing Librarian – Nikki Stafinski started 5-1-23

St Stephens Branch Library – Library Services Specialist II – Mychaela Brown starting 5-15-23

Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library – Library Assistant Part Time – Katherine Sisak starting 5-30-23

One open position at St Stephens Branch Library – Library Assistant Part Time

Programming - refer to the November Newsletter

- I. Early Literacy Programming
 - a. The system offers 9 Every Child Ready to Read preschool programs including 1- Tiny to Two, 1-Bilingual Storytime for a total of 11 preschool programs.
 - 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, and the Pearler Bead Club (great for fine motor skills, following directions, teambuilding) at Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch.
 - d. Conover Library is working with elementary age students to host an art gallery from May 2 to May 31. Students are invited to submit original artwork based on the Summer Learning theme of All Together Now
- II. Adult programming
 - a. Interplay Learning –we currently have 10 people signed up from the community with one person who has completed 8 courses earning 8 certificates (intro to washers and dryers, microwaves, kitchen ventilation, ranges, refrigerators, dishwashers) Intro to Skill Mill classes offered at St. Stephens and the Main Library.
 - b. Adult Steam & Crafts – needle felting, bath bombs, Gelli Printmaking, Fresh Flower prints, sign making
 - c. Health and Wellness – Yoga, Zumba, Walking, stretching, Getting Good Sleep
 - d. Community Navigator – Bradley Fedele finished his final semester with the library and has graduated. We are looking forward to hosting a new community navigator in the Fall, she will be a UNC-Charlotte master's student and she will be with us for the academic year.
 - e. Book Clubs-
 - i. The Station Book Club at Conover – discussing The Survivors by Jane Harper
 - ii. The Mystery Mavens Book Club at Sherrills Ford-Terrell discussing the Violin Conspiracy by Brendan Slocumb
 - iii. Adult Book Club on Facebook (St Stephens Branch) May's theme was to read a book published the year

you graduated.

- iv. Spanish Book Club “A reading heart” reading A Ballad of Love and Glory by Reyna Grande
- v. Books Between Friends Club at Claremont reading So Long Chester Wheeler by Catherine Ryan Hyde
- vi. NC Reads is the NC Humanities Book Club – reading Under a Gilded Moon by Joy Jordan Lake

III. Teen programming

- a. Teen Tuesdays at the Main Library in Newton
- b. Teen Advisory Board at St Stephens and Teen game night
- c. Teen Cornhole tournament at Conover
- d. Teen Dungeons and Dragons club at Sherrills Ford-Terrell.

Career and Workforce Development – Goodwill Career specialist comes to Newton once a month to provide one-on-one help to people needing assistance with job search and applications.

Grants

Bright Ideas Grant – Southwest Children’s Space

LSTA Children’s Area at Southwest Branch – we have nearly all of the components of the children’s space installed, we are waiting on four arm chairs for parents to use. We are working with the Catawba County Partnership for Children to establish a PEEPS (Parents Engaging & Empowering Parents) Playgroup at the library. The Partnership’s PEEPS playgroups normally end in May and are not offered through the summer however, the Southwest Library will be providing the PEEPS playgroup beginning in June and if successful will continue year-round.

2023-24 Grant LSTA application – We submitted a grant to add 5 soundproof office pods at the Main Library, perfect for making phone calls, video conferencing, meetings, work sessions or performing focused tasks.

Corning Foundation Grant – waiting to hear back to see if we will be awarded \$1000 to pay for Bright Star Theatre Touring Company performance for Juneteenth.

Facilities Updates:

- i. Carpet at Newton – We were able to have the upstairs re-carpeted and only closed the library for one day. We transformed the community room into a temporary library and provided library services.
- ii. New HVAC at Newton – We are waiting on some of the components to be delivered but the wiring has all been run and as soon as they get the units they will install them on the roof. This should provide the library with considerable savings for our heating and air expenses.
- iii. Claremont Branch Library has a new sign painted on the side of the building.

Board Member Advocacy / Input

The 2023-24 State Budget is still not approved but is in the Senate awaiting approval. The Library Lobbyist paid for by the NCPLDA and donations from the Friends of the Library groups stated that the House budget proposed \$20 million in recurring funds for State Aid. Writing letters to elected officials in support of public libraries and thanking them for their continued support.

Past State Aid Amounts

2020 - 14,732,141

2019 – 14,682,131

2018 – 14,790,131

Library Endowment

Current balance at NC Community Foundation \$83,642.31 up from \$ 83,469.25 and \$4,005 in county account and \$1,769.81 in PayPal this fiscal year for a total of \$ 89,417.12.

Other Business

Presentation: Summer Learning Program

ADJOURNMENT

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

Next Regular Scheduled Library Board Meeting: Tuesday, August 8th, 2023 at the Newton Library at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,
Candi Dula, Business Manager