

CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Minutes of August 14th, 2024

The Catawba County Library Advisory Board met on Tuesday, August 14th, 2024, 12 noon, in the conference room of the Main Library in Newton.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Donna Reese-Newly elected Vice Chair, Ed Sain, Pam Cansler, Carmen Isenhower, Katie Perkins, Jeanne Lebens Siobhan Loendorf, Library Director, Jenny Gerami-Markham, Assistant Library Director Candi Dula, Business Manager

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Morgan Williams-Board Chair

CALL TO ORDER

at 12:00 p.m.

Vice Chair Election: Board Elects Donna Reese

PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public attended.

MINUTES

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Staffing Update

- a. Congratulations to Kelce Anne Farah-Albertson who will be working ½ time down at the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch library.
- b. We are in the process of hiring a ½ benefitted position at Conover.
- c. Congratulations to Maria Miller, who will be joining us in late August 21 - December as the Community Navigator.
- d. We are also waiting on pre-employment screenings for another Community Navigator candidate who will start August 26, pending approval.
- e. We hope to have a UNC-G Librarian Intern, Lindsay Kozak, working on Fridays and Saturdays beginning on August 23. She will be here for one semester and will graduate in December. We are still working on hiring paperwork, so it not quite official yet.
- f. We will be posting for 2 digital navigators in the next few weeks

Programming - refer to the Aug Newsletter

Summer Learning Registration update as of 8/3/2024

	Kid Goal	registered Kids	% of goal	Teen Goal	registered Teens	% of goal	Adult Goal	registered Adults	% of goal
Library Branch Total	950	1234	130%	300	440	147%	260	509	196%
Claremont Branch Library	30	55	183%	5	17	340%	5	20	400%
Conover Branch Library	60	140	233%	35	37	106%	15	42	280%
Maiden Branch Library	60	82	137%	35	43	123%	15	63	420%
Main Library in Newton	275	337	123%	75	85	113%	75	110	147%
Sherrills Ford-Terrell Branch Library	175	218	125%	50	54	108%	50	108	216%
Southwest Branch Library	175	182	104%	50	139	278%	50	64	128%
St. Stephens Branch Library	175	148	85%	50	39	78%	50	62	124%
Library to Go Mobile Library		72			26			40	

- I. Pre-K STEAM: we have successfully added Pre-K steam to our program schedule. Ever week there is a Pre K STEAM program at a library including wind tunnels, light tables, robots, bugs and magnifying glasses, and other science related supplies. The kits are currently at the Sherrills Ford and Maiden branches for two weeks. Then they will travel to Newton and Claremont.
- II. Teen programming
Lots of great programming for teens throughout the summer with Bubble tea, scavenger hunts, terrariums, no sew blankets and more.
- III. Adult programming
 - a. Interplay Learning –we have 5 licenses or seats
 - b. Adult Steam & Crafts – needle felting, knitting and crocheting
 - c. Health and Wellness – Yoga, Zumba, Kinetic meditation, healthy lunch box options
 - d. Community Navigator – We will have two Community Navigators this coming year.
 - e. Collections –we started with Wonderbooks last fiscal year and we will be adding more easy audio books with a different vendor called Vox books.
 - f. Spanish language bookbaggers – we will be building this collection
 - g. Intern – we will have a MLS student completing her internship here at the Main library.
 - h. Book Clubs- five book clubs that meet at the library, online and out in the community.
- IV. Technology – we have added 11 new hotspots into the inventory – we are up to 70 hotspots.
- V. E-rate has approved funding hotspots for this coming year.

Grants

1. 2023-24 Grant LSTA application – office spaces getting regular use
2. The library has been awarded \$300,000 the Digital Champion Grant with the NC Dept. of Instruction Technology to hire two full time digital navigators to conduct outreach throughout Catawba County with a focus on teaching digital literacy to seniors, veterans, those for whom English is a second language, less advantaged people, and recently incarcerated individuals. We are currently waiting on the contract paperwork to come from the state.
3. We were awarded \$38,903 to update the children’s area at the Main library to be more inclusive for neurodivergent children and adding a special sensory story time to the regular slate of programs offered here at Newton. We are partnering with the Early Childhood Support Team at the Catawba County Partnership for Children to help us select items for the space. Most importantly they will help train our youth services staff in how to effectively deliver a sensory storytime program. As part of this project we will be asking all staff to take some online training about how to provide the best customer service to individuals who are neurodivergent. This will help our entire system become more inclusive.
4. We were awarded \$17,037 to update the rest of the meeting spaces.
5. We were awarded nearly \$10,000 from the State Library to establish early literacy spaces out in the community. We are working with Social Services to update three of their lobby areas where children are likely to be waiting with their families. We will install educational interactives including light tables, magnetic white boards, pretend play equipment, shelving, seating and lots and lots of books that children can take home or enjoy while they are in the space.
6. We received another LSTA grant to send a staff person at Southwest to a conference and an ALA grant to send our Spanish collection development person to the Guadalajara book fair. The Guadalajara International Book Fair is the most important publishing gathering in Ibero-America. It is also an amazing cultural festival. Created 38 years ago by the [University of Guadalajara](#), the Fair is aimed at professionals and the general public alike, a characteristic that sets it apart from other book fairs around the globe.
7. We just received another LSTA grant to send a different staff member to the Association of Small and Rural Libraries in Springfield Mass.

Awards: Two Naco awards

1. Beyond the Books- staff development with Ryan Dowd training and mental health first aid
2. Tales from the Garden program- bi-lingual storytime in the garden- began during covid continues to be super popular.

Library Endowment

Current balance at NC Community Foundation

Endowment Amount: \$ 108,148.24

Paypal Amount: \$ 48.06

Cash contributions \$ 129.60

Total: \$108,324.90

ADJOURNMENT

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

Next Regular Scheduled Library Board Meeting: Tuesday, November 12th, 2024 at the Newton Library at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Candi Dula, Business Manager