

CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING
Minutes of February 11, 2025

The Catawba County Library Advisory Board met on Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 12 noon, in the conference room of the Main Library in Newton.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Morgan Williams-Board Chair, Donna Reese- Vice Chair, Ed Sain, Pam Cansler, Carmen Isenhower, Katie Perkins, Jeanne Lebens Siobhan Loendorf, Library Director, Candi Dula, Business Manager

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

CALL TO ORDER

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

- a. Congratulations to new library employees:
 - i. Lindsay Kosak
 - ii. Keyln Thorton – resigned from Maiden
 - iii. Kathy Freeman has announced her retirement April 1.

Programming - refer to the Nov Newsletter

- I. Every Child Ready to Read Storytime programs – and spaces
 - i. Tiny to two
 - ii. Preschool
 - iii. Sensory friendly
 - iv. Spanish Bilingual storytime
 - v. Fully Spanish storytime
- II. Teen programming

February teen programs include a Teen DIY spa event here at the main library where teens will make their own soothing hair mask and a sugar scrub. The St Stephens branch is hosting a Valentine Teen Night on Wednesday where teens are invited in to make valentine crafts. For teens getting ready for college, we have folks from the College Foundation of NC to come take people through the FAFSA form for free application for federal student aid.

In March there are more crafts for teens, the fourth annual Mario Kart tournament at the Southwests branch and a spring plant a flower program where teens will pain their own flower pot and the plant flowers and learn how to send a message with flowers.
- III. Adult programming
 - i. Interplay Learning –we have 5 licenses or seats
 - ii. Adult Steam & Crafts – needle felting, quilting, knitting, DIY hand scrub, and DIY ornaments –
 - iii. Health and Wellness – Yoga, Zumba, Mindful movement
 - iv. Special – Self Defense for Women classes – this is the second month we have partnered with the Sheriffs office to have officers from the Sheriffs office come teach about self defense – with blocking and striking techniques, defenses against grabs and the legalities of self defense. Tuesday Feb 18 at the Conover branch and Tues Feb 25 at the St Stephens

branch.

b.

- i. Collections –we are still building the collection with the audio easy books and we are in the process of ordering the decodable books.
- ii. Spanish language bookbaggers – still working on building this collection
- iii. Book Clubs- five book clubs that meet at the library, online and out in the community.

IV. Technology – we have 75 hotspots we have nine people waiting to get a hotspot.

Grants

1. \$300,000 the Digital Champion Grant with the NC Dept. of Instruction Technology. Two bilingual digital navigators are conducting 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. They have a mobile computer lab with 15 laptops, outfitted with Microsoft Office and wireless mice. They have a projector and projection screen to use. They have finished their first series of classes at Centro Latino and they are working with the Women's Resource Center in Hickory, Seniors Morning Out, the Council on Aging.
2. We have finished the update of the children's area here at Newton. That was an LSTA grant of \$38,903. Using the concept of Universal Design we updated the area to be more engaging with all children but especially families with neurodivergent children or children with autism. We also added a weekly 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. They helped us select items for the space and they provided in person training to our youth services staff in how to effectively deliver a sensory storytime program. We also assigned all staff online training called Autism-Inclusive Customer service. When surveyed 87.5% of staff said that they felt more confident about what they learned from the training, 92.5% said they learned something new, 95% report that they will apply what they learned from the training and 95% agree that applying what they learned will improve library services to the public.
3. We are still working on our second LSTA grant where we were awarded \$17,037 to update the rest of the meeting spaces. We had a couple of mis-shipments from the vendor but they are working through that and getting the correct equipment in to finish the updates.
4. We were awarded \$2,000 from the Kenneth and Suzanne Millholland grant through the NC Community Foundation to create a new collection of Decodable Readers for families.

Library Endowment

Current balance at NC Community Foundation

Endowment Amount: \$112,479.57

PayPal Amount: \$ 96.12

Cash contributions \$ 300.65

Total: \$112,876.34 was \$112,227.60 last quarter (\$648.74 more)

ADJOURNMENT

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

Next Regular Scheduled Library Board Meeting: Tuesday, May 13th, 2025 at the Newton Library at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Candi Dula, Business Manager