

**THE CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**Minutes of May 9, 2017**

The Catawba County Library Board of Trustees met on Tuesday, May 9, 2017, 12 Noon, in the Conference Room of the Main Library in Newton.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Amanda Edwards, Brenda Sigmon, Susan Hunsucker, Nicky Setzer and Suzanne White, Library Director.

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Susan Hunsucker, Kevin Morte, Pat Gibson

**CALL TO ORDER**

Brenda Sigmon, Chairman, called the meeting to order at 12:02 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**

Kimberly Wetmore- Southwest Branch Librarian-Retirement  
Cheri Hudson - Transfer - Conover/Claremont Branch Librarian to Southwest Branch Librarian  
Debbie Hovis - Conover Library - Retirement  
Erica Derr- New Hire - Collaborative Services Librarian  
Jana Glenn - New Hire - Conover/Claremont Librarian

**Project Update/Turning Outward**

Paul Foster has been holding community conversations with the Hickory Housing Authority, Art Groups, Downtown Newton Development, George Place and area agriculture groups. He is also working to get groups with Lenoir Rhyne University and Catawba Valley Community College student groups.

**Budget/Outcomes Update**

Suzanne is scheduled to present the budget to the Catawba County Board of Commissioners on May, 22 2017. A public hearing will also be held in order to adopt the final budget for fiscal year 2017-2017 on Thursday, June 1 at 7 pm. Outcomes for the library branches have now been combined into one system wide set to better define the mission and the impact of the library. The goal of the combined outcomes is to better share and highlight library impact.

### **Project Update- Born to Read and Wi-Fi Lending**

The Library is currently working with hospitals, Centro Latino, The Hickory Public Library, Social Services, Public Health, and early literacy partners to implement the ***Born to Read*** Project as a way to get parents excited and confident about reading with and practicing vital early literacy skills their children. The library provides early literacy training with prenatal clinics and provides a Born to Read Bag with baby's first board book and library card providing access to online resources and interactive storybooks, as well as a variety of early literacy and infant wellness resources. The Born to Read Project is a beneficial precursor to the 1000 Books Before Kindergarten initiative designed to keep preschoolers reading and ready to excel as they enter Kindergarten. The library has given 10 presentations to over 100 parents, and delivered 385 bags since January.

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.

### **Update- Grants**

The letter of intent has been submitted for the ***Pop Up Library Grant***, a two-year project to initiate a mobile outreach library to help reach the underserved. The grant proposal includes a full-time and part time position to implement outreach programming in the community.

Also in the works is the NEH Hmong Digitization Project Grant which will allow the library to work with partners in the Hmong community to collect and digitize artifacts and oral histories, and provides an avenue for storytelling and sharing diverse cultures in the community.

### **Summer Reading/Learning Update**

Plans are finalizing for a busy Summer Learning program. The Library is working with school systems to promote this year's summer learning theme, *Build a Better World*. Additionally, the library is incorporating the theme for teen and adult summer learning. This year, summer learning will be accompanied with a summer feeding program at several branches where children between the ages of 2-18 can come to the library during lunch and receive a meal. The schools provide and deliver the lunches to the Library during the summer weeks through this USDA program.

### **Positive Impact/Awards**

We are very excited to hear from board members and the area communities about the positive impact from library services. The library received notification that we will be receiving two NACO awards. The first award was given for the library's ***Homework Helpers*** program, which enriches learning opportunities for students and increase educational attainment in Catawba County by supporting student learning through tutoring and coaching. It also increases teen

engagement and supports active learning, personal growth, and leadership for teen volunteers who work with elementary students. The library acts as the facilitator and host by bringing high school student volunteers together with elementary age students that need practice reading and help with their homework.

The second award was given for the Library's ***Born to Read*** initiative, a partnership with local hospitals and the Catawba County Partnership for Children to help improve kindergarten readiness and overall educational attainment in Catawba County. Parents of newborns receive early literacy training and a Born to Read Bag, complete with baby's first book and library card, along with plenty of information resources, at their birthing center to give their baby a head start on early literacy with immediate access to thousands of online resources, including children's books, movies and music. The library supports that head start with special collections and Ready to Learn Story Time programs, as well as outreach and education that positively reinforce early literacy development.

#### **Strategic Planning/Library Annual Survey**

The County is working with Northstar to find improvements in branding, logos, tag-lines and websites as it relates to ongoing strategic planning. Library staff and people from the community have been interviewed to find out the importance of the services provided by the library. We have also received a lot of input from the annual survey about positive impacts and we have also noted any areas for improvement.

#### **Library Aware Community Award**

Board members were invited to attend the Library Aware Community Award Presentation at the Board of Commissioners Meeting on Monday, June 5 at 9:30 am.

#### **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 12.41 p.m.

Next Regular Scheduled Library Board Meeting: Tuesday, August 8, 2017, Newton Library

Respectfully submitted,  
Tyler Garrison