

**CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING**  
**Minutes of November 12th, 2024**

The Catawba County Library Advisory Board met on Tuesday, November 12th, 2024, 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, Jenny Gerami-Markham, Assistant 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. Ava Pendley part time at Conover
  - ii. Brenda Moore and Ashley Galeote as Digital Navigators
  - iii. Samantha Klukas and Maria Miller – Community Navigators
- b. We are happy to host a Librarian Intern from UNC-G. Lindsay Kozak, has been working on Fridays and Saturdays since August. She will be here through this semester and will graduate in December.

**Programming - refer to the Nov Newsletter**

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 here and at Claremont. Since July we have hosted 15 Pre-K steam programs and reached 165 children and their caregivers with an average attendance of 11 per program.

We changed up how we do the newsletter a little to better separate programming by the intended age group. This also aligns better with the reporting requirements for the State Library. So now you see we have children 0-5 and then children 6-11 and teens 12-18 and adults. We are hoping it will help with parents wanting to bring 3 & 4 year olds to programs intended for elementary age students.

- II. Teen programming  
Lots of DIY for the teens this November – they can make a junk journal, little squishies, and ornaments. There is also a Nintendo Switch night here at Newton tomorrow.
- 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 – the knitting group at St Stephens is teaching people how to make hats for hurricane relief efforts.
  - iii. Health and Wellness – Yoga, Zumba, Mindful movement
  - iv. Collections –we started with Wonderbooks last fiscal year and the new Vox books are coming in now.
  - v. Spanish language bookbaggers – we will be building this collection
  - vi. Book Clubs- five book clubs that meet at the library, online and out in the community.
- IV. Technology – we have 64 hotspots but there is no one on the waiting list. We looked into the e-rate program that is being offered for next year for Wi-Fi hotspots. We could potentially get a discount on hotspots so we might pay \$9/month instead

of \$10/month but it comes with a ton of paperwork and regulations that make it very cumbersome to manage. We currently have great service with the \$10/month plan and it is relatively easy to manage.

### **Grants**

1. 2023-24 Grant LSTA Office spaces – remain very popular – were especially helpful after Hurricane Helene – the entire library was full of people who needed a space to connect to get work done. Since November 2024, these 5 office spaces have been used 827 times.
2. The library has been awarded \$300,000 the Digital Champion Grant with the NC Dept. of Instruction Technology. It is on the cover of this month's newsletter as the two full time digital navigators have started work this month. They are just learning right now and making connections with partners but they will be going out 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 have purchased all of the equipment so that each navigator has a laptop and then a mobile computer lab with 15 laptops, outfitted with Microsoft Office and wireless mice. They have a projector and projection screen to use. They just told me that they have booked their first training sessions with the Neighbors Network for January.
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 have assigned some online training called Autism-Inclusive Customer service. The great thing is that anytime you are improving customer service for one population those same principles apply to all people.
4. We were awarded \$17,037 to update the rest of the meeting spaces. They paused during the elections but they are back to updating rooms with technology.
5. The library was awarded nearly \$10,000 from the State Library to establish early literacy spaces out in the community. We worked with Social Services to update three of their lobby areas where children are likely to be waiting with their families. We installed 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. I just saw someone from Family Net the other day and she was telling me how grateful the families are for the toys.
6. This year have been able to get LSTA scholarship grants to send a three library staff to different conferences. One went to a Society of American Archivist in Chicago, another went to Springfield Massachusetts for the Association of Small and Rural Libraries and our marketing librarian is currently in St. Louis at the Library Marketing and Communications Conference.
7. We were invited to apply for the Kenneth and Suzanne Millholland grant through the NC Community Foundation. We have asked for \$4,000 to create a new collection of Decodable Readers for families.

### **Library Endowment**

Current balance at NC Community Foundation

Endowment Amount: \$ 111,893.83

Paypal Amount: \$ 96.12

Cash contributions \$ 237.65

Total: \$112,227.60

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Next Regular Scheduled Library Board Meeting: Tuesday, February 11th, 2024 at the Newton Library at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Candi Dula, Business Manager