



**CATAWBA COUNTY LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
Minutes of August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021**

The Catawba County Library Advisory Board met on Tuesday, August 10, 2021, 12 noon, in the Community Room of the Main Library in Newton.

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mary Canrobert, Honey Estrada, Tamara Shavers, Carmen Isenhour, Morgan Williams, Siobhan Loendorf, Library Director, Jenny Gerami-Markham, Assistant Library Director and Candi Dula, Business Manager.

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT**

Greg Kain, Carol Preston-Vice Chair

**CALL TO ORDER**

Library Director in Vice Chair's absence, called the meeting to order at 12:05 p.m.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER-Morgan Williams**

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

No members of the public attended.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The board approved the election of Honey Estrada as Chair and Tamara Shavers as Vice-Chair of the board.

**MINUTES**

The minutes of the previous meeting were sent to members prior to this meeting. No objections were made.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Staffing Update**

Library Services Specialist at SW: Olivia Liccione

Librarian at St Stephens: Nicole Morse

Digital Services Librarian: Jenn Schraw – resigned her position - currently open

Community Engagement Specialist: Kelly Sigmon – resigned – currently open

**Strategic Planning**

2021-2025 Strategic Plan was approved and we have moved forward with re-defining the library system in to more structured system with Main library in Newton, Regional locations at St. Stephens, Southwest and Sherrills Ford-Terrell and Neighborhood locations at Conover, Claremont, and Maiden. We are working on a system-wide work plan of specific goals that we want to achieve this year that will support the overall strategic goals.

**Programming**

**Summer Learning - Tails and Tales (*Program concluded on August 8<sup>th</sup>*)**

866 children age 0-12 read 145,853 minutes, completed 282 activities, and wrote 27 book reviews.

194 teens age 13-18 read 45,423 minutes, completed 97 activities, and wrote 2 book reviews

237 adults read 380 books, completed 484 activities, and wrote 12 book reviews.

**Arts in the Library**

**Tails and Tales Pet Art Show**

To celebrate Summer Learning 2021, the library showcased photos, drawings, paintings, and stories about kid's pets, shelter friends, or their favorite animal! We accepted submissions at all library branches all summer long, in person or via email. The art was on display at the Main Library in Newton from June 1 through August 8.



### **Return to in person programming in September**

We will be adding more in-person programming in September while also continuing to include online programming where it makes sense.

### **Youth Council Homework Helpers**

The library will be partnering with the Cooperative Extension's Catawba County Youth Council again to provide drop in Homework help for students at several libraries in the system. We will have more details about which libraries once the school year gets underway.

### **Prison to Community Simulation**

The library played host to a simulation of prisoners re-entering the community to demonstrate the difficulty this population faces in assimilating back into regular life. It was put on by the NC Corrections officers and community member including Commissioner Kitty Barnes participated. Lunch for the program was provided by the Corner Table fundraising team and sponsored by the Catawba County Friends of the Library.

### **Library featured on WBTB QC Life**

The library has been featured on QC (Queen City) Life several times in the past few months. Here are links to the recorded segments:

- <https://qclife.wbtv.com/catawba-county-library-offers-mobile-visits/>
- <https://qclife.wbtv.com/catawba-county-library-offers-steam-classes-for-adults/>
- <https://qclife.wbtv.com/two-new-apps-you-can-use-with-the-catawba-county-library/>
- <https://qclife.wbtv.com/library-workshop/>
- <https://qclife.wbtv.com/appalachian-state-students-help-the-catawba-county-library/>
- <https://qclife.wbtv.com/library-to-go/>

### **Closing the Book on Fines**

With the new fiscal year the county commissioners have approved for the library to officially eliminate library late fees and fees for lost library cards. The library will still charge patrons for lost or damaged items. We are going to roll out a whole campaign in September for National Library Card month with the tag line "Closing the Book on Fines." We will be waiving all past fines and fees allowing all patrons to start back off with a zero balance on their accounts. As part of this program we will be revising how we provide notification about checked out materials so that we communicate sooner and more often about overdue materials.

### **Grants**

Community Navigators:

We welcome Carolyn Smith to the library as the new Community Navigator. Carolyn is a student at Appalachian seeking her Bachelors in Social Work. During this Fall semester she will be working here at the library 32 hours a week or Mon-Thurs 9:30-6 pm.

### **Broadband Internet Access and Technology Lending**

- Funding for the Wi-Fi for All project has been renewed through July 2022 and will allow us to continue providing free internet access at outdoor locations in areas where internet is not readily available. We currently offer free internet at seven locations. Hickory Soup Kitchen, 2 locations of Nu Dimensions (aka Hickory Housing), Centro Latino, Plaza Latina, Central Rec Center in Newton, and the Town of Catawba, Town Hall. This is free internet available to anyone from these parking lots. In this past month there have been 984 unique users accessing the internet at these locations.
- Part two of the Wi-Fi for All project included the purchase of 53 Samsung Tab A 8" Wi-Fi enabled tablets that will be circulated by the library.
- We have 30 hotspots through TechSoup where we pay \$120 a year for unlimited service through Sprint.
- We are in the process of ordering 50 new hotspots free from the State Library with Verizon service and filtering software. These are expected to be good through September 2022. The library will be purchasing carrying cases for the new hotspots at a cost of about \$500.



### **Advocacy Focus**

1. Restore State Aid to pre-recession levels of 15.7 million recurring.
2. Fund the NC Kids Digital Library at \$250,000
3. [American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\)](#) includes \$200 million for the Institute of Museum and Library Services

### **Library Advocacy**

- ask for your support to include \$5 billion for the Build America's Libraries Act (HR 1581, S127) in the 2022 budget resolution.

### **S.127 Build America's Libraries Act - could mean \$10,000,000 for NC Libraries**

The purpose of this Act is to support long-term improvements to library facilities (including addressing needs that have arisen due to COVID-19) in order for libraries to better serve underserved and distressed communities, low-income and rural areas, and people with disabilities and vulnerable library users including children and seniors.

Last Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. It is currently co-sponsored by 1 independent and 27 democratic senators.

### **Library Endowment**

- We had a large \$17,000 bequeath and several additional donations to the Endowment this quarter.
- The current NC Community Foundation balance is \$84,958.

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 12:55 p.m.

Next Regular Scheduled Library Board Meeting: Tuesday, November 9th, 2021 at the Newton Library at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,  
Candi Dula, Business Manager