

CUMBERLAND COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY

MINUTES LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEE MEETING OCTOBER 24, 2024

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dennis Cedzo called the regular meeting of the Library Board of Trustees to order at 9:05 a.m. on Thursday, October 24, 2024 in the Boardroom at the Headquarters library.

Trustees Present: Chair Dennis Cedzo, Vice Chair Ann McRae, Daniel Montoya and Gloria Nelson

Trustees Absent: Bart Fiser, Irene Grimes and Pamela Story

Present from the Library: Assistant County Manager/Director Faith Phillips, Deputy Director Heather Hall (Webex), Senior Division Manager for Collection Development & Circulation Pamela Kource, Division Manager for Programs Carla Brooks, Community Engagement Division Manager Kohnee Harmon, service award recipients (see table below) and the Director's Executive Assistant Marili Melchionne

Others Present: Trustee Candidate Rebecca Pedigo

II. APPROVAL OF TODAY'S MEETING AGENDA

MOTION: Vice Chair McRae moved to approve today's meeting agenda.

SECOND: Trustee Nelson seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Approved unanimously.

III. APPROVAL OF THE JULY 18, 2024 REGULAR TRUSTEE MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: Trustee Nelson moved to approve the July 18, 2024 meeting minutes.

SECOND: Vice Chair McRae seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Approved unanimously.

IV. DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Presented by Director Faith Phillips

A. Service Award Recipients: Phillips recognized and honored the following staff members for their years of service with the library:

Name	Title	Branch Location	Years of Svc.
Samantha Belmont	YS Librarian II	Bordeaux	5
Lisa Hutchison	Circulation Manager	Spring Lake	10
Krysti Thomas	Circulation Manager	Headquarters	20

B. Library Director's Update:

Phillips updated the group on the following items:

1. Photos were shared of the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Sensory Calming Room created on the 2nd floor of the Headquarters library. The creation of the sensory calming room was funded by an LSTA grant initiative for our community. The room will give individuals who may have sensory process needs or intellectual developmental differences the ability to augment the space any way they want to. Photos of children using the room were shown.

2. On Monday at the Commissioner's meeting, the library received two grants from the Cumberland Community Foundation (CCF). The first was for \$44,680 to expand our sensory spaces at our libraries. The next location that we will be going to is West Regional library. We'll be making a more inclusive sensory play space since it is not enclosed. This is in conjunction with Miller's Crew coming out to open the café who employs people with developmental disabilities. We are also making progress on the "Mother's Room" at West.
3. A second grant the library received from CCF was \$13,500 for programs, services and activities to enhance the lives of women and girls in our county. With those funds the library will be working on a series of girl code programs, i.e., STEAM.
4. Phillips shared a positive story from Community Navigator Ray Santini regarding the work he does in helping patrons connect to necessary services. He takes the time to dive into what is going on with the people to overcome barriers that they experience. Then he walks them through the entire process as they navigate all of the challenges.

V. OLD BUSINESS: NONE

A. Trustee Nominating Committee Update – Vote to reappoint Daniel Montoya (second term) and the two new candidates (David Breece and Rebecca Pedigo) to fill the vacant seats on the board: Committee Chair Ann McRae

McRae shared that the nominating committee recommends that Daniel Montoya be reappointed to serve a second three year term and appoint David Breece and Rebecca Pedigo to fill the two vacant seats on the board starting January 1, 2025.

The Commissioners will have their first vote on November 4th and the second vote on November 18th.

MOTION: Vice Chair McRae moved to approve the above reappointment/appointments.

SECOND: Trustee Nelson seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Approved unanimously.

B. 2024 Programming & Post Summer Reading Program Report: Division Manager for Programs Carla Brooks

Brooks gave the following reports: The library's adult programmers have strived to increase their offerings for our patrons. We achieved a 45% increase in the number of programs with an almost 75% increase in attendance in the last fiscal year from the prior year. We went from 535 in-person programs to 776 and our attendance went from 4,172 to 7,234. We decreased our virtual programs from 75 to 53 with a decrease in attendance from 5,339 to 3,369.

Teen programming increased greatly. We nearly doubled our in-person programs from 236 to 405 with a huge increase in attendance from 1,787 to 4,482. We also decreased our virtual programs for teens from 11 to 3 with a decrease in attendance from 1,233 to 510.

Children's programming has flourished even more. Our in-person programs went from 1,321 to 1,513 with a 38% increase in attendance going from 33,741 to 46,596. We also decreased our children's virtual programs from 28 to 8 with an attendance decrease from 4,439 to 1,375.

Our virtual programming has been focused on short tutorials on how to utilize our online resources. The amount of staff time spent making virtual programs was not worth the number of views the programs were receiving. Most people only watch the first 30 seconds of a video, so we are planning on focusing more on short reels on our social media for this upcoming year. Also, the County Public Information Office has been

filming some of our bilingual story times and editing them to show on CCNCTV. They are sharing them with us, and we are going to post those every few months on the library's Facebook and YouTube.

Summer Reading Challenge

The 2024 Summer Reading Program was changed this year. The first change was that it was relabeled as the "Summer Reading Challenge." We then opted to track all participants by minutes read. Adults had mixed reactions to this approach. Some appreciated it, particularly those who enjoy reading lengthy books or consider themselves slower readers. However, a few expressed that it felt somewhat juvenile to track their reading by time. The third difference was we made "passports" for each customer. They were able to get extra entries into the drawings by visiting other locations and getting a stamp in their "passport."

There were 1,146 participants in our children's program with a total of 813,158 minutes read. This was a slight decrease from last year with approximately 10% less participants and almost 40% less in the number of minutes read. There were 218 participants in our teen program with a total of 243,350 minutes read. Once again, this is a decrease from last year with approximately 14% less participants and almost 40% less in the number of minutes read.

In our adult program, we had almost the same number of participants with 575. We had 655,968 minutes read by adults. However, the participation in missions on READsquared increased. The missions are just another way we were able to engage with our patrons.

We had many programs this summer. We presented 290 in-library programs for children with 10,731 attending. We also presented 81 outside children's programs with 2,247 attending. That is a total of 371 children's programs with a total attendance of 12,978. That was a 15% increase in the number of attendees from last summer. We had 60 in-library programs for teens with 602 attending. We also presented 10 outside teen programs with 277 attending. That is a total of 70 teen programs with a total attendance of 879. We presented 119 in-library programs for adults with 2,047 attending. We also presented 24 outside adult programs with 140 attending. That is a total of 143 adult programs with a total attendance of 2,187. We also presented 8 virtual programs with a total attendance of 1,101.

Summertime Kids was a huge success this summer. We served 1,115 children and teens. We served 58 ages 0-5, 880 ages 6-12, 173 ages 13-18 and 4 ages 19-23. We visited 13 different organizations in 43 sessions. We added Special Olympics and a special needs camp with Cape Fear Botanical Garden this year. A total of 2,230 books and 1,115 totes were distributed this summer. This was all made possible from a grant from Cumberland Community Foundation to the Friends of the Cumberland County Public Library, Inc.

We want to thank the Friends of the Cumberland County Public Library, Inc. Without their continued generous support, we could not accomplish our goals.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Election of 2025 Trustee Officers – Nominating Committee Chair Ann McRae

After some discussion, the 2025 Chair will be Dennis Cedzo and Vice Chair will be Ann McRae

MOTION: Vice Chair McRae made a motion based on the nominating committee's recommendation of having Dennis Cedzo as Chair and Ann McRae as Vice Chair for 2025.

SECOND: Trustee Nelson seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Approved unanimously.

B. Proposed 2025 Board of Trustee meeting Calendar – Board Chair Dennis Cedzo

The proposed 2025 Board Meeting calendar was presented.

MOTION: Trustee Daniel Montoya moved to approve the proposed 2025 calendar as presented.

SECOND: Trustee Nelson seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Approved unanimously.

C. Headquarters Branch Report – Branch Manager Amanda Dekker

Dekker gave the following report:

By the Numbers: Programs

- 2023 Programs: 235 with 3,047 in attendance
 - 2024 Programs: 410 with 7,638 in attendance
- Informational inquiries – 15,474 in 2023 increased to 33,419 (reference, technology assistance, school related questions, job & career assistance)

By the Numbers: Living the Decades in Fayetteville (52 attended)

- The first inter-departmental program for staff currently working at Headquarters. Local & State History, Adult Services and Youth Services Experience Fayetteville in 1780s learn flower languages, build looms and whirligigs, and compete with others during the hoop roll.
- 1920s participants learned dances like the Charleston and the Lindy Hop, showcased different hobbies from the time-period including the popularity of silent films.
- 1940s patrons learned about the city's involvement in WWII, how to start victory gardens, and solved puzzles using Morse Code.

Voices and Votes Exhibit and accompanying programs

Voices and Votes is part of Museum on Main Street, a collaboration between the Smithsonian Institution and the North Carolina Humanities. Accompanying programs included:

- The Vietnam War and the Fort Bragg Anti-War Protest Movement
- Fayetteville State University and the 1963 Downtown Desegregation Movement
- Fayetteville Loses its City Charter
- The Ongoing Fight for Freedom: Stories of North Carolina Black Veterans
- The History of Redistricting North Carolina
- Between the exhibit and accompanying programs we had over 2000 attendees

Scaly Safari – families got to meet:

- A black and white Argentine Tegu
- A Gargoyle Gecko
- A Blue Tongue Skink
- A Banana Ball Python
- A Derpy Frog and North Carolina Tree Frog
- A Leopard Gecko
- 152 in attendance

Librari-Con

- How to Draw Anime
- Chibi Corner – crafts and games for younger children
- Cosplay Runway
- Cardboard Cosplay – example swords, shields
- Aretimis Spaceship Simulator
- Nerd Slam
- 256 in attendance (after hours event)

31 Days of Love

- 7 dogs available for adoption
- 50 people visited the adoption van
- No dogs were adopted on site but many visitors were interested in volunteering at the animal shelter.
- **Paws to Draw for a Cause** – Help furry friends find loving families by joining us in creating art portraits of available pets for adoption in our county. Your portraits will be put on display in the library to help them get adopted by their fur-ever family. The families that adopt the pet will have the opportunity to take home the portrait of their new family member. (In the past this program was done and 23 attended – all animal were adopted.)

Coming Soon:

- America's 250 Grant – Liberty Point Resolves Publication, local history exhibits relating to the Revolutionary War, Lectures, American Revolution bus tour, and a local artist to produce a mural on the side of the Headquarters building
- Spooktacular – spooky crafts, games, and giveaways (last year we had 120, hoping to hit 200 this year)
- A representative from the Lumbee Tribe will be here, learn about the Lumbee culture and traditions, craft
- Pirate themed programs all of November: movies, crafts, games, as well as guest speakers talking about Blackbeard and the Queen Anne's Revenge.
- Bridgerton Ball – Friends of the Library grant
- Experience Passes – Fascinate U Museum, Cape Fear Botanical Gardens. All you need is a library card to check out a pass. Pass is good for a group up to 6 for entry, Pass is checked out for 7 days. Friends of the Library Grant.

MEETING EXTENSION: At 10:15 a.m., noting the time, Chair Cedzo asked for a motion to extend the meeting.

MOTION: Vice Chair Ann McRae made a motion to extend the meeting as needed.

SECOND: Trustee Nelson seconded the motion.

DISCUSSION: None

VOTE: Approved unanimously

D. North Regional Branch Report – Branch Manager Gracey Gordon

Gordon gave the following report:

- North Regional library has 14 full-time, and 2 part-time staff. 1 promotion, 2 retirements, and 2 new hires. There are 10 staff who have been here over 10 years and some up to over 25 years!

Statistics

- Circulation of physical print items had been decreasing every year pre-covid shutdown, but steady increase each year since re-opening. This FY we had a 2.3% increase.
- Circulation of media has been fairly stagnant or dropping, especially with the popularity of streaming, but the use of digital resources has gone up quite a lot.
- Foot traffic steadily increasing, there was an 8.7% increase in library card registrations and 1.8% increase in service point questions.

- Technology up over 700%. Laptops were not cataloged last FY, so that mostly accounts for the large jump. Recently added Playaways to our collection at North Regional; hoping that expands access to patrons who may not have their own devices.
- Volunteer hours increased by 38%.
- Outreach at Animal Services, Cumberland County Fair, & more averaged 70 participants.
- Book drop offs and story times with daycares, averaging 19 participants.

Programs

- Adult Services had 144 programs with an average of 11 participants. Highlights on Bridge, Explore, and Line Dancing
 - ✓ Youth Services had 273 programs with an average of 35 participants. Highlights on Teen programs - Halloween Horror Special Effects Makeup, escape rooms, and food/cooking/wellness. Highlights on Children's programs - story times recently have hit regular attendance in the 50s! Very high interest in our STEM & homeschool programs. Currently doing collaboration with Methodist University students to get them experience.

Building Updates

- New interactables in all of our areas - Puzzle table (highly used!), coloring books, origami for adults; Whiteboard tables (highly used!), bumper pool table for teens; Bubble tube, marble wall, and liquid tile mats for Children's
- New self-checkout machines (highly used!)

Future Outlook

- Vision for NRL is to be a dynamic hub for community-building and lifelong learning.
- Requesting basic maintenance and upkeep such as chairs (already approved!), blinds, and touch-up the walls. New look for teen area. New shelving for a more open and organized space.
- Upcoming programs include Financial Literacy and Business Building through the Women's Business Center at CEED, along with LEGO Legends League which will be a LEGO club funded by the Friends of the Library grant.

E. Recognition of Outgoing Trustees Bart Fiser and Irene Grimes: Chair Dennis Cedzo

Cedzo recognized Bart Fiser for his service on the board. Fiser was on the board for 3 years and passionately advocated for the staff and programming. His unique perspectives allowed for the board to grow we had great discussions.

Cedzo also recognized Irene Grimes for her six years on the board. Grimes demonstrated leadership as the Vice Chair in 2020 and 2021 then became the Chair in 2022 and part of 2023. Throughout her tenure, was a strong advocate for library staff, programming, all the intellectual freedom. She also brought a unique perspective and asking the tough questions.

F. Other Business: None

VII. ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to discuss, Chair Cedzo adjourned the meeting at 10:46 a.m.