

**Friends of the Sherrills Ford-Terrell Library**  
**Minutes of the meeting of February 17, 2017**

President Ellen Dewey opened the business meeting by introducing and welcoming Board members Jennie Connor and Felicity Munier, plus two new members, returning members, and Jenny Gerami-Markham, SFT Librarian and Branch Manager. Ellen explained that many people were traveling and unable to make this meeting. The minutes of the October 18, 2016 business meeting were distributed for review by the members. On motion and second, the minutes were approved.

Library Needs:

Summer Program: Jenny introduced herself and began by presenting statistics from last year, such as the number of attendees, books circulated, and minutes read for two different age groups. The program exceeded all of its goals, most notably in children's registration. She outlined the goals and plan for the 2017 Summer Learning program, noting that Young Adult/Teen programs would be introduced. The theme is "Building a Better World" which will be presented around "STEAM;" which incorporates science, technology, engineering, arts, and math. Based on the support from the FOL last year, she asked for funds totaling \$2,450 for 6 children's programs and 1 YA program (\$350 each).

"Born to Read" is a new county-wide program aimed at introducing newborns and their families to reading and all that the library could offer. The goal is to have library staff present a bag of gifts, including a new library card, to each new baby and family. She explained that the Newton FOL had agreed to donate \$2,000 to this program and requested that our FOL match this. There were a number of questions about logistics, the number of members in the two FOL groups, in what areas of the county would the funds would be used, and how it would be monitored. Jenny said she would gather more information.

Story Walks is a project proposed by a group from the Catawba County Leadership program, where a trail is created in a local park, with stations along the way where one would stop and read a page from a book, then continue on until the end of the trail and the end of the book. The group is working on grant and other fundraising, and Jenny requested that we consider a donation to this project. There was discussion about the location of the first and subsequent trails. The hope is that one Story Walk would be in the new park coming to our area.

Ellen explained that no decision on these requests would be made this evening, due to the small number of attendees and the need for further discussion.

There was no Treasurer's report.

To provide background to the new members present, Ellen described our fundraising efforts, including the "Book Bonanza" in the foyer and the Christmas wreath sales, all of which help fund the literacy project in the elementary schools, the American Girl doll kit/book program, and the summer programs. She also described the programs we have held so far and those coming up in March and April, and the newsletter which is prepared

monthly by Joyce O'Neal. We are looking for volunteers for refreshments for the March 20<sup>th</sup> program.

Membership: Ellen reported on the membership drive, indicating that we have 94 members, thanks to the efforts of the members. She talked about the fundraiser raffle which returned almost \$1,000, the winner of the dinner cruise, and the members-only drawing for prizes which was held at the October 18<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Hardscape: Ellen stated that we still need a certified landscape architect who would be interested in the project, and the members discussed possible contacts.

The members broke into two groups to discuss the 2016-2017 programs so far, and throw out some ideas for the 2017-2018 programs. After that, both groups presented thoughts and ideas. Some of these included working with the local extension office, and inviting local authors, also another variety show, and a classical music ongoing "course." The latter has been offered by Joyce O'Neal.

The next program will be on Monday, March 20<sup>th</sup>, and it will be the discussion for the Community Read, led by Dr. Tony Abbot. On April 18<sup>th</sup> we will have a very important business meeting. On Tuesday, May 16, we will have a joint program with two speakers giving an update on the parks in Catawba County including the Bunker Hill Bridge and the proposed Mountain Creek Park.

Before closing the meeting, Ellen asked that we consider updating our mission statement, and she would be sending out suggestions over the next few weeks. Also, we need to organize a program committee, and think about a slate of officers to have ready in April.

The next business meeting, as noted, will be on Tuesday, April 18, at 6:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol B. Meyer, Secretary