



77 READS WAY
NEW CASTLE, DE 19720
(302) 395-5600
nccde.org

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

**NEW CASTLE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD (LAB)
ANNUAL REPORT CY 2017**

A. Members

The LAB consists of a chairperson and twelve members of which six members are representatives from various Friends groups. The Chair serves at the pleasure of the County Executive. The Chair and Members are appointed by the County Executive with the advice and consent of County Council. A list of members is attached.

At present the Board has a Chairperson and eight members and three vacancies.

B. Functions

The LAB shall advise the County Library Manager by reviewing and making policy recommendations on such matters as local library needs; implementation of an effective library system; new and modified administrative policies; and other strategic planning and operational issues pertinent to the operation of the County's libraries.

C. Accomplishments

Members were actively engaged in their advisory role for 2017. The Board met in February, March, April, June, September, October, November, and December for regular meetings.

The Chairperson established the following committees that would be reported on as needed: Site Renovation/Selection; Long Range Planning; Advocacy; Policy; Facilities/Maintenance; Budget; Operational Programing/New Programing.

In addition to regular meetings, Board members participated in the following events:

- Delaware Legislative Day
- NCC Reads program with author, Ayana Mathis, *Twelve Tribes of Hattie*
- Joint meeting with Friends groups to introduce *Guidelines for Friends Groups*.
- Public Opening of the Route 9 Innovative Center/Library
- Representation on the Council on Libraries

HONESTY ★ TRANSPARENCY ★ EFFICIENCY

- Library Town Meeting – The Future of Public libraries: From Access to Outcomes, featured speaker Garry Golden

The Board reviewed and agreed with the Transition Recommendations which will act as strategic directions. A majority of these were addressed during 2017 and will continue to be focused upon in the future.

The Board exercised due diligence in reviewing library budget, utilization benchmarks and maintaining excellent service levels in an increasingly diverse environment characterized by diminishing resources.

The Board discussed library programming, as well as, county-wide programs.

The Board monitored developments pertaining to eBooks, library computer use, and other technology.

The Board kept abreast of fundraising and other activities undertaken by library Friends Groups.

The Board received a new chairperson, Abdullah R. Muhammad along with three new Board members and one reappointed Board member.

Developed Guidelines for Friends Groups

D. Challenges

The LAB would like to ensure the County's commitment to libraries given current financial challenges.