

G.C. Community Library

Board Minutes

October 14, 2020

(1) Board Members attending: Erin Pisano, Stacy Bluedorn, Heather Leskanic, Lynda Bortz, Liz Kingsley, Sue Miklos, Renee Coyne (via Zoom)

Director attending: Amy Gallagher

Employee Attending: Heather Baker

Also attending: District consultant Amy Geisinger (via Zoom)

(2) Erin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and opened with prayer.

(3) Minutes were not available for review/approval this month due to board secretary Leskanic's computer problems. Hoping to approve at November meeting.

(4) Treasurer's Report/ Finances: Amy Geisinger reported that the state budget is not looking very positive right now. She said it's very important now to advocate for libraries and their services and let local legislators know that funding is critical in order for libraries to continue to provide services to our community members. It's especially helpful for patrons to share their own personal stories with lawmakers, she said, and to focus on two or three core messages. We are currently operating on 5/12 of our budget and we don't know at this time if we'll get the remaining portion, said Geisinger. That amounts to about \$13,000 for GCCL. We need to get the word out that libraries are important to our communities and show why, she said. They are hoping for level funding in 2021, said the district consultant. Erin noted we are keeping mindful of what we're purchasing and trying to stay on budget as much as possible. Typically, the library faces about a \$60,000 to \$80,000 deficit each year. Deficit is usually made up by donations and our investments. Stacy noted we are making the switch back to desktop Quickbooks.

(5) *Library Director's Report (from Amy Gallagher):*

- GCCL has received a \$4,500 Pennsylvania Humanities Grant toward education purposes at the library. This will apply to a wide variety of

needs, including new materials, virtual technologies and in-house programming with speakers and artists.

- We have received over \$4,000 in donations over the past two months (not related to FOL activities).
- Amy continues to research potential grant funds that could provide additional assistance. We were not approved for the Verizon grant, however, Amy plans to meet with the Mercer Co. commissioners in an effort to secure funding.
- Staff has continued to do a great job as we face the pandemic challenges. And most patrons are just grateful to be able to visit the library; very few complaints about shortened hours/services.
- Online programming continues for kids cooking club, Monday Night Book Club, and Dungeons and Dragons. In-person storytime and knit/crochet club are meeting in basement of Tower Church.
- Amy reported staff has been dealing with a lot of tech issues that are not related to hardware. This includes lost emails, calls and other types of random issues.
- Performance reviews have been completed for staff, and “everyone has been doing very well through this crisis,” Amy said. We’ve received high compliments from state officials regarding our covid procedures.
- Still finishing up a few things related to audit. Our state funding depends on the audit being completed.

Children’s programming (from Heather Baker)

- Northwest Mutual has donated \$500 to sponsor the American Girl Christmas Tea scheduled for Dec. 5 at the Masonic Hall. This location will allow for a larger number of attendees.
- Trying not to do a lot of online programming for the kids, Heather said, since a lot of families are tapping out on the screen time. The craft-to-go kits have gone over very well. This included a fairy garden kit, unicorn kit, and for Christmas, there will be a Santa gnome kit. 😊

- Heather commended library staff for a very successful used book sale on Sept. 11 at Memorial Park. Weather was ideal that day and everything went extremely well. Shoppers expressed their appreciation for the event. A total of \$3,251 was raised at the first-ever single-day sale. They also had 17 gift baskets on display at the sale. A total of \$1,508 has been so far collected in tickets for the raffle baskets (as of Oct. 13.) Comparison figures provided show the 2019 book sale (3 full weeks) brought in a total of \$5,169 while the 2017 and 2018 sales brought in \$4,461 and \$4,768, respectively. The 2017 raffle basket project brought in just under \$500 (6-7 items) with the 2018 raffle baskets earning \$134 for the same number of items. Big thanks to the GCHS cheerleaders and the Middle School girls soccer team for helping to set up all the books the night before the 2020 sale. We will start collecting books and materials Nov. 2 with a limit of five boxes/bags per person, per day. Three Rivers Concessions Food Truck will set up the day of the 2021 book sale (set for Sept. 11, 2021, at the same Memorial Park Monteleone shelter). We will receive a part of their proceeds as a fundraiser. Also, sale of fabric totes with GCCL logo went over extremely well. Additional bags will be ordered for next year (different color each year).
- Star Wars event will be held Oct. 17 at Memorial Park. Heather said 26 characters are expected to attend, including Chewbacca for the first time ever.

(6) Friends of the Library Report: Renee commended the staff for pulling together a very successful book sale and said she appreciated their efforts. The FOL letter campaign brought in over \$4,000. Sue said the group will definitely consult with library staff regarding letter content/details before mailing next year. FOL plans to conduct the Ace Hardware roundup fundraiser again next year. Sue asked staff if they could come up with a list of things group can help out with. Amy said they would do so, however, they also have to adhere to the new pandemic-related occupancy restrictions. The library is not allowing volunteers to help with shelving and other activities as it normally does due to these guidelines.

(7) New Business: A motion was approved by the board in response to guidance from the state regarding state aid. Members unanimously approved a resolution requesting a waiver of standards for 2019 and/or 2020. Stacy made motion with a second from Lynda. Motion carried.

(8)

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Next meeting is November 11.

Minutes submitted by Heather Leskanic, board secretary, on Nov. 2, 2020.