

Grove City Community Library

Board Minutes

November 18, 2025

(1) Board Members attending: Carla Ligo, Dave Kershaw, Heather Leskanic, Lydia Speice

Absent/Excused: Vince DiStasi, Sarah Johnston

Interim Director attending: Scott Amon

Employees Attending: none

Visitors Attending: Susan Cyphert, Kelly Dumrauf, Barbara Hedegore, Mary "Skip" Sample, Dr. Sara Peterson-Snyder

(2) Carla called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

(3) Minutes from the October meeting were approved following motion from Lydia and second from Dave. Motion carried; none opposed.

(4) Bills Paid – Scott reviewed billing amounts and details. Utica property insurance is increasing by 13 percent. Last year's cost was \$2,716 compared to this year's \$3,072. However, we were able to get a \$115 credit this year. We can shop around for that insurance through our broker, Anderson Insurance. Lydia made motion to approve bills with second from Dave. Motion carried; none opposed.

(5) Treasurer's Report: Statement of activity for October shows a net income of \$20,495.32. Scott said the library received a very generous donation from an individual in the amount of \$17,296. Total for expenses for the month was listed at \$13,663.45, with payroll expenses totaling \$11,534.94. Total for income was \$34,058.77. Scott said there is currently \$111,917 in our account. In comparison, the account had \$42,415 in October of 2024. "We are doing far better than last year," he said. Our investments are listed at about \$30,000.

(6) President's Report (from Carla):

- The meeting with GC Boro Council went well, with offers of help with advertising and other needs. Council members had some tough questions, and Scott did a great job with his responses. They were pleased with our

cost cutting measures and gave suggestions for possible grants that could help bring in additional revenue, Carla said.

- Continuing to prepare proposed 5-year strategic plan for GCCL.
- FAQs for library need to be reviewed and posted.
- Georgie Hodge has expressed interest in joining the board of trustees. She is expected to attend December meeting. Representatives of Liberty and Pine townships are needed to fill vacancies on the board.
- Pre-trial conference was held Nov. 12 in the theft case against former library director Amy Gallagher. She officially entered a plea of no contest to misdemeanor theft on Nov. 14 and is to be sentenced on Dec. 17. The charges were filed two years ago. Carla said this will hopefully provide some closure for the library and community. Board members said the allegations that Ms. Gallagher had paid herself unauthorized overtime prompted numerous changes and improvements in financial record-keeping at the library in order to ensure this does not happen again. We have thorough checks and balances in place, and weekly cash deposits being made. The library was reimbursed by its insurance company after charges were filed.
- Board members approved altering the library's business hours starting in January. The library will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Mondays and Fridays; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays, and from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturdays. This will place the hours of operation at 46 hours a week, one hour over the state regulations, and will provide more opportunities for working families to utilize what the library has to offer. We will post a call for volunteer assistance in the December newsletter. The schedule change was approved following a motion from Lydia and second from Dave. Motion carried; none opposed.
- The second annual Christmas Cookie Walk fundraiser will be held Saturday, Dec. 6, at the GC Masonic Hall. All cookies will be donated. Last year, the event brought in \$3,701.02. Cost is \$12 per dozen cookies. The Masons donate the hall, and the cookie containers are also donated. The Pittsburgh area cookie table bakers will also be contributing to the event.

- We are looking to have the GCHS Thespian students return to stage a mystery theater event at the library. The school's Interact Club will have a bake sale in conjunction with the event. This year, the students will have more time to prepare for the event (proposed for a date in December).
- Also planning to have an open house in February, which is Love Your Library month, and invite local municipal officials as well as major donors.

(7) Library Director's Report (from Scott):

- The Soup-er fundraiser on Nov. 14 was the library's most successful to date, bringing in \$1,750. This was the first year to offer meatball subs, and they went over very well. All soups are donated, and the supplies were sold out in two hours. Carla, who teaches at GCSD, organizes pre-orders for interested staff members.
- Audits for GCCL from the past 5 years are now available for inspection on the library's website (go to About/Board of Directors).
- Scott has provided the board with a statistics spreadsheet comparing GCCL with other public libraries in Mercer County, featuring data such as payroll amounts, staff numbers, budget, and circulation. It shows GCCL is in the middle of the pack among the other libraries of Shenango Valley, Greenville, and Mercer.
- The fundraising campaign letter is set to be mailed out to more than 2,000 patrons. New Castle Library District is assisting with the bulk mail project. Scott said we will need to supply envelopes, however, which will add \$150 to \$200 to the cost.
- Maple Lane Farm Foundation has decided it will not donate money to the library this year after learning of the theft case against Meghann Kelly, former president of the FOL.
- Discussions are continuing regarding a proposed county-wide system for Mercer County libraries. The county commissioners would give the system \$700,000 a year. The county is anticipating future growth due to an Amazon center that is expected to open.

- Children's programming director Heather Baker is planning to host the library's annual Charlie Brown Thanksgiving event on Nov. 26. The event will start at 1:30 p.m. The library will be closed Thanksgiving Day and reopen Friday, Nov. 28.

(8) New Business/Public Comment: The board fielded some questions regarding children's programming costs and what financial documents are being reviewed each month. Barbara Hedegore said it would be helpful to know the costs of running children's programs because then donors would have a better idea of how much to give. Regarding the possibility of charging for some children's programming due to the library's financial struggles, Skip Sample said a fund could be established for families that are not in a position to be able to afford such costs. GCCL and most area libraries do not currently charge for children's programs. For some events, Heather Baker asks families to bring a snack to share, or a material donation to benefit a charitable organization. She also is successful in finding businesses and individuals to sponsor programs or events, and she records all related expenses and transactions. Susan Cyphert referred to the Statement of Activity document the board reviews each month and asked why officials aren't also reviewing a balance sheet that would show a more comprehensive financial picture. Lydia said the board can ask treasurer Sarah Johnston, who wasn't able to attend the November meeting, to provide an education on that. Another visitor, Dr. Sarah Peterson-Snyder, said she moved to the area from Pittsburgh in 2021. She said her background is in prosthetics and she has experience with grant writing. She also hosts a women's amputee support group. She said she may be able to help the library in the future with securing additional revenues through grants.

(9) Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Heather Leskanic, board secretary, on Dec. 5, 2025.