

Grove City Community Library

Board Minutes

September 11, 2025

(1) Board Members attending: Carla Ligo, David Kershaw (via zoom) Sarah Johnston, Heather Leskanic, Lydia Speice

Absent/Excused: Vince DiStasi

Interim Director attending: Scott Amon

Employees Attending: none

Guests attending: Jane Cleary, Kelly Dumrauf, Jeff and Barbara Hedegore, Sue Miklos, Chuck Riddle, Mary "Skip" Sample

(2) Carla called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. It was announced there would be a closed executive session at the end of the regular meeting to discuss a personnel matter.

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

(4) Bills Paid/To Be Paid: Scott said the expenses for the month were pretty standard. There was a minor expense credited to several employees due to a correction related to a previous paycheck deduction. Total expenditures were listed at \$13,347.34 while total revenues were at \$8,210.24. Lydia made motion to approve bills paid/to be paid. Sarah seconded. Motion carried; none opposed.

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

- Last month's visit from the New Castle Library District representatives was very helpful and informative. We will work with them to develop a strategic plan for the GC library. There is a Nov. 15 workshop on strategic planning that will be held at NC.
- Continuing search for new board members (Springfield, Liberty twps.)

- Reviewing options for ways we can offer extended hours (evenings, Saturdays). Looking at possibly staying open Mondays until 7 p.m. Staff is opposed to having a weekday closed in order to be open on Saturday. Hope to have options to consider by October board meeting. Lydia noted high school students could volunteer on Saturdays. Board members can also volunteer their time.
- Will track Sean Newton's hours regarding Interlibrary Loan work. Currently, he handles the GC library's ILL requests and manages the circulation desk.
- Planning to have another mystery theater event at the library with GC High School thespians. Also, the library will be featured in one of the Interact Club's fundraisers.
- The high school's Interact Club and the George Junior students are expected to help with setup for Saturday's used book sale at the GC Memorial Park. Also, the school's video production class has announced the library will be their subject for an upcoming video that will be submitted to YSU's media department.
- Carla reviewed some of the areas on her wish list for the library, including reaching out to Grove City College and Slippery Rock University education majors to assist with library programs and services (afterschool tutoring and ?); establishing new and building on existing partnerships with local organizations and businesses; continuing education classes, and lecture series/events featuring local professors.

(6) Treasurer's Report: Sarah said there is a need for an increase in donations. The used book sale will hopefully get us back up and running. There is \$99,233 in checking. There is also \$30,309 in the Money Market investment account.

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

- Audit is underway with Opst & Associates of Greensburg, at an estimated cost of \$4,000 to \$5,000 (last year's review with a different auditor cost \$7,500.) Representative to visit us Wednesday for an in-

person meeting. Things are going well so far, and board members will get copies of the final report.

- New outdoor book drop expected to be installed in the next couple of weeks. It will be where the dumpster used to be, across from the library's entrance.
- Working on draft for the annual donor letter; attempting to express cautious optimism for library's future. New Castle is expected to help with mailing letters, making it less expensive. Dave said it will be very helpful to include a visual chart showing that the library only gets a third of its funding from government sources.
- All Good Things non-profit organization, which operates a Grove City area store that is run by volunteers, has told the library that they plan to donate \$1,000 a month to GCCL. That is in addition to the \$10,000 they donated to the library over the summer in the PA/OH Giving campaign and \$5,000 in January, Scott said. "They've been a huge support of GCCL," he said. "This is very, very kind of them." This announcement means the library will now be receiving \$2,000 a month in scheduled donations, which includes the monthly Zeffy donations from patrons.
- Discussions continuing with regards to a proposed countywide library system for Mercer Co. The Lakeview library initiated the process because it is not part of the statewide library network. All libraries have expressed interest in exploring the proposal. New Castle Library District representative Andrew Henley spoke to the GC board in August about the plan and said it would help local libraries significantly with additional income while allowing each library to maintain its own independent board of trustees. "I think it's a positive thing," Scott said.
- The GCCL annual used book sale will be held this Saturday at GC Memorial Park. Weather is looking very favorable for the event. Set up will be taking place Friday. This is the 5th year the library has held the sale at the park.
- The municipal parking lot at the boro/library building is scheduled to be closed for repaving the week of Sept. 22.

- (8) The children's department is offering its traditional slate of activities including storytime, playtime, bookworm babies, lego club, and chess club as well as special events such as the stuffed animal sleepover, Hogwarts baking challenge, Halloween family party and Charlie Brown Thanksgiving. Heather Baker has been busy preparing all of the raffle baskets, which will debut at Saturday's sale. Winners will be announced in December.
- (9) Friends of the Library Report: Sue and Kelly attended meeting as members of the FOL. No formal report was provided, as former GCCL trustee/FOL president Meghann Kelly recently vacated those posts.
- (10) New Business: Scott and board members responded to questions and concerns posed by the guests regarding the library's current financial situation. We are OK for the rest of this year, however, we are not "out of the woods," Carla said. The library gets \$38,000 in state aid each year but we are worried that that amount could be cut back. Typically, GCCL receives most of its donations between October and December and at the start of the year. May thru September is typically a drier time with regard to donations. Several of the guests had ideas for ways to bring in additional money, including naming rights for rooms or areas of the library. Mr. Riddle asked about current programming at the library and whether it's revenue-generating. Lydia said in a lot of cases, the library's programming and services build good will in the community, which leads to increased revenue streams. The library, meanwhile, has numerous fundraisers planned for the rest of the year, which includes the donor letter campaign, raffle baskets, spaghetti dinner, and Christmas cookie walk. Library officials also want to build a stronger relationship with GCC. Every GCC student has access to a free GCCL library card. However, our library is not currently receiving any financial support from the college.
- (11) Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Next meeting is October 9.

Minutes submitted by Heather Leskanic, board secretary, on Oct. 4, 2025