

Grove City Community Library

Board Minutes

August 14, 2025

(1) Board Members attending: Carla Ligo, Dave Kershaw (via zoom), Sarah Johnston (via zoom), Heather Leskanic, Vince DiStasi, Meghann Kelly

Absent/Excused: Lydia Speice

Interim Director attending: Scott Amon

Employees Attending: none

Guests: Andrew Henley and Barbara McGary of the New Castle library district; Andrew Baker, Molly Mercer, Mary Sample

(1) Carla called the meeting to order at 6:40 p.m.

(2) Minutes from the June meeting were approved following a motion by Vince and second from Meghann. Motion carried; none opposed.

(3) Bills Paid/To Be Paid: Approved as presented by Scott following motion from Vince and second from Dave. Motion carried; none opposed.

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

- Board member Melissa Broerman has given notice that she is resigning from the board effective immediately due to not having enough time or energy available to contribute to library matters. She has also resigned from the FOL. The board will advertise vacancies. Attorney Zack Bombatch left the board earlier this year and has not yet been replaced.
- Carla said she is planning to attend meetings held by our participating twps in an effort to increase our revenues.
- She also plans to attend the next FOL meeting to see what direction the members want to go. Meghann Kelly, who has served as their president for the last year, is stepping down due to personal and professional reasons. She commented there were some things she did not find to be professional or appropriate in a list of guidelines submitted to the group recently. However, she agreed with many of the directives, because the group had

expressed a need for guidance. Meghann said the members should feel appreciated for the free assistance they provide the library. She added she would be available to offer help and cooperate as needed regarding the FOL's future. The group experienced a significant increase in participation over the last year. Carla said she plans to close out the group's financials at the credit union next week. This decision was made last February and approved by ordinance, mainly due to concerns over liability and transparency with finances. Andrew Henley of the library district said these are not unique concerns for libraries and provided information regarding his library's format for its volunteer group. He offered assistance to GCCL officials in establishing expectations for the FOL group. Meghann said the group has been able to contribute more than \$10,000 toward the library's income.

- The library's online merch shop will be placed on hold for now due to complications with supplier Ithen Printing. Carla said a total of six orders were placed. We will try and fulfill orders or reimburse customers. No new orders will be received for the time being.

(5) Treasurer's Report: Sarah said the opening bank balance for July was \$71,540. Closing balance was \$111,602. The library received a major boost of \$27,000 as a result of its participation in the PA/OH giving week fundraiser event that was held online. Scott noted the library's investments have experienced some growth, from \$29,000 to \$30,200, since the board voted to move ahead with a Money Market account.

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

- New copier has been installed and is working out well. The downgrade reduces the overall copy costs by 35 percent, which works out to close to \$2,000 a year. Scott said it isn't that big of a difference for staff to use.
- The new outdoor bookdrop has been purchased (blue color). This purchase was made possible thru an ALA grant.
- The annual donor letter is expected to be drafted and mailed sometime in late September or early October. Looking into a bulk mailing option for the 600+ letters.

- A waiver for the library's state aid (regarding hours of operation and collection expenses) will need to be approved.
- The boro will be repaving the parking lot the week of Sept. 22. Library will push due dates to following week during that time.
- GCCL employee Sean Newton held a successful "Magic the Gathering" gaming fundraiser event Saturday, Aug. 9, at the library. Scott said the event brought in close to \$900 for the library. Advance tickets were sold as well as at the door. Heather Baker provided refreshments for sale, and there were raffle prizes. 15 individuals participated in what is expected to be an annual event.
- Heather B.'s summer reading program for children concluded with close to 300 signups and numerous programs throughout the season including weekly movie matinees, a magician's show (rescheduled for today at the GC Park), stuffed animal sleepover, and the annual pool party finale.

(7) Friends of the Library Report: Meghann said the group's Gift Card Extravaganza fundraiser went over very well this summer with \$5,060 raised. Area businesses were very generous with their donations of gift cards. Additional details regarding status of FOL can be found in Carla's report.

(8) New Business/Public Comment: Andrew and Barbara provided the board with suggestions, pertinent information and offers of assistance regarding the GC library's future. They offered positive remarks about the great work Scott is doing as director and how important a role the library plays in the Grove City area. Andrew said there is an initiative underway that could lead to a federated library system – or consortium – for Mercer County. You would have the benefit of the buying power of a consortium and still maintain your independence, he said. It could potentially bring in an additional \$74,000 a year for GCCL, due to support from the county with a \$5 per capita. He recommended the board construct a 5-year strategic plan that includes fiscal objectives. There was discussion concerning the library's physical layout and how well it's serving the public's current needs. Small

conference rooms are popular now as well as collaborative spaces. Vince said the Grove City College library underwent a renovation two years ago that featured the addition of collaborative spaces. The facility is now enjoying a big boost in student traffic as a result.

Molly Mercer and Mary Sample, library patrons, spoke to the board about their concerns over the financial crisis the library has been dealing with and the need to restore the public's trust. "There is a lot of work needed in rebuilding trust in finances with the community," Molly said. "There needs to be transparency."

In addition, Molly said the library's current hours of operation make it difficult for working parents to have their children benefit from what the library has to offer. She urged the panel to consider restructuring hours so that some evening hours are available to the working public as well as Saturday hours. "You're missing a whole group of people," she said.

(9) Meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.

Next meeting is Sept. 11.

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