

Grove City Community Library

Board Minutes

April 10, 2025

- (1) Board Members attending: Carla Ligo, Dave Kershaw, Sarah Johnston, Heather Leskanic, Zack Bombatch, Melissa Broerman, Vince DiStasi (via Zoom), Lydia Speice
Absent/Excused: Meghann Kelly
Interim Director attending: Scott Amon
Employees Attending: Wendy (via phone)
Invited guest: Robert Speice
- (2) Carla called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m.
- (3) Minutes from the March meeting were approved following a motion from Dave and second from Lydia. Motion carried; none opposed.
- (4) Bills Paid/To Be Paid: Approved following motion from Carla and second from Lydia. Motion carried; none opposed.
- (5) President's Report (from Carla):
 - Efforts continuing to try and increase recurring monthly donations as a means to achieve financial stability for the library and keep our doors open. Zack, who chairs the board's fundraising committee, said we currently have 16 people signed up to do this on Zeffy. It will take some effort to raise that number, he said. Research shows it can take up to 7 contacts or touches (phone call, text, email, letter) before someone responds to a message. He said he talked to parents when he volunteered at the March girls' tea party about the library's fragile financial situation. Many in the community "don't know how dire the situation is," he said. The message we want to share with the public is that we are building a community **with you**, members agreed. AI generated communications can help get the word out, Lydia added.
 - Ernie May of the Grove City Foundation wants to speak with library officials regarding a financial contribution. Carla said Ernie wants to know how much money is needed to run the library. We need the recurring donations

so we can pay our staff; they are our greatest asset. The program sponsorships provide considerable help, but they don't pay for staff hours.

- Carla noted the uncertainties surrounding the federal government's financial support of public education and noted our library receives funding thru the department of education.
- We can display some of the items (mugs, tote bags, shirts, etc.) near the circ desk to help promote our online merch store.

(6) Treasurer's Report: Available account balance as of April 10 shows \$69,734.46. Scott said he and Sarah discussed how best to approach bill paying. He said he will print bills out ahead of time so that board officers will be able to sign. Each month, Scott prepares a spreadsheet of all paid bills and bills to be paid for the board's review. Sarah, board treasurer, said she has been working to get the American Funds issue straightened out.

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

- Scott said he has been looking into other auditing firms that could potentially fulfill the library's auditing obligations. The firm of Opst & Associates of Greensburg, PA, would reduce our bill significantly. The library paid its current auditing firm, Maher Duessel, \$7,400 for the financial review plus 990 this year. Scott said Opst would charge between \$4,000 and \$4,500 for the same services. The board voted to switch to Opst following a motion from Dave and second from Zack. Motion carried; none opposed.
- Grove City Boro is expected to issue the library a lump sum payment this year in the amount of \$14,000. Payment expected by early May.
- The new Atrium network system for the library's circulation operations is going well. The system change went into effect at the end of March and will significantly help the library reduce annual expenditures starting next year. Training went smoothly for staff, Scott said, and we're continuing to learn to navigate the new system.
- American Library Association grant monies in the amount of \$10,000 expected to be deposited into GCCL account on May 1. This will provide the

long-awaited stand-alone book drop. Book and material purchases focusing on mobility issues are also included in the grant.

- GC United Way will provide the library with \$1,100 in funding this year : \$600 to renew hot spot device data and \$500 for a new laptop for the program room. Library officials had requested \$6,600 from the UW. Carla said in the past the library has asked for funding mainly to benefit its children's programming. This year, the focus was on other needs.
- A volunteer crew from the UW will work at the library for the upcoming Day of Caring. Scott said they will focus on putting fresh mulch down at the front entrance area plus clean up litter and do some pruning.
- Upcoming building closures listed for April 18 (Good Friday) and May 9 (scheduled power outage).

(8) Friends of the Library Report: Melissa said the group's first trivia night event at the library went well. It was a Name That Tune theme with 19 people participating. Donations totaling \$95 were collected. Penny Wars, held thru the month of March, brought in \$262. Heather Baker was declared the "winner" while Meghann Kelly was the "loser."

(9) New Business: Board members unanimously approved a proposal from Robert Speice of Grove City High School's thespian group to hold a mystery theater experience to benefit GCCL. Dave made motion to approve with second from Lydia. The event will be promoted on the district's Parent Square communications to generate interest. The event is likely to be held May 17 at the GC Masonic Hall. "We're all supporters of the library," Robert said of the student group. If it's successful, this could become an annual event.

(10) Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Heather Lesknic, board secretary, on May 2, 2025.