

## G.C. Community Library

### Board Minutes

February 21, 2024

(1) Board Members attending: Erin Pisano, Vince DiStasi (via Zoom), Stacy Bluedorn, Heather Leskanic, George Pokrant, Dave Kershaw, Liz Kingsley, Carla Ligo

Interim Library Director attending: Scott Amon

Employee Attending: Heather Baker

(1) Erin called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m.

(2) Minutes from the January meeting were approved following a motion by George and second by Dave. Motion carried.

(3) Treasurer's Report: Erin said our bank balance is at \$86,000, which is good. A \$6,000 bill was paid to our auditors. Staff members are continuing to be mindful/frugal about purchases.

(4) Library operations update : Scott's promotion to director took effect Feb. 1, and he said things are going great so far. He says he appreciates the support he is getting from library staff as well as from other library personnel in the area such as Mercer. Scott attended the district meeting virtually on Feb. 9. He and Heather B. attended a GC borough council meeting Feb. 19. Scott is doing an amazing job and asking questions, she told trustees. Our next big hurdle is the library's annual report, due March 15, said Erin.

(5) Friends of the Library Report: Promotions for the group's upcoming Bingo event on April 20 are being advertised. Doors open at 1 p.m./event will start at 2 p.m. at the GC Masonic Hall. Cost is \$25 for advance tickets or \$30 at the door (adults only). There will be a 50/50 raffle, \$1,000 jackpot plus food available and extra card specials.

#### **(6) Children's programming/Fundraising/Adult programming**

(presented by Heather B.):

- Harry Potter "*Night at Hogwarts*" was amazing; next year will mark the library's 10<sup>th</sup> year for the event. Have already started planning to make it a

spectacular event. 119 pairs of socks were collected to be donated to the Children's Aid Society.

- Feb. 22 will start a new children's afterschool reading program with Mae, a therapy dog. Children ages 5 and up can come in and read a short story to her.
- Currently have eighteen 2-year-old toddlers coming in for weekly **Bookworm Baby** sessions.
- Local authors Lydia, Jen and Taryn Peterson held a talk Feb. 16 at the library to discuss their new book, *Awake*. More information is available on Instagram: @petersontrio.
- **American Girl Tea Party** is April 5. This is a very popular annual event for girls and boys in grades 1 thru 5.
- **Dungeons & Dragons** in person and online gaming offered Monday evenings.
- Participation is increasing for the monthly **Monday Night Book Club gathering**. There are currently at least 17 individuals meeting the second Monday of each month. The book selection for this month was Charles Martin's *Chasing Fireflies*.
- **Make a Difference Knitting and Crochet Club** continues to meet once a month at the library. Liz shared a heartwarming story about her time-consuming efforts to get a ball of yarn untangled for a woman she met while receiving cancer treatments in Pittsburgh. Liz said the GC Knit and Crochet Club members were happy to help with the untangling and were ultimately able to salvage all the beautiful yarn. 😊
- **"Learn About Deaf Culture"** program to be held Feb. 27 at the library featuring Matthew Cochran of the Community Counseling Center in Hermitage.
- **Annual Soup-er Fundraiser** will be held Friday, March 8, at the library. All proceeds will benefit library. Variety of homemade soups, chicken salad sandwiches and other lunch items available for purchase.
- **Seed to Supper program** is being promoted by the library in conjunction with the Penn State Extension Master Gardeners. Meet and Greet will be

held March 12 with classes starting March 26 and ending May 28. All sessions will be held at the library. This program will be open to both adult participants living on a low income and community members.

- **Fandomfest** will be Saturday, May 11, at the GC Masonic Hall. Last year's debut event went over very well and brought in \$3,000.

(7) Unfinished Business: Board members unanimously approved a new spending plan for this year that is based on actual expenses from 2023. Total expenses last year were at \$221,000. George made motion to approve a plan that will be fluid/static through the year and for adjustments to be made as needed. Liz seconded. Motion carried. The state requires that collection expenses be 12 percent of the total budget. Last year, GCCL applied for a waiver regarding this mandate due to financial hardship. Discussion was also held regarding the return of Saturday hours at the library. This could take place in the next few months but we'll need to provide sufficient advance notice to the public.

(8) New Business: It was decided we should contact our auditors and seek guidance from them regarding notification that was received from the IRS about inaccurate information submitted for the 2020 and 2022 W-2 forms. These submissions were handled by former director Amy Gallagher. The board is also going to have the library's investment group, Cetera, provide an activity report for the duration of the fund. Stacy recalls there was about \$200,000 in the account in November 2022 but only \$25,240 by spring. Scott noted there is currently \$29,631 in the account. There was about \$500,000 in the account in 2019. Money from the account was used to balance the budget in recent years.

(9) Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Heather Lesknic, board secretary, on March 1, 2024.