

Grove City Community Library

Board Minutes

March 13, 2025

(1) Board Members attending: Carla Ligo, Sarah Johnston, Heather Leskanic, Zack Bombatch, Melissa Broerman, Meghann Kelly, Lydia Speice

Absent/Excused: Vince DiStasi, Dave Kershaw

Director attending: Scott Amon

Employee Attending: Heather Baker

Invited Guests: Greg Liszka of Iron Point Financial, Murphy Kershaw

(2) Carla called the meeting to order at 6:34 p.m.

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

(4) Bills Paid/To Be Paid: Scott referred to previously issued documents showing bills paid in the amount of \$12,424.93 and bills to be paid in the amount of \$12,749.77. It was noted Heather B. was able to get a discount price for the Swank movie licensing fee. The library will pay \$275 this year to show movies in the program room. The cost is typically \$550. Lydia made motion to approve with a second from Melissa. Motion carried; none opposed.

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

- Received positive feedback regarding board's open house held Feb. 22. WKBN TV out of Youngstown interviewed Carla and Scott for a news segment that aired on the 6 p.m. news. Planning to have an open house in February 2026; we will have more time for advance preparations/promotions and issuing invitations. Some of those individuals who have made significant financial contributions to the library were in attendance, and invitations were also sent to boro and twp officials from the library's service area of GC Boro and Pine, Liberty and Wolf Creek twps. Only GC Mayor Randy Riddle and Vince DiStasi, who is on boro council and also is a GCCL board trustee, was in attendance from the group of invited public officials. Carla said Randy

expressed an interest in doing more community-related activities with us. The library's fundraising committee is strongly encouraging individuals to make monthly donations to the library thru Zeffy as a way for GCCL to regain financial stability. Carla provided a bank statement showing our available balance is at \$77,654.89.

- Greg Liska was invited to go over investment account information with the board. He took over the account in 2014 with the amount of \$126,000. By 2017, the amount had grown to \$351,000. With the addition of inheritances, it was at \$460,000 at the end of 2018. Distributions had started in 2019, he said, and there was \$106,660 of growth in the account. 2020 ended at \$337,000; 2021 ended with \$281,000; 2022 ended with \$73,000, and 2023 ended with \$29,660 in the account. Greg advised the board against taking risks now, especially with the volatile market. It was noted during this discussion that the theft case against former library director Amy Gallagher has not gone to trial or been resolved as of yet in the Mercer County courts. GCCL's insurance company did, however, reimburse the library for \$26,000 in connection with the allegations that Ms. Gallagher had overpaid herself while serving as director. Greg told board members at the March 13 meeting they could place the investment account money in a money market fund and potentially earn \$90 a month on it. Board members voted in favor of the recommendation, following a motion from Lydia and second from Melissa. Motion carried; none opposed. The library will utilize the American Funds Money Market (AFAXX). Greg was receptive to an invitation to speak with the board about investment activity the last month of every quarter.

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

- Scott said the finance review committee will start meeting at least once a month. He prepared a checklist of who is in charge of what, regarding financial matters. Sarah was approved by the board in February as the new treasurer.

- Data extraction is being handled as the library prepares to switch its library management systems in an effort to reduce costs. Everything has been going according to plan, with staff training scheduled for March 26 and 27. The library will be closed both days for the training and then reopen on March 28 with the new Atrium system up and running.
- The library will be able to move ahead with the installation of a new stand-alone, vehicle-accessible book drop, thanks to an American Library Association grant. Scott said the project is expected to take place by early summer. The \$10,000 Libraries Transforming Communities grant for accessible small and rural communities includes \$6,500 for the outdoor book drop, \$1,000 for installation work, \$500 for children and adult collection development relating to mobility and disability awareness, and \$1,000 for the library book delivery program to patrons (to be used for CD players and more audio books.)
- A former work schedule practice has been reinstated and is working out well in which each staff member works at the circ desk 2 hours each day. "It's back and going smoothly," said Scott.
- Looking into auditing firms and whether we could lower our costs. The Maher Duessel firm's financial review + 990 is priced at \$7,400.
- The copier lease contract with Ford Office Technology will be done in August. It appears to be the most expensive package, Scott said, and costs the library \$331.22 a month. We should be able to get that cost down to \$199 a month.
- Library will be closed April 18 for Good Friday. Breakfast with the Easter Bunny is a special event to be held at library that day.

(7) Children's Programming (from Heather B.):

- Harry Potter event on Feb. 21 was a huge success. This is an annual event that brings staff and community volunteers on board to provide an elaborate and immersive experience for youth participants.

- Breakfast with the Easter Bunny and egg hunt will be held on April 18 at the library. Heather said she is currently accepting donations of candy and trinkets to fill the eggs.
- Fandomfest is coming up in May. Not able to secure a food truck for the event, which takes place at the GC Masonic Hall. This event was not designed as a fundraiser but more as a project to bring something fun to the GC community.
- Jim Baker memorial contributions have brought in close to \$2,000. Heather said her husband loved the library and knew how important it is to her. Some of the money may be used to purchase an ipad to be used at the circ desk. The Star Wars 501st Legion, in which Heather is an active member participant, has donated two new children's tables with chairs to the children's dept in Jim's honor. Also, Lydia said the GCHS Interact Club will host a blood drive on April 11 in his honor.

(8) Friends of the Library Report: Meghann said the FOL members had mixed feelings regarding the board's action in February. A resolution was approved that puts the board of trustees in control of the group's finances and event initiatives. The main focus for this year will be assisting with the upcoming fundraisers that are already scheduled to benefit the library. Melissa outlined some upcoming special events at the library, such as "snacks in the stacks," where donations at the door would be encouraged. Heather B. shared there is some concern that we might be overtaxing the community with our fundraising focus.

(9) New Business:

- Murphy Kershaw made a presentation to the board for an Eagle Scout Project. The board accepted his proposal to establish a thermometer style display for the library that will show the public the amount of money needed to run the library and measure progress. The United Way has a similar display at the corner of Broad and Main streets. Murphy's display would include the fund amounts the library receives from state and federal sources as well as the amount needed to operate the library for one year. "I think it's a really good idea," said Lydia.

- Planning a mystery dinner theater event as benefit for GCCL, in collaboration with the high school thespians. Will likely be held at GC Masonic Hall this spring.

(10) Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Heather Leskanic, board secretary, on April 1, 2025.