

Grove City Community Library

Board Minutes

October 23, 2025

(1) Board Members attending: Carla Ligo, Dave Kershaw (zoom), Sarah Johnston, Heather Leskanic, Vince DiStasi, Lydia Speice (all present)

Interim Director attending: Scott Amon

Employees Attending: none

Visitors Attending: Jane Cleary, Susan Cyphert, Kelly Dumhauf, Molly Mercer, Mary "Skip" Sample

(2) Carla called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. Meeting time change was announced prior to meeting due to scheduling issues.

(3) Minutes from September meeting were approved following motion by Vince and second from Lydia. Motion carried; none opposed.

(4) Bills Paid: Approved following brief overview from Scott with motion from Lydia and second from Vince. Motion carried; none opposed. Bills To Be Paid also received approval following motion from Sarah and second by Lydia. Motion carried; none opposed.

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

- Proposed 5-year strategic plan has been shared with board members. Carla has asked for input and feedback. Some points included so far involve having two representatives on the board go to their respective boards at least once a quarter. In an effort to maintain an active, engaged and cooperative board membership, there are also recommendations related to board members volunteering at events and at the library on a regular basis.
- A proposed schedule change for the library, which would include some Saturday and weekday evening hours, is expected to go into effect Jan. 2. Details are still being developed with input from staff.
- Changes/improvements to the program room are being considered in an effort to provide multi-use capabilities. Library officials recognize the importance of addressing and meeting the needs of middle school and high

school students in the community and offering additional programs of interest for adults.

(6) Treasurer's Report: GCCL's balance at Farmers is at \$98,298. The balance in June totaled \$71,000 and it was at \$69,000 in May. We are doing better but we still need more income, Sarah said. Our investments have not changed. Total income for September shown at \$8,486.05 with total for expenses at \$21,062.49. Net income listed at \$12,576.44 in the negative. Expenses included the \$7,631.08 for the new book drop; cost was covered by ALA grant.

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

- New bookdrop has been installed at the front of the library.
- Sarah and Scott will be putting a budget draft together.
- Opst independent auditors have issued their final completed financial review for 2024. It will be posted on the library's website. The cost of having the review performed is down 40 percent since changing firms. The total cost is \$4,250, which includes 990 filing. Scott said all the numbers are adding up properly, and Opst representatives were very easy to work with. The review was completed on time. A full audit will be undertaken next year at a cost of \$7,000. Cost would have been \$11,500 with former auditing firm.
- The library received a very generous donation of three lightly used computers from Charles Mengle of Hershey. The computers have already been set up to replace three older models and are working out very well.
- Donor letter is being finalized and will be mailed out in bulk in the next few weeks. It will include a FAQ portion.
- The used book sale brought in \$3,767 (up from \$2,565 last year). Next year, the library will go back to charging per book instead of per bag.
- Email blast to more than 2,800 individuals was issued in an effort to be proactive with regards to situation involving alleged FOL account theft. The account in question had remained open until July, despite board efforts to have it closed, but it was considered inactive. Scott said donors can be assured their financial contributions are accounted for and secure because

these funds are closely monitored by the board. An insurance claim for the alleged theft will be made in order to document details. And, a hearing in the case is scheduled for Oct. 29 before District Magistrate Douglas Straub.

- Wolf Creek Twp has provided an additional \$1,500 to the library as a goodwill gesture in response to its financial challenges. Chairman John Ligo had called Scott regarding the situation. The twp makes a contribution of \$2,250 a year.
- This month's spaghetti supper fundraiser brought in \$1,400 in profit for GCCL. Lydia Speice and her husband were thanked for having picked up the food supplies from the Del Grosso plant outside of Pittsburgh. Surplus sauce and frozen meatballs will be used in conjunction with the Nov. 14 soup sale (adding meatball hoagies to the menu). And, the library may offer a meatball sub lunch sale in January. A second annual spaghetti supper is being planned for next year.

(8) New Business/Public Comment: Scott and members of the board received valuable feedback from residents and library patrons in attendance about current library operations and how to help the library thrive in the years to come. Some suggestions involved having a town hall type meeting to allow for public input and seeking corporate sponsorship to provide revenue. Jane Cleary asked what corporations are making significant financial contributions to GCCL. "This is a wealthy community," she said. Scott said there are none regularly and it is not something the library has a lot of experience with. The library receives some funding from the state and the local governments of Grove City Boro and Pine, Liberty, Wolf Creek and Springfield twps. but most of its revenue comes from individual and business donations and fundraisers. Molly Mercer said that she appreciated the board's responsiveness to her comments at a previous meeting regarding the strong need in the community for weekday evening hours and weekend hours in order to provide access to working families. She also noted some of the library's current fundraising efforts, asking about the level of effort and staff time that goes into each event. "What is the cost to raise a dollar?" she said. Skip Sample said the money the library is raising through current fundraisers is supplemental. "It's not the kind of money

you need,” she said. “How do you plan to sustain yourselves?” asked Susan Cyphert. A proposed merger of sorts with other Mercer County libraries is making progress and could potentially bring in significant revenue for GCCL because such a collaboration would benefit from financial support from county commissioners. But it will take time, Scott said. Discussion also touched on the former library director’s theft case, which is scheduled for trial in November, and there were questions about the Friends of the Library group, past and present. In addition, the board received suggestions regarding a strategic plan, including that it should involve the community and feature finance objectives and goals. Kelly Dumhauf said the activity goals Carla has suggested, including tutoring for students, can be revenue generating because it could attract new donors. Library officials were also encouraged to promote the Interlibrary Loan program and make sure patrons know it is available. There is a big need here for middle school/high school student support, Molly Mercer said. Carla said she is trying to involve the schools a lot more in library activities. Vince said it’s a balancing act as we rebuild, where we are trying to be frugal while maintaining the services we offer to the public. Scott has been successful in reducing operational expenses (which included making changes in the auditing firm and library software carrier) while also working to increase reliable library income (Zeffy monthly donors are currently contributing a combined \$24,000 a year). Visitors were thanked for their participation, insight and suggestions.

(9) Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Heather Leskanic, board secretary, on Nov. 12, 2025.