

## G.C. Community Library

### Board Minutes

January 11, 2023

(1) Board Members attending: Erin Pisano, Stacy Bluedorn, Heather Leskanic, Kelly Habarka, Dave Kershaw, George Pokrant, Sue Miklos

Director attending: Amy Gallagher

Employee Attending: Heather Baker

(2) Erin called the meeting to order at 6:37 p.m. and opened with prayer.

(3) Minutes from the December meeting were approved following a motion from George and a second from Dave.

(4) Treasurer's Report: Board members voted unanimously to adopt a new budget for 2023 with total expenses marked at \$268,641. George made motion to approve, with the understanding it is a fluid budget that serves as a guideline for receipts and expenditures this year. Stacy seconded. Motion carried. There aren't many areas where cuts can be made, Erin said. The library continues to be squeezed as staff attempts to meet the operating requirements of the state with limited funds. Wages for the library's employees amount to \$186,000, it was noted, and we likely offer the lowest pay scale in our New Castle library district. The current state of the stock market was also noted and its effect on the library's investments. A printout from financial consultant Greg Liszka shows the library's portfolio with a year-to-date ending account value of \$72,804.64 The beginning account value was \$280,928.97; cash deposits/withdrawals, -\$185,272.39; dividends/interest/other income, \$1,788.25, and net change in portfolio, -\$24,634.69.

(5) **Library Director's Report** (from Amy):

- Amy said starting this month she will begin charging a \$5 materials fee for the adult crafting sessions. There are 20 individuals registered for this month's program. It is a very popular offering at the library.
- Wendy's monthly adult book club is going very well; this month there were 15 in-person attendees plus three on Zoom video conference. The Make a

Difference knit and crochet club meets once a month and includes about 8 to 10 individuals. Beautiful crocheted bookmarks are sold at the library for \$1 each and go over very well with patrons.

- Sean coordinates the weekly Dungeons & Dragons gaming sessions at the library, and this program maintains a solid following as well.
- Expecting to receive state money early February. We will receive \$32,000 from the state this year. Amy said it's been stated libraries are to go back to their regular Saturday hours, which would be 9 to 3 for GC. We are currently open from 9 a.m. to noon each Saturday and she has appealed to the state to continue those hours due to lack of funding and limited staff. Erin noted the library will have to record the number of visitors to the library on Saturdays, since it has been low (total of 10 to 15 on average).
- Board members were introduced to Carla Ligo, who was welcomed as a new trustee to the board.
- Erin said she will reach out to three accounting firms and whether they could provide a better rate for the library's auditing needs. Full audits are required by the state at a cost of \$12,000 every three years. Also looking into foundations that might make a contribution to the library. The Grove City Foundation generally provides the library with \$8,500 each year. Wal-Mart typically makes a contribution as well (Heather B. said she will ask them for \$1,000 this year).
- Staff is doing great and working hard, Amy said. We are grateful for their dedicated efforts.

(6) Friends of the Library Report: Sue said the fundraising campaign letters brought in \$2,945 this year. Last year's letters brought in \$3,700. Sue wasn't certain as to whether a second batch of letters is going to be issued to additional groups and individuals. The ACE Hardware month-long roundup fundraiser will be held this spring, most likely in May. Heather B. said the library is planning to have a Busy Beaver roundup fundraiser in June. Further discussion involved other local businesses and their contributions to the library and its programs.

## **Children's programming/ Fundraising** (from Heather B.):

- Heather said she is continuing with her planning and preparations for the **library's first-ever Comic-Con**. It is to be held May 13 at the GC Masonic Lodge. The family event will have a \$5 per person fee to attend. There will be numerous vendors featured as well as food trucks, activities, fandom art, the Steel City Ghostbusters, Star Trek group, a graphic novel writer and more. She will also have mini action figures for sale and a costume contest with substantial prizes. The event is going to be well advertised. There is no expense for the hall.
  - The next **soup-er fundraiser will be Friday, Feb. 17**, at the library. A wide variety of homemade soups will again be featured along with chicken salad sandwiches and other lunch items.
  - Heather said the **library's fundraising efforts raised more than \$10,000** last year. That included money raised through two soup sales, the used book sale and basket raffles. This year, she is anticipating between \$12,000 and \$13,000 to be raised with the addition of a bake sale and the Comic-Con.
  - In children's programming, a meet and greet event with Belle and the Beast is scheduled in February.
  - The **1,000 Books before Kindergarten** challenge is underway with 16 children having signed up in two days. 😊
  - Also, the **Friday morning playgroup** for preschoolers and their parents or caregivers has started up and is going well. About 10 children attended the first session.
  - **Bookworm Babies** will have two sessions this season due to high registration numbers. Each session can hold up to 15 children.
  - The popular **American Girl Tea Party** will be Friday, March 17, at the library.
  - A **Llama llama pajama party** will be coming up. Heather will be accepting donations of new pajamas; these will be provided to those in need.
- (7) Unfinished Business: Amount received from Springfield Twp totaled \$435. Had been told it would be \$500.

(8) New Business: Budget approved (detailed under treasurer's report)

(9) Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

**Next meeting is Feb. 8**

Minutes submitted by Heather Leskanic, board secretary, on Jan. 31, 2023.