

## G.C. Community Library

### Board Minutes

December 12, 2024

- (1) Board Members attending: Carla Ligo, Dave Kershaw, Heather Leskanic, George Pokrant, Melissa Broerman, Lydia Speice, Meghann Kelly (on Zoom)  
Absent/Excused: Vince DiStasi, Zack Bombatch  
Director attending: Scott Amon  
Employees Attending: Heather Baker, Sean Newton
- (2) Carla called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and Scott opened with prayer.
- (3) Minutes from the November meeting were approved following a motion from George and second from Lydia. Motion carried unanimously.
- (4) Bills paid/to be paid: Board members voted unanimously to approve bills paid and bills to be paid as outlined by Scott. George made motion to approve; Lydia seconded.
- (5) President's Report: Carla expressed gratitude to Heather Baker and staff members for their efforts in making the first-ever Christmas cookie walk a huge success, raising \$5,031. Heather B. organized the event, which was held at the GC Masonic Hall and featured some 400 dozen assorted cookies baked and donated by more than 40 individuals. "Thank you very much," Carla said. "The staff works their tails off . . . what would we do without you." Heather B. added, "We're a good team." Some discussion followed on what adjustments might be needed for next year's cookie walk, which received very positive feedback from the public and will be included on the library's 2025 fundraiser event list (Dec. 6). Heather B. said the library's fundraising events, which included two soup/sandwich sales, Fandomfest, the used book sale, raffle baskets and cookie walk, brought in nearly \$19,000 this year. "It's an amazing accomplishment and we applaud you," Carla said. Sean said he is working on organizing a special gaming event that would serve as an additional fundraiser for the library.

- Carla is in discussions with Kathy Leonard of the GC Revitalization group to see how they can help the library, such as hosting a fundraiser. The group feels GCCL is a key component of the community and the community would suffer without the library, Carla said. Scott and Carla are also in touch with United Way officials in order to restore that funding stream.
- It was agreed board members will provide/attend a catered lunch from Blackout Burger for staff on Dec. 16 as a way of saying thank you for their amazing efforts all through the year. 😊
- Board committee assignments have been finalized with Vince and George on financial; Lydia and Heather on operations; and Zack, Meghann and Melissa on fundraising.
- Board open house to be held from noon to 2 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25, at the library.
- Missy Orr has expressed interest in helping the library as a bookkeeping consultant.
- We are still in need of someone to serve as board treasurer.

(6) Finance Report: George said he and Scott met and scoped out a tentative 6-month budget plan to start 2025. Our costs are about \$168,000 a year while our revenues are coming in at \$112,800. This budget is based on what we know, and things right now are looking better than last year, George said. It was noted the library will likely have to pursue another waiver from the state concerning the rule that 12 percent of the library's expenses need to be spent on items related to its collection. Investment consultant Greg Liszka is expected to be invited to speak to board in January. Melissa said a goal should be to start growing some money toward an endowment for the library. As a member of the fundraising committee, she said they will be focused on transparent finances, bank account balances, corporate sponsors, and ensuring that donations go where the donor intends. In addition, having rewards for donors such as mugs, bookmarks or blankets with the library's logo as a way of showing our appreciation.

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

- Submitted grant application for library to switch over to an outdoor, stand alone book drop that would be drive-up accessible. The application is thru the ALA and we hope to hear if we are approved for grant in February.
- Board approved request to pay annual amount of malware software in lump sum of \$240 in order to receive discount. George made motion with Dave seconding; motion carried unanimously.
- Tim Bonner of the GC Health Foundation was contacted concerning whether the library would qualify for a grant based on mental health support initiatives/action. It appears the library would not qualify for a grant.
- Scott presented a draft proposal for a new policy that would allow staff members to donate sick time to another staff member. Carla said it's a great idea and "provides a cushion for all of you."
- Wendy Riggi set up the Christmas giving tree with tags to encourage patrons to gift the library with essential items such as Clorox wipes, copy paper, markers and more. The public has responded generously, bringing in many assorted items and easing the library's purchasing expenses.

(8) Children's Programming News (from Heather B.):

- In January, we will offer a Passport on a Plate program in which 17 different countries will be represented.
- Allied News will be coming to cover the popular Noon Year's Eve event for families on Dec. 31 at the library. This is a dance party for families that features a variety of activities plus donated refreshments.
- Received word that GCCL's children's programming is being honored as among the "best of the best" by the state education dept this year for promoting diversity and inclusion through an Italian language and culture summer reading program. Heather will be interviewed about her program. Only 10 library programs are recognized each year in the state.
- Tower Church has a new preschool program, and Heather will be going there once a month.

- (9) Friends of the Library Report: Meghann talked about the group's efforts to promote the upcoming Casino Night fundraiser on Jan. 18. She said 20 tickets have been sold; the group's goal is to have at least 100 tickets sold (\$50 each). Max at 200 tickets. She plans to end sales the week before the event so she can give the caterer a final number. The night will feature casino games, music, a buffet dinner, and top-tier prizes.
- (10) Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Next meeting is Jan. 9.

Minutes submitted by Heather Leskanic, board secretary, on Jan. 2, 2025.