

G.C. Community Library

Board Minutes

November 19, 2024

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

Not present: Vince DiStasi, Dave Kershaw

Interim Director attending: Scott Amon

Employees Attending: Heather Baker, Sean Newton, Wendy Riggi (via phone)

(2) Carla called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m. and Scott provided prayer.

(3) Minutes from the previous meeting were approved following motion by George and second from Zack. Motion carried.

(4) Bills paid/bills to be paid received approval following motion from Lydia and second from George. Motion carried.

(5) Treasurer's Report: Melissa is not able to serve as board treasurer due to her employment with PNC bank. Whomever the board names treasurer will be asked to serve on the financial committee with George. Checks will be made with accounting departments at area colleges and universities to see if someone there might be interested in serving. Scott explained the library's auditing expenses have been significant this year (totaling \$18,500) due to the fact that we were still finalizing the 2022 documents. Next year, auditing expenses should be \$7,000 (for financial review and 990). Planning to invite financial consultant Greg Liszka to next month's meeting to speak on library's investments.

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

- Additional committee appointments are being made including Lydia and Heather L. for operations and Zack and Melissa for fundraising.
- Agreed we will host an open house on Saturday, Jan. 25, from noon to 2 p.m. as an opportunity to make our board members more visible to the community and outline our future goals. Ideas for the open house included having a slide show running continuously with pictures from the library's

various programs and activities and possibly having patrons write what they love about the library on special cards.

- It was discussed that library officials intend to promote Scott to full-time director when it is financially feasible.

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

- Scott reported that the large-scale fundraising letter campaign has brought in a total of \$20,707. Total contributions since September are listed at close to \$31,000. There is almost \$50,000 in the library's account now. But Scott said he is still concerned about a potential deficit in the coming months. It is time to start preparing next year's budget, George noted, and we don't want to overproject. It might be best to start with a 6-month plan. Scott said they are looking into switching to a different software system to manage the library's operational/cataloging needs. He said they currently pay \$4,500 a year. The Mercer library is paying just \$800 a year for its system, and it is adequate for small libraries

(8) Friends of the Library Report: Meghann, the group's president, announced their second Bingo fundraiser went over well with participants and brought in \$3,500. The Primanti's fundraiser brought in \$250. FOL account currently at close to \$6,000. The group is gearing up for its big Casino Night fundraiser taking place Jan. 18 at the Keystone Event Center in Grove City. Event is 21 and older and will be BYOB. Tickets are \$50 each, which includes catered buffet dinner, 5 casino chips, and music and dancing. Additional casino chips will be available for purchase at the event. Also offering top tier raffle prizes such as a home entertainment/security system, Steelers/Penguins game tickets, and possibly a weekend getaway and/or spa day. Goal is to raise over \$10,000 from this event.

(9) Library fundraising update (from Heather B.):

- The Nov. 8 soup-er sale went over very well with \$1,333.80 raised. There were 22 donated homemade soups available for sale as well as chicken salad sandwiches and other lunch items. Soups and sandwiches were sold out by 1 p.m.

- The gift basket raffle is doing extremely well with over \$4,000 brought in so far. Last year's total was \$3,346. Winners will be announced in mid-December.
- The library will host its first-ever Christmas Cookie Walk on Saturday, Dec. 7, at the GC Masonic Hall. Currently we have 41 bakers who are bringing in homemade cookies to be sold at \$12 a dozen. Goal is to raise \$5,000 in this event. If there are cookies left over, Heather plans to donate/set up a cookie table at Orchard Manor nursing facility. Zack suggested we could try to find matching sponsors for fundraising events as a way to double our revenues.

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

Next meeting is December 12.

Minutes submitted by Heather Leskani, board secretary, on Dec. 2, 2024.