

Greenville Public Library Materials Committee Meeting
Greenville Public Library
414 West Main St., Greenville, IL 62246

November 15, 2002
10:00 a.m.

Minutes

Call to Order -- Meeting came to order at 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call of Members -- in attendance: committee members Cynthia Wiegand (chair), Dale Martin, Judy Cox; Head Librarian Christal Valentin, *ex officio*.

Public Comments -- none

Discussion of library materials selection process --

Chair Cynthia Wiegand opened with a review of “Section Five: Materials and Services” (pp. 28-31) of the *Greenville Public Library Policy Manual* (adopted 2022). Highlights included the role of each committee member in assisting in materials selection with monthly recommendations, guidelines for both nonfiction and fiction selection, and recommended review sources.

The committee discussed when to begin meeting in person again, whether immediately before the monthly Board meetings (the convenient pattern pre-COVID) or at another time. For the foreseeable future, the Board will be meeting in the Bradford Room, and its availability for committee meetings is unclear. Given various schedules, it was determined not to resume meeting monthly in person for now, and to reassess in February. Each member is to continue sending their monthly recommendations to Head Librarian Christal Valentin, and she will disseminate each list to the committee.

Head Librarian Christal Valentin further explained the process of GPL materials purchase, which is limited by the library budget to about 30 titles per month (~\$500). She sees the committee’s role as essential partnership in the selection process. Good reviews must be balanced with patron interest. She has insight into the reading interests of our particular library’s patrons that the committee doesn’t have, from interactions (including patron feedback) at the Circulation Desk plus her readers’ advisory role. The New Book Shelf is key for many walk-in patrons. Director Jo Keillor plays a role in selection too, helping to rank the committee’s recommendations. The two of them, fortunately, have very different reading interests; our own interests play a similarly valid role, in addition to value, relevance and popularity of the titles. (The variation in reading taste within the committee is a strength.) Including reviews with our recommendations isn’t necessary (nor does she read them) at this point, nor is ISBN/edition/format information—simply list author and title (publication date is

helpful IF easily available). Goodreads scores aren't necessary to her, either, as she uses Goodreads only to access the reader reviews, which in her experience are more honest than those on Amazon, etc. We may find those scores helpful in prioritizing our own lists, but she prefers that we not try to limit by balancing out Fiction/Non-fiction nor genres within either; rather, we should include any title we want to be considered, while understanding that financial constraints will limit final decisions. She notes and values the many hours the members of this committee already give each month! Rather than our feeling responsible to "balance" those lists in any way, we are asked to trust her with that.

Librarian Valentin explained some of the "coding" on the lists of monthly purchases she sends us:

- OK = ordered (by Library Director Jo Keillor) via Baker & Taylor, on its way
- BO = back-ordered, Baker & Taylor will send a copy when it is in stock
- no one owns = none of the 500 libraries in SHARE have, so probably not mainstream enough for our library, with its very limited budget
- # listed by title = # of holds in the SHARE system for that title already

She noted that she deletes any suggestions we make for titles GPL already owns (there is no need for us to double-check).

Procedures were reviewed for in-person meetings, which most of the committee members haven't experienced:

- committee members each give a copy of their recommendations for the month to every other member
- the NYT Best-Sellers list is available
- each member in turn summarizes each of their recommendations with a brief synopsis and why it was chosen
- if a title was just recommended by another member, simply note "ditto" rather than repeating details

Other discussion included the special value of graphic novels in the juvenile collection, the library's deliberate move away from CDs to playaways, fiction genres that tend to be popular with our patrons, purchase of titles with memorial donations, and the possibility of a patron suggestion box.

Adjourn -- Dale Martin made a motion to adjourn, with Judy Cox seconding. The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Judy Cox
Committee secretary *pro tem*