

Aurora Free Library
Board Minutes
April 15, 2021

Present: Thea Miller, Susan Deacon, Jim Burkett, Natalie Kimbrough, Ellen Baker Wikstrom, Andre Lynch, Sue Dean
Absent excused: Steve Moolin
Staff Present: Sandy Groth

The meeting was conducted via ZOOM in compliance with recent social distancing recommendations and NYS Executive Orders in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic. The meeting was recorded. All participants were in their homes.

1. Ellen Baker Wikstrom called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance in the absence of President Steve Moolin.
2. Conflict of Interest – No conflicts of interest were noted.
3. Consent Agenda – Thea made a motion to approve the March 18, 2021 Board of Trustees minutes and the April 15, 2021 agenda. Sue seconded the motion.
CARRIED
4. Treasurer’s Report – Thea noted that expenses remain at budgeted levels. As projected revenues are low to date. However, the cash flow of the Library remains robust.
5. Director’s Report – Sandy noted several items:
 - a. The Library is required to be open 20 hours per month by June 1. Currently the Library is open 14 hours per week. Staff are discussing when is the most strategically best time to add open hours.
 - b. All Rosen grants submitted were approved.
6. Committee Reports –
 - a. Fundraising – Sue reported that the committee will be meeting soon to discuss going forward with the “jailhouse fundraiser.” She explained the concept of how the fundraiser will work noting its importance since the Book Lovers Ball remains uncertain for 2021. Sue noted that the details of how this fundraiser will work still need to be determined. She hoped that the fundraiser would be ready to roll out by May but noted that a lot of work remains so the roll out will be later in the year.
 - b. Morgan Opera House – Much uncertainty exists about reopening. Working with the COVID issues and the upcoming Library renovations adds to the uncertainty. The Howland Stone Store Museum is exploring a collaboration with the Morgan Opera House around their Centennial plus

One celebration this summer. Outdoor performances remain an option, but requires a lot of logistical planning.

- c. Preservation – In Steve’s absence Ellen noted that planning is underway for our planned building upgrades.
 - i. Roof including fascia as well as other exterior wood surfaces
 - ii. Front door refinishing
 - iii. Library main floor
- d. The C-19 committee - As reported by the director, evaluation regarding reopening the library 20 hours per week and how many people to allow in the building at one time is ongoing. It was noted that hybrid board meetings will be initiated in the near future.

7. New Business –

- a. Notice was received from the CNY Community Foundation that the Library is eligible for a distribution from current investments. After discussing the matter it was decided to postpone transferring the money from the investment account to the Library operating account.
- b. Ellen reviewed the categories in which we will need to work to achieve state minimum standards. Board members are encouraged to examine the areas that need attention and plug their skills into reviewing and constructing the documentation necessary to maintain the standards.
- c. It was noted that the state budget passed with no cuts to library aid.

8. Old Business –

- a. Ellen reminded the board members that the Conflict of Interest, Ethics, and Whistleblower forms must be signed and returned to Sandy by May 1.
- b. Trustees were reminded that the Library is not on the school district ballot this year. Levy support will remain at \$72,150.

9. Adjournment – Susan Deacon move to adjourn the meeting. Sue Dean seconded the motion. CARRIED

10. The next Aurora Free Library Board meeting will be May 20, 2021. Minimum standards for libraries will be discussed at that meeting.