

Aurora Free Library
Board Minutes
November 18, 2021

Present: Steve Moolin, Susan Deacon, Jim Burkett, Natalie Kimbrough, Ellen Baker
Wikstrom, Thea Miller
Absent Excused: Sue Dean
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. Steve Moolin called the meeting to order and welcomed all in attendance.
2. Conflict of Interest – No conflicts of interest were noted.
3. Consent Agenda – Steve made a motion to approve the October 21, 2021 Board of Trustees minutes and the November 18, 2021 agenda. Ellen seconded the motion. CARRIED
4. Treasurer’s Report – Thea reported that we have not received the tax check from the school yet.
 - a. The checking account balance is around \$90,000 of which \$70,000 is restricted.
 - b. The operating account is down \$7,000 from the previous month. There is enough in the account to carry us through the end of the year.
5. Director’s Report –
 - a. Sandy reported the floor of the library has been finished. Steve shared pictures. With all the furniture and books out of the library it is an opportune time to paint the back room. Sandy has that scheduled for the week after Thanksgiving.
 - b. As expected because the library has reduced operations, the door count and circulation are down, however, people continue to use the services.
 - c. An event will be held in MOH November 28. Floor protection will be laid to protect the newly finished floor.
 - d. Sandy has updated the job description for the position that Susan is vacating.
6. Committee Reports –
 - a. Fundraising – Working on the annual appeal and looking at options for printing
 - b. Nominating –
 - i. The committee presented a list of potential nominees to the board. Board members discussed the needs of the organization and the

strengths of the various persons on the list. Several of the individuals were prioritized as first to ask because they possess skills needed by the organization. The committee will begin to ask persons on the list and have a list of nominees to present at the next meeting.

- c. Morgan Opera House –
 - i. Two performances are scheduled – The Chamber Ensemble on November 28 and Bones East on December 4.
- d. Preservation –
 - i. The Cherry Avenue entrance steps are compromised. Steve and Jodi are working to rebuild the steps. The solution, using wooden steps, will be a short term solution. The steps will need to be addressed next spring.

7. Old Business

- a. Revised Bylaws – The Bylaws Committee presented the revised bylaws for board consideration. This revision incorporates the amendments to the previous bylaws into the body of the document. Additionally it has two changes. First, it fixes the number of board members at seven members, and second, it allows trustees to serve up to three, three year terms on the board.

Ellen Baker Wikstrom moved to adopt the revised bylaws as presented. Steve Moolin seconded the motion. CARRIED

- b. Sandy presented three updated policies for consideration. Steve Moolin moved to adopt the Conflict of Interest Policy, Whistleblower Policy, and Aurora Free Library Ethics Statement and Combined Signature Page. Natalie Kimbrough seconded the motion. CARRIED

8. New Business –

- a. Budget – Thea led a discussion focused on the concepts upon which we want to base the budget for 2022.
 - i. Increase allotment for the Bookkeeper’s time as we shift more responsibilities to the bookkeeper.
 - ii. Keep the increase in wages to 5%.
 - iii. This year we expect revenues and expenses to be even. Increases in expenses will create the need to generate increased revenues. The board discussed asking for an increase in the tax levy support.

Steve Moolin move, Jim Burkett, seconded: Whereas, the adoption of the 2022 budget for the Aurora Free Library may require a tax levy increase that exceeds the tax cap imposed by state law as outlined in General Municipal Law Section 3-c adopted in 2011; and

Whereas, General Municipal Law Section 3-c expressly permits the library board to override the tax levy limit by a resolution

approved by a vote of sixty percent of qualified board members;
now therefore be it

Resolved, that the Board of Trustees of the Aurora Free Library
voted and approved to exceed the tax levy limit for 2022 by at least
the sixty percent of the board of trustees as required by state law
on November 18, 2021

CARRIED

9. Adjournment – Steve Moolin moved to adjourn the meeting. Ellen Wikstrom seconded the motion. CARRIED