

Aurora Free Library
Meeting Minutes
December 20, 2022

Present: Susan Deacon, Ellen Wikstrom, David Eckhardt
Zoom: Natalie Kimbrough, Dennis Looney, Thea Miller
Excused: Sue Dean
Staff: Sandy Groth

The meeting was rescheduled from December 15 due to weather and conducted via ZOOM and in-person. The meeting was recorded. The three zoom participants were in their homes.

- A. Susan called the meeting to order at 5:43 pm.

- B. Conflict of Interest – No conflicts of interest were noted. Ellen motioned to approve the consent agenda, Dave seconded. CARRIED

- C. Morgan Opera House Report (Ellen)
 - a. Shepherd’s Play was performed on Dec 17, with about 60 people in attendance. It was a very successful event. The play will also be performed December 23 at 7pm at the Poplar Ridge Friends Meeting House.
 - b. Taitem Engineering of Ithaca has prepared a scoping document for installation of an air conditioning system for the MOH, at a proposed cost of \$22,000. Acceptance of the proposal is not required until the end of January 2023, and we are first awaiting news for our AFL portion of the New York Forward revitalization grant award for the Village of Aurora, which is pending.

- D. Treasurer’s Report & Budget Discussion (Thea)
 - a. Dave asked about the 2023 budget amounts set aside for our payment portion of the roof repair that will be funded in part (75% percent) by the 2022 NYS Aid for Library Construction grant. We should receive 90 percent of the State funds (\$30,610) in January, and we are responsible for the remainder of the projected invoice, which is estimated to be \$11,200 (our 25 percent match) plus \$3,361 (10 percent of grant award withheld by NYS, reimbursable upon completion). Thea asked for approval by the Board to transfer \$15,000 from the AFL savings account to cover these costs, which was unanimously approved (Ellen moved, Dennis seconded).
 - b. Dave also requested that \$4,000 be available for gutter and downspout services in 2023. Thea reported that this is already available in the Preservation account line for 2023.
 - c. Dennis inquired about cost-of-living increases for library staff in 2023, and it was verified that a 7 percent wage increase has been budgeted.
 - d. Thea stated that the 2023 budget approval will be required at the January 2023 Board meeting. The Treasurer’s report for November 2022 was unanimously

approved (Suasn moved, Ellen seconded).

- E. Susan summarized upcoming dates for AFL actions and meetings in 2023, including the Annual AFL Association Meeting proposed for February 16.
 - a. Dec 28th: 50 days to the Annual meeting date (Feb. 16th)
 - b. Jan 19th: AFL meeting; last day to publish any bylaw updates and approve the annual budget
 - c. Feb. 13: advertise special meeting on Feb. 23rd (if needed)
 - d. Feb 16th: Annual Association Meeting and Board Business Meeting
 - e. March 16th: AFL meeting (Susan to present to the BOE regarding tax levy prior to this meeting)
 - f. April 20th: AFL meeting
 - g. May 16th: Public vote
 - h. May 18: AFL meeting

- F. Director's Report (Sandy)
 - a. Sandy and Ellen met to discuss the collection development policy.
 - b. The Polished Silver Group met at the AFL on December 20th, 2022 (eight in attendance). The group will meet at the AFL again on February 7th.
 - c. Christmas in Aurora: 4 children in attendance to meet with Santa. Event timeline and weather thought to explain lower attendance.
 - d. Furnace to be maintained in the next month.
 - e. "Jail" remodel briefly discussed. Grant money will optimally be spent by the end of February 2023. Heat and open ceiling are the main concerns.

- G. Nominating Committee
 - a. Ellen to reach out to MOH committee member regarding AFL board position.

- H. Preservation Committee (Dave)
 - a. Susan or Sandy to call Lemondes' Auburn office regarding the \$4,500 grant application for the front step project.
 - b. Dave is working with Jim Greathouse, an independent contractor who does gutter work for Wells College. He has scaffolding and can rent a lift to clean the AFL gutters. Budgeted 40 hours for the work, at an approx cost \$4,500. Work planned to be completed in Spring 2023.
 - c. All the lightbulbs in main room have been replaced to LED bulbs.
 - d. Steve Moolin has agreed to be Preservation Committee treasurer.

- I. Adjournment – Susan moved to adjourn the meeting, Dennis seconded. CARRIED. Meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm.

Next meeting: Thursday, January 19th