

Aurora Free Library  
Annual Meeting Minutes  
February 16, 2023

Present: Susan Deacon, David Eckhardt, Natalie Kimbrough, Thea Miller  
Zoom Trustees: Dennis Looney, Ellen Wikstrom  
Zoom Association members: Steve Moolin, Tracy Leffingwell  
Zoom Attendee: Susan Forbes  
Excused: Susan Dean  
Staff: Sandy Groth

The meeting was conducted via ZOOM and in-person. The meeting was recorded. The two AFL trustee zoom participants were in their homes.

Susan called the meeting to order at 5:39pm, welcomed the Association Members and reviewed the agenda.

**A. Treasurer's remarks (Thea)**

- a. Thea reviewed the 2022 Income (\$168,430) and 2022 Expenses (\$147,275). The School District Ballot and BLB are the largest sources of AFL funding.
- b. BLB record breaking year; grossing \$47,000 and netting \$33,000. Raised \$9,000 in annual appeal, \$2,000 with the Book Sale, and \$600 with the Plant Sale.

**B. Director's remarks (Sandy)**

- a. 2022 programming included: Summer Reading programs including Tween Book Club, Puppet Event at Teddy Bears' Picnic, Storytime, Yoga, Adopt a Stuffie, Cupcake Wars (a large success, resulting in a second offering of the event), AuroraFest parade, repurposing t-shirts, Steel Drum workshop and more.
- b. 5,078 visitors in 2022 (up by ~1,500 from 2021), a record of 148 programs offered this past year.
- c. What's to come: 2024 we'll be celebrating our 125 year anniversary
- d. Community Partners: Thank you to all the AFL community partnerships, who help enhance the AFL's offerings
- e. Grant funded programs: Thanks to the Community Arts Regrant, Rosen Library Fund, and NY State Library for grant funding
- f. Did you know - Food Pantry partnerships, free Covid tests, Polished Silver senior lunch, local museum passes
- g. Thanks to Susan MacCormick (retired Assistant Librarian) and the Board of Trustees for all their work

**C. Fundraising (Susan)**

- a. First Book Lovers' Ball in-person event since 2019. Sold out a month before the Ball. Netted \$33,000.
- b. Plant Sale netted \$600, Summer Book Sale netted \$2,000

**D. Morgan Opera House (Ellen)**

- a. Hosted five successful events in 2022, totalling 368 patrons. They're working on rebuilding the audience post-Covid.

**E. Preservation (Dave)**

- a. Completed projects - New stone steps at the Cherry Ave. entrance. Sub-surface waterproofing done along the north-west foundation walls.
- b. Future plans - Seeking funds for upgrades and repairs to library windows and an air-conditioning system for the Morgan Opera House. Roof tiles and fascia boards will be replaced in the Spring of 2023.

**F. Nomination:**

- a. The nominating committee brought Lars Peterson and Susan Dean (serving her second term) as the board member recommendations. No alternatives were nominated from the floor. Natalie motioned to close the nominations and cast a unanimous vote for those nominated by the nominating committee. Dave seconded, CARRIED. New members will start March 1, 2023.
- b. Susan nominated the following trustees for AFL officers positions:  
Susan Deacon - President  
Dave Eckhardt - Vice President  
Thea Miller - Treasurer  
Natalie Kimbrough - Secretary  
Dennis motioned to accept, Dave seconded, CARRIED

Ellen made the motion to adjourn, Dennis seconded. CARRIED

**Board of Trustees Meeting began at 6:17**

Conflict of Interest – No conflicts of interest were noted. Susan motioned to approve the consent agenda; Thea seconded. CARRIED

**A. Vote to approve the Annual Report (Sandy):**

- a. No questions or discussion regarding 2022 NYS Annual Report that Sandy and Thea prepared. Susan made a motion to approve the report, Dave seconded. CARRIED

**B. 2023 board calendar (Susan):**

- a. Susan motioned to keep the AFL meetings the third Thursday of every month, excluding the month of February (which will be determined closer to the Annual Meeting date). The board discussed removing a few select months, which are historically slow. The board agreed to keep every third Thursday and cancel meetings if no new business needs to be voted on. Dennis made the motion to adopt the annual calendar, Dave seconded, CARRIED.

C. New Business (Sandy):

- a. Personnel Business: Nicole Jackson submitted resignation. The position has been posted on the website, social media and sent to FLLS. The position is listed as 15-20 hours/week, pay will be based on experience and qualifications (\$15-20 an hour). Sandy to look into online job boards (ex. Indeed). Thea volunteered to help with the interview process. Susan MacCormick will return in an interim status during this process. Susan made a motion to accept Nicole's resignation, Dennis seconded. CARRIED

D. Roofing Project (Dave):

- a. Project Update: Currently working with Hale Roofing, planning for a spring date. The scaffolding will be on the front of the building. They have found matching tiles for needed replacements.
- b. AFL has received the Library Aid Construction Grant in the amount of \$31,000. Costs have increased since the grant submission (completed in 2021). We now are responsible for \$23,191 instead of the original \$11,204. Additional tiles may need to be replaced. We may need to increase the scope of the work, allowing Hale to examine the full roof. Hale will provide an additional quote, to include examining the rest of the roof and cleaning gutters and downspouts.
- c. Discussion regarding additional funds for the project. Ideas included a capital campaign targeting this project, approaching specific local funders, drawing from the Community Foundation investment account and/or our Cayuga Lake National Bank account.
- d. The board is going to hold off on decisions until March. This gives the Preservation Committee time to get final quotes and contracts, additionally giving time to Thea to review the budget.

Ellen made a motion of adjourn, Dave seconded, CARRIED

Meeting ended at 7:13pm

*Next meeting: Thursday, March 16th*