

Aurora Free Library
Meeting Minutes
October 19, 2023

Present: Susan Deacon, David Eckhardt, Dennis Looney, Natalie Kimbrough, and Thea Miller
Zoom: Sue Dean and Lars Peterson
Staff: Sandy Groth

The meeting was conducted in-person and on Zoom.

A. Susan called the meeting to order at 5:37 pm.

B. **Conflict of Interest/Consent Agenda** – No conflicts of interest were noted. Motion to accept the consent agenda.

Move by: Susan Deacon

Second: Dennis

Action: Carried

C. **Director's Report (Sandy)**

- a. A Wells intern will be at the AFL this semester. He is working on historic documents and programming support. In the historic work, Linda Kablec shared that December 11, 1899 is documented as the first day that the Library opened.
- b. Briefly discussed the upcoming 125th anniversary celebration. A commemorative calendar, tote bag, and a mug were brought up.
- c. Christmas in Aurora will be on Saturday, Dec. 2nd this year.

D. **Treasurer's Report (Thea)**

- a. BLB was well attended and successful. Tentative numbers grossed \$43,750, and expenses are approximately \$12,640. Silent auction rough estimate \$13,363.

E. **Fundraising (Sue Dean)**

- a. Ideas: Treleaven special wine label for the 125th year.

F. **Morgan Opera House (Lars)**

- a. 10/21: Two-piece musical performance (fiddle and cello)
- b. 10/29: Skaneateles String Quartet
- c. 11/4: Catskill Puppet
- d. 11/5: BLB speaker
- e. 11/18: Klezmer Quartet
- f. 12/3: Bones East
- g. 12/16: Shepherd's Play

G. **Nominating (Natalie)**

- a. One candidate has said to put them on the list. Waiting to hear back from other possible nominees.
- b. Discussion of by-laws — do we need our set number of trustees to be moved from seven to nine? If so, we would need to vote on this at the annual meeting in February.

H. New Business

- a. Tax Cap Override:
 - i. Resolution: Whereas, the adoption of the 2024 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 2024 by at least the sixty percent of the board of trustees as required by state law on October 19, 2023.
Move by: Susan Deacon
Second: Dave
Action: Carried

I. Preservation (Dave)

- a. **NYS Aid for Library Construction Program – Roof Reconstruction Project:** Funding for \$33,610 was approved in December 2022 by the State Education Department for repair of the west-facing gable roof tiles and fascia boards (Project number 0386-22-9243). A revised contract proposal for the project submitted by Hale Roofing of Horseheads, NY was approved by the AFL Board of Trustees at the April 11 Trustees Special Meeting at a cost of \$68,044. Work was initiated with scaffold erection on June 15. A Change Order was submitted August 10 by Hale that included \$12,400 in additional costs, which include two new orders of tile (they could not re-set much of the old tile due to its brittleness and cracks), new cedar sub-roof planking to replace rotted boards on the north side of the west gable, the new chimney cap, and repair of other broken tiles that were found on the main roof building, including above the Cherry Avenue door, around the brick chimney base, and around the leaky opera house circular vent. Also included in the Change Order was the additional one-week rental cost for the scaffolding and hydraulic lift. Work was completed August 17. An initial invoice for \$17,011 and the final invoice for \$63,443 have been paid. Thus, the AFL total cost for the completed roof renovation is \$46,884.
 - Hale cleared all rain gutters and reattached two fallen downspouts.
 - Dave fixed the two broken light fixtures that were broken by Hale activity. An invoice has been sent to Hale for the new post lamp fixture.
 - Steve Moolin has initiated the final closeout for the project with NYSED. Upon approval, we will receive a check for \$3,361, which is the 10% withheld until project completion.

- b. **Capital Fundraising:** A Capital Fundraising effort has been established to generate funds through the Aurora Free Library Building Preservation Campaign to help offset the costs of building projects. It is anticipated that the fundraising will progress for at least three years to address the roof and other Library projects, including window renovations, exterior facade surface repair and painting, and masonry repairs.
- i. On June 1, a grant application was submitted to the Triad Foundation, and an award of \$10,000 was pledged to the AFL pending our raising an equal amount through matching donations from the community. As of mid-September, we have received \$4,630 in donations. We have discussed with the committee for the Book Lovers Ball that a \$3,000 donation be made from proceeds of the recent Silent Auction to help us reach the Triad match requirement. Our final date to submit the balance of match donations to Triad is Wednesday October 25.
 - ii. On September 19, a grant application was submitted to the Stanley W. Metcalf Foundation Inc. through Executive Director Steve Rich for \$20,000. The Foundation Trustees are meeting this week, and we should soon have a decision on any grant award. Funding of \$59,200 has been requested through the 2024 New York State Aid for Library Construction Program. Steve Moolin kindly prepared and submitted the application to FLLS, which approved it in late September and forwarded it to NYSED. The Dentes family and Triad have generously donated a combined \$15,000 as matching funds for the project.
 - iii. At the May 19 meeting, Trustees approved a contract for \$29,200 to Taitem Engineering of Ithaca to assist the AFL in the design, specifications, and construction-period services for a suitable AC system for the MOH. Taitem has submitted a contractor bid estimate for the AC system installation for \$30,000, which was required as part of the NYSED grant application.
 - iv. Taitem has submitted their first invoice for \$15,184 for work to date, which has been paid. The remainder of the designated Taitem contract fees will be to provide final contractor bids and construction-phase professional services, pending approval of our NYSED grant request sometime in mid to late 2024.
- c. **Regional Economic Development Council Grant Application:** We have again partnered with the Village of Aurora to develop a new application for funding the AFL Windows Renovation Project through the New York Forward Program. The State program provides awards to small rural communities with grant funding of up to \$4.5 million. Our component of the Village application has been submitted to NYS with the help of Evan Tuthill, Cayuga County Department of Planning and Economic Development. Our updated proposal for renovations of the Library windows has requested a grant award of \$365,000. The award results will be announced by NYS in early January 2024.
- i. If awarded, AFL would need to provide at least a 25% match, for which we would apply for grant assistance from the Emerson Foundation.

- ii. Natalie composed an information sign about the project, which we have printed.
- d. **2020 NYS Aid for Library Construction Grant Project 0386-20-2656 closeout:** Steve Moolin has diligently worked to finalize and close the 2020 NYSED grant. The completed components of this grant project include extensive renovations to the Old Jail with equipment and furnishing, the floor replacement and refinishing in the two main library rooms, the front door renovation, electrical outlet upgrades in the main reading room, a dehumidifier system, and subsurface waterproofing along the northwest foundation wall. Once approved by NYSED and the final forms are signed by the appropriate Board members, we will receive a \$5,400 check, which is the 10% of the funding that was withheld until completion of the project.

J. Old Business

- a. Jail Room - paint colors have been chosen. Sandy and Dave to determine the painter.
- b. Trustee Trainings needed by end of December
- c. Dave gave an update about the Annual FLLS meeting. Wyoming library director spoke about recent book bans as the keynote speaker.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Moved by: Dave

Seconded: Dennis

Action: Carried

Meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm