

Aurora Free Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

April 18, 2024

Present: David Eckhardt, Lars Peterson, Bird Cramer, Lori Knopp

Zoom: Sue Dean, Dennis Looney

Absent: Thea Miller

Staff: Sandy Groth

- I. Call to Order Board President David Eckhardt called the meeting to order at 5:36 pm.
- II. Consent Agenda Approval
On a motion made by Dave, seconded by Bird, the agenda was approved.
Motion carried: Yes- 5, No - 0
- III. Conflict of Interest No conflicts of interest reported.
- IV. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Current assets at Cayuga Lake National Bank: \$227,981.34
- V. Director's Report
 - a. Kathy Kirk has accepted the job of Library Assistant, and will begin work regularly in May. Linda is currently available for when Kathy is not.
 - b. We are awaiting response to our application for Rosen Grants and Statewide Community Re-grants, but due to the large number of applications, we expect funding of close to 75% of the amount for which we applied.
 - c. AFL will host a Polished Silver Senior Luncheon by Cookie on May 7.
 - d. We have received an Arts Grant (Auburn Public Theater Re-grants) in the amount of \$4,095.
- VI. Committee Reports
 - a. Morgan Opera House
 - i. The Morgan Opera House Committee met on April 6, and they have reviewed financials and activated a new debit card.
 1. The MOH summer schedule is not yet set, but expect to feature author Denice Karamardian in August.
 - b. Preservation
 - i. In regards to the 2024 New York State Aid for Library Construction Program application, the State has offered a 10% matching-fund portion, which we have accepted. Our application for the Morgan Opera House cooling project has been updated, and we are now

requesting \$53,280, which is 90% of the project cost. We are the only library in the Finger Lakes Library System to be offered such a match.

- ii. John Koehn of Yesteryears Restoration has begun work on the paneled bathroom walls, and has submitted estimates for renovations and repairs of the outdoor display case, the AFL/MOH sign, and the base of the side door.
- c. 125th-Year Celebration
 - i. The committee has met and has generated many ideas for celebrations! Ideas included:
 1. A Facebook page will be created for community members to share how AFL has impacted their lives.
 2. A new 125th banner will be designed and printed, and displayed starting with the Fargo dinner in June.
 3. A gathering on Wednesday, December 11 will feature cake, wine and possibly a reenactor or speaker.
 4. Sue will inquire about a fundraiser at Treleaven.
 5. Other items to be made and sold include a book bag and ornaments.
 6. The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, May 7th at 3pm.
- d. Capital Fundraising
 - i. A check for \$3,000 from the Cayuga Foundation was received on March 29.
 - ii. Our plant sale is set for May 11 at 8am.
 - iii. A suggestion was made for a donation box and/or QR code for visitor donations.

VII. Old Business

- a. Signatures to COI, Whistleblower, & Ethics Policies
- b. Trustee Training Requirement
 - i. Please contact Sandy if you have trouble finding the training links. We may consider a trustee training with Sarah, in lieu of one meeting, if possible.
- c. Tax Levy Vote Update
 - i. Dave and Lori attended the most recent SCCS Board of Education meeting. A 3% increase to the tax levy, as well as the Aurora Free Library and Hazard Library initiatives were approved to appear on the ballot.

ii. The public vote will take place on May 21.

VIII. New Business

a. Approval vote to hire new Library Assistant

i. Dave made a motion to hire Katherine Kirk as Library Assistant for the Aurora Free Library, under the direct supervision of the Library Director, with a part-time hourly rate of \$19 per hour. The motion was seconded by Lars. Motion carried, Yes-6, No-0

b. Book Sale

i. Our annual Book Sale will take place July 26-28. We've started collecting books downstairs, and will need help organizing, as well as volunteers to run the sale. We do have some eco-plastic bags left over from last year that worked well, and could be used for this year.

IX. Meeting Adjourned

On a motion made by Bird, and seconded by Dennis, the meeting adjourned at 6:46 pm. Motion carried, Yes-6, No-0

Next Trustee Meeting will be May 16, 2024.