

Aurora Free Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

May 16, 2024

Present: David Eckhardt, Sue Dean, Lori Knopp

Zoom: Bird Cramer

Absent: Dennis Looney, Thea Miller, Lars Peterson

Staff: Sandy Groth

- I. Call to Order Board President David Eckhardt called the meeting to order at 5:37 pm.
- II. Consent Agenda Approval
On a motion made by Dave, seconded by Sue, the agenda was approved.
Motion carried: Yes- 4, No - 0
- III. Conflict of Interest No conflicts of interest reported.
- IV. Treasurer's Report Not available
- V. Director's Report
 - a. Kathy Kirk began working regularly on May 6th. She is working on programming for the summer and getting to know AFL patrons. It has been an easy transition given her past work experience, and she is now finished at Seymour Library.
 - Kathy held her first Lego Club, and 5 families attended. We have had many donations of legos from community members.
 - Storytime will continue through June.
 - An online survey has been set up, to find out what time of day and what type of youth programs our community would prefer.
 - b. Along with Shirley Egan, Aurora Historical Society President, the library co-sponsored a program in the Morgan Opera House, featuring a NYS Preservation League speaker. There were 28 in attendance.
- VI. Committee Reports
 - a. Morgan Opera House
 - The Irish Scottish group Banog will perform on June 8th at 8pm
 - The Fall Creek Brass Band is scheduled for July 16th
 - b. Preservation
 - The Morgan Opera House Cooling Project funding request has been fully submitted to NYSED. Our 10% match, which totals \$5,920, has

already been raised through the Triad Foundation and the Dentes family.

- Because the front half-timber facade of the Library has deteriorated wood and plaster, we are in the process of initiating a grant proposal to NYSED for a 2025 award. By August, we will need a contractor's estimate, and the proposal will be due to FLLS in September.
- We must resubmit our proposal for the AFL Windows Renovation Project to the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) by June 28. If funded, we will not need a 25% match, but we plan to request a supplemental grant award through the Emerson Foundation. Dave is serving on the Local Planning Committee for the DRI, and the first meeting was held on May 13 in Union Springs.
- Jeff Koehn of Yesteryears Restoration has finished the bathrooms walls and window frame, and is in the process of refinishing the wooden display case window at the front entrance walkway.
- The first floor windows were washed, and the front and side steps were power washed on April 20th by Andy Fayette, in preparation for the plant sale.

c. 125th-Year Celebration

- Thank you to Sue, Sandy, Ellen, Ginger, Tracy and Linda, who met on May 7 to discuss plans!
 1. A new 125th banner has been designed, and a 4' x 10' banner will be printed and hung over the front door of the AFL. We also hope to have the banner finished by the Fargo dinner on June 6, so that it can be displayed.
 2. We will ask Natalie to design a similar sign for the donation jar, which will also be placed at the Fargo on June 6th.
 3. An open-house style event, tentatively planned for September 7th, will take place at the Library. We will have refreshments, and it will be free to the public.
 4. Tracy has contacted the Steam Boiler Works to play at the Fargo on June 6th, and Sue had been in touch with them about Hemingway Sliders.
 5. On a motion made by Dave, seconded by Sue, an allocation of \$1000 was made to order 125th Anniversary Book Bags.Motion carried: Yes - 4, No- 0.

d. Capital Fundraising

- The plant sale on May 11 profited more than \$850. Thank you to Marie and Robin, and to Cayuga Landscaping for their donations!
- Dennis has started the application to the Emerson Foundation to supplement our request to DRI for the Windows Renovation Project.
- We will need a grant(s) to match the anticipated NYSED 2025 funding for the front facade restoration project, and we plan to reach out to Metcalf and the Cayuga Foundations.

VII. Old Business

- a. Signatures to COI, Whistleblower, & Ethics Policies are due
- b. Trustee Training Requirements
 - 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. We may set up an online poll, to determine which trainings might be of top interest to Trustees.
- c. Tax Levy Vote Update
 - The public vote will take place on May 21, 7am-9pm, at the Southern Cayuga Central School. In addition to the budget vote, there are 3 Board of Education candidates running for 2 positions.
- d. Library Book Sale, Route 90 yard sale
 - The sale will take place July 26-28. Marie and Robin have been sorting books, and have arranged for the books to be moved to the Masonic Lodge prior to the sale. Dave will ask permission to use the Lodge, and we will donate \$100 of our proceeds to the Lodge.

VIII. New Business

- a. June 6 - Fargo Dinner Fundraiser
 - Please spread the word! The dinner will take place from 4pm-9pm, and the Steam Boiler Works will perform from 7pm-9pm.
- b. Exterior Facade of Library Building

IX. Meeting Adjourned

On a motion made by Sue, and seconded by Bird, the meeting adjourned at 6:36 pm. Motion carried, Yes-4, No-0

Next Trustee Meeting will be June 20, 2024.