

Aurora Free Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

June 20, 2024

Present: David Eckhardt, Bird Cramer, Sue Dean, Lori Knopp, Dennis Looney, Thea Miller, Lars Peterson

Staff: Sandy Groth

- I. Call to Order Board President David Eckhardt called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.
- II. Consent Agenda Approval
On a motion made by Dave, seconded by Dennis, the agenda was approved.
Motion carried: Yes- 7, No - 0
- III. Conflict of Interest No conflicts of interest reported.
- IV. Treasurer's Report
 - A. We are in good standing, and the year-to-date deficit is to be expected, due to fundraising efforts yet to come.
 - B. It may be possible to invest funds in a CD, rather than savings account, to earn more interest.
 - C. Emerson Foundation may require an audit as part of the DRI grant request.
- V. Director's Report
 - A. Kathy Kirk has taken training on cataloging, and she and Sandy will work to finalize the summer schedule over the next few days.
 - B. There are now over 5,000 magazine titles available to download, with a library card, through the Finger Lakes Library System. Titles may be checked out simultaneously.
 - C. Venmo is now accepted at AFL. A givebutter.com account has been set up to allow this option, and was used during the Fargo fundraiser.
 - D. New York State's lactation break law will take effect on June 19, 2024. Once we have the new language/wording Sandy will update our current policy for the Board to vote to adopt at our next meeting.
 - E. The FLX Road Trip and Summer Reading Kickoff is July 1st, and this year's summer reading theme is "Adventure Begins at Your Library."
- VI. Committee Reports
 - A. Morgan Opera House

1. The Fall Creek Brass Band has had to cancel its upcoming performance, and we are hoping they will be able to reschedule.
2. “Little House of Blues” featuring Aurora native Matt Haenlin is scheduled for July 20th.
3. The Banog performance was well attended on June 8th. Approximately 80 seats were filled.

B. Preservation

1. The Morgan Opera House Cooling Project funding request has been fully submitted to NYSED. The total project cost is estimated to be \$59,200, and our 10% match will be \$5,920. We expect the project to be complete prior to Summer 2025.
2. We are in the process of initiating a new grant proposal to NYSED for renovation of the front half-timber building facade that faces Main Street. We will review and approve the NYSED application for funding at our August meeting, and the application is due to FLLS in September. We anticipate work to start in 2026.
3. We will resubmit our proposal for the “AFL Windows Restoration and Renovation Project” to the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) by June 28. If funded, we will not need a 25% match, but we plan to submit a \$150,000 grant application to the Emerson Foundation, which will improve our prospects for DRI funding. Dave is serving on the Local Planning Committee for the DRI, and will be the sponsor for the DRI windows application. Dennis is completing the Emerson grant application. .
4. Jeff Koehn of Yesteryears Restoration has sanded, stained and waterproofed the wooden display case window at the front entrance walkway.
5. The repair of the front steps and stone balustrades will be addressed by Johnson Stoneworks this summer or early fall.

C. 125th-Year Celebration

1. Thank you to Natalie for designing our banner, which is now on display!
2. An open-house style event will take place on September 7th from 5pm until 7pm at the library.
 - a) The event is free to the public.
 - b) The committee is still discussing options for what to display.
 - c) A “save-the-date” announcement will be soon posted.
 - d) Food, wine and music will be provided.

- e) The budget for this event is \$1500.
- 3. The design for the 125th canvas bags is being finalized. Bags are expected to be in hand before the annual book sale.

D. Capital Fundraising

- 1. The Fargo dinner fundraiser raised \$529, which included a percentage of sales from Hemingway Sliders, and also donations. A thank you letter will be sent to Zach and Adam.
- 2. The Book Lovers' Ball will take place on October 19th at Treleaven, with the use of a tent. Destination is scheduled to perform.

VII. Old Business

A. Signatures to COI, Whistleblower, & Ethics Policies have all been submitted.

B. Trustee Training Requirements

- 1. Please contact Sandy if you have trouble finding the training links. We will contact Sarah about her availability for a trustee training, which will take place in lieu of one meeting. We will set up an online poll, to determine which trainings might be of top interest to Trustees.

C. Tax Levy Vote Update

- 1. The tax levy vote has passed! Approximately 72% of voters voted "yes" to our tax levy increase to \$85,000. In the future, we may want to consider a larger increase.

VIII. New Business

A. Library Book Sale

- 1. The sale will coincide with the Route 90 Garage Sale. It will take place at the Masonic Center July 26-July 28.
 - a) We have received many donations of books, and have a goal of \$2,000 in sales.

Books are being sorted, and Robin/Marie have arranged for the labor in moving them. Sue and Dennis will reach out for volunteers to help with the sale itself.
 - b) We have discussed the option of implementing tiered pricing, so that prices decrease each day. We also plan to sell a 125th Anniversary canvas bag, filled with books of your choice, for a set price.

B. Village of Aurora topics

1. We have received a check in the amount of \$2,500 from the Village of Aurora, and Dave has sent a thank you letter to the Mayor.

C. AFL Windows Restoration and Renovation Project Resolution

1. A motion was made by Dennis, and seconded by Thea for the following resolution:

Resolved: As a Board we have the responsibility to ensure our building remains viable for future generations of library and opera house users. To this end, we believe that over the next 10 years a coordinated effort must be focused on raising funds and executing the work needed to stabilize the exterior envelope of our 1899 building.

Resolved: To these ends, the Board members encourage and support applications for any funding opportunities for the proposed "Aurora Free Library Windows Restoration and Renovation Project." The funding requests may include in part up to \$270,000 from the New York Downtown Revitalization Initiative, and up to \$150,000 from the Emerson Foundation. This project is one of several important and necessary renovations that the Board will pursue. The Board notes that any awarded grant funds may be augmented by donations received through the ongoing Aurora Free Library Building Preservation Campaign, as well as through other fund-raising efforts for unforeseen cost contingencies that may arise beyond the proposed budget.

Motion carried: Yes- 7, No - 0

IX. Meeting Adjourned

On a motion made by Dave, and seconded by Lori, the meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm. Motion carried, Yes-7, No-0

Next Trustee Meeting will be July 18, 2024.