

Aurora Free Library Board of Trustees Special Meeting Minutes

August 22, 2024

Present: David Eckhardt, Bird Cramer, Lori Knopp, Thea Miller and Lars Peterson

Excused: Sue Dean and Dennis Looney

Staff: Sandy Groth

- I. Call to Order Board President David Eckhardt called the meeting to order at 5:32 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. Director's Report
 - A. Sandy is participating in the FLX Library Road Trip program, and has visited 22 libraries to date.
 - B. Many have visited Aurora Free Library as part of the Road Trip, and we have been met with positive feedback.
 - C. There is a paperchain displayed above the shelves at AFL, and each chain link represents one person who has visited the library during July and August. We are currently at 816 links with more to add. There is also a rock snake displayed outside who people have been adding to. We've named it William Shakespeare.
- V. Committee Reports
 - A. Morgan Opera House
 1. The talk given by author Denice Peter Karamardian on her historical trilogy was well-attended with 53 guests.
 2. The performance by Little House Blues was successful!
 3. The MOH is working on the fall schedule and should be finalizing it soon.
 - B. Preservation
 1. Have received three estimates for the half-timber Main Street wall facade restoration. Nearly one-quarter of the wood will likely need to be replaced, and estimates came in at \$40,000, \$113,000, and \$180,000. We are proceeding with an application to the NY State Department of Education Aid for Library Construction Program for a grant. The total project cost is estimated at \$113,000, with our Library's cost share (25% match) of \$28,475.

2. Our Emerson grant application for \$150,000 to be used towards the “AFL Windows Restoration and Renovation Project” has been denied. In turn, we have increased our request to the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) from \$270,000 to \$375,000. We will present the project details at a DRI Public Meeting on October 1, and we should have an answer to our request in December.
3. Jeff Koehn of Yesteryears Restoration is removing rotten wood, restoring the surfaces, and priming and painting the side door.

C. 125th-Year Celebration

1. 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, and refreshments will be provided.
 - b) The committee has assembled some displays.
 - c) An invitation has been sent to donors, former trustees, and library officers as well as posted in the library and emailed.
Please help spread the word!

D. Capital Fundraising

1. Thank you to Dennis Looney, Robin Driskell, and Marie Dentes for helping to make our book sale a huge success! We have sold 30 canvas bookbags, and have 70 more on hand. More books are already arriving for next year’s sale.
2. The Book Lovers’ Ball will take place on October 19th at Treleven from 5-10 pm. Early bird tickets are currently on sale.

VI. Old Business

- A. Signatures to COI, Whistleblower, & Ethics Policies have all been submitted.
- B. Trustee Training Requirements
 1. Sexual harassment training must be completed by all trustees, every year, by September 30.

VII. New Business

- A. AFL Windows Restoration and Renovation Project Resolution
 1. A motion was made by Thea, and seconded by Bird 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. The Board members therefore encourage and support applications for funding opportunities for proposed

renovation projects. 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.

Also Resolved: The Board members therefore encourage and hereby support an application for up to \$375,000 to the New York Downtown Revitalization Initiative for the proposed "Aurora Free Library Windows Restoration and Renovation Project."

Also Resolved: The Board members therefore encourage and hereby support an application to the New York State Education Department Aid for Library Construction Program for the proposed "Aurora Free Library Main Street Wall Reconstruction Project," for a total project cost of \$113,000 with our Library's cost share (25% match) of \$28,475.

Motion carried: Yes- 5, No - 0

VIII. Meeting Adjourned

On a motion made by Bird, and seconded by Thea, the meeting adjourned at 6:06 pm. Motion carried, Yes-5, No-0

Next Trustee Meeting will be September 19, 2024.