

## Aurora Free Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2024

Present: David Eckhardt and Lori Knopp

Zoom: Sue Dean, Dennis Looney, Thea Miller, and Lars Peterson

Absent: Bird Cramer

Staff: Sandy Groth

- I. Call to Order Board President David Eckhardt called the meeting to order at 5:31 pm.
- II. Consent Agenda Approval  
On a motion made by Dave, seconded by Lori, the agenda was approved.  
Motion carried: Yes - 5, No - 0
- III. Conflict of Interest No conflicts of interest reported.
- IV. Treasurer's Report
  - A. In November, we will review a draft budget.
  - B. The tax-levy check for \$85,000 from Southern Cayuga Central School was received and has been deposited.
- V. Director's Report
  - A. Dave and Sandy will plan to attend the 2024 NONPROFIT SUMMIT on Thursday, Oct. 24th from 8am-4pm at The Lodge in Skaneateles.
  - B. There will be a Trustee Meet-Up at FLLS on Thursday, October 24th from 5:30 until 7:00pm. Dave will attend.
  - C. Many magazines are now available with your library card through Libby/Overdrive!
  - D. The Library is a beneficiary of \$5,000 through past Trustee and volunteer Ann Burch's will. Sandy has signed the required paperwork.
  - E. 44 kids returned summer reading logs to Emily Howland at the beginning of the school year which allowed them to take part in an ice cream sundae party and book giveaway at the school (Rosen funded w/ Hazard Library).
  - F. There have been three programs that have been suggested by community members.
    1. A classic movie series will begin with Young Frankenstein being shown on October 26.
    2. A teen has asked to assemble a group to play Dungeons and Dragons, and the first meeting to gather interest was October 16. Seven people attended, and they've decided to meet on Mondays at 5:30 in the jail room.

3. The idea of a cookbook club has been presented. It has been considered in the past and we hope to try one soon!
- G. When reviewing the budget, we should also consider benefits for Library employees, including paid time off and sick leave.
- H. Tri-Cities Opera has been rescheduled for Saturday, October 26th at 11am. They will perform "The Ugly Duckling."
- I. Sandy wrote a Friends of the Tompkins Public Library Grant, and we were granted funds for a button maker, Lego supplies, and golf clubs and balls for programming.

## VI. Committee Reports

### A. Morgan Opera House

1. The Skaneateles String Quartet performance on October 13th was quite successful!
2. Susan Forbes is leading the planning for the Second Second Shepherd's Play, which is scheduled to take place in December.

### B. Preservation

1. We received approval on October 1st of the grant request from NYSED for the Morgan Opera House Cooling Project. The total cost is estimated to be \$59,200 and our 10% match is already covered through donations from Triad and the Dentes family. Taitem Engineering will assist in the contractor bidding and project oversight. We expect funding through NYSED by the end of the year, and work can then begin! The project should be complete by Summer 2025.
2. A Library Construction Grant proposal for \$113,900 has been submitted to NYSED for the Main Street Wall Reconstruction Project. If funded, we would need a 25% match. The anticipated contractor is Pinnacle Construction, and work will begin in 2026.
3. The AFL Windows Restoration and Renovation Project proposal has been resubmitted to the Downtown Revitalization Initiative in the amount of \$375,000. We expect a decision by October 28. Thank you to those who have submitted feedback via the online survey!
4. Jeff Koehn of Yesteryears Restoration has completed the renovation of the side door on Cherry Ave. David Brong replaced the three dimmer switches and the switch for ceiling perimeter lighting for the Main Reading Room lights.

### C. Nominations

1. Thea has agreed to continue as Trustee for the next year, and so no nominations are required at this time.

#### D. 125th-Year Celebration

1. The committee met last week to discuss the event in September.
  - a) The committee wrote thank-you notes for the open house.
  - b) We discussed other gifts we could have for purchase, including notecards and ornaments.
  - c) We'd like to hold an event on December 11 to commemorate our anniversary, and also a small party during Christmas in Aurora.
  - d) We plan to put together a photo album from September's event for the archives.

#### E. Capital Fundraising

1. The Book Lovers' Ball will take place on October 19th at Treleaven from 5-10 pm. Tickets are still available, with 180 tickets having already been sold. Please spread the word! We expect a fantastic experience with beautiful weather at our new venue.
2. On Sunday, October 20th, at 2 pm, Melinda Carter Oakes, Executive Director of the Triad Foundation and author of "The Cheerleader's Guide to the Workplace" will speak at the Morgan Opera House as our Book Lovers' Ball invited speaker.
3. In future months, the Library will apply for grants and revisit the possibility of funding with the Emerson Foundation.

#### VII. Old Business

##### A. Trustee Requirements

1. Two hours of trustee training must be completed before Dec. 31 to satisfy the NYS Library Trustee Training requirement. Trustees are able to earn credit with the attendance of several functions in the coming months or through online sources at FLLS.

#### VIII. New Business

##### A. Tax-Levy Override Resolution

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

Whereas, the adoption of the 2025 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 on October 17, 2024 the Board of Trustees of the Aurora Free Library voted and

approved to exceed the tax levy limit for 2025 by at least the sixty percent of the Board of Trustees, as required by New York State law.

Motion carried, Yes-6, No-0 (87 percent of Trustee Board)

B. Other New Business

1. We would like to consider a tax levy increase for 2025. We will discuss proposed increases with Hazard Library and advertise the value of the added funds in The Tribune, the SCCS Newsletter, and The Hub. Sandy will contact SCCS to find out how the increase will affect tax bills.

IX. Meeting Adjourned

On a motion made by Lori, and seconded by Sue, the meeting adjourned at 6:21 pm. Motion carried, Yes-6, No-0

**Next Trustee Meeting will be November 21, 2024.**