

## Aurora Free Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

September 19, 2024

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

Zoom: Sue Dean, Dennis Looney

Absent: Lars Peterson

Guest: Robin Driskel

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 - 6, No - 0
- III. Conflict of Interest No conflicts of interest reported.
- IV. Treasurer's Report
  - A. Our current library checking account balance totals \$126,705.38 and our total assets are \$769,246.21.
  - B. We are missing Cayuga County funding, and Sandy will reach out to inquire. Thea will also review the classification of grants with Sandy.
  - C. There is a good possibility of using Give Butter for the silent auction at the Book Lover's Ball, and Thea can help coordinate.
- V. Director's Report
  - A. The last few weeks have been very busy, with the Library's entry in the AuroraFest parade, and the Ice Cream Social collaboration with Create Kindness. Sandy attended the Association of Rural & Small Libraries Conference in Springfield, MA. A total of 2,043 people visited the library in July and August, which is displayed visually through the links on the snake paper chain that hangs over the library bookshelves!
  - B. Programming for the next few months is currently being finalized
    1. We will have a table at the Emily Howlandl open house during the evening of September 25th.
    2. On Friday, September 20th, we will host an ice cream social for students at Emily Howland who have submitted their summer reading logs.
  - C. Sexual Harassment training is required for all trustees and must be completed by the end of September.
  - D. The Finger Lakes Library System is holding their annual meeting in Ithaca on October 18. The deadline to register is Thursday, October 3rd. This is a

great opportunity to meet trustees from other libraries, as well as earning training credit, which is due by the end of the year. Dave and Sandy will attend.

- E. Dave and Sandy will plan to attend the 2024 NONPROFIT SUMMIT on Thursday, Oct. 24th from 8am-4pm at The Lodge in Skaneateles.

## VI. Committee Reports

### A. Morgan Opera House

1. Nick Schillace, guitarist, will be performing this Sunday, Sept. 22 at 7 pm.
2. Skaneateles String Quartet is scheduled for Sunday Oct. 13 at 4 pm.
3. (Trom) Bones East has canceled for Christmas in Aurora, so we're looking for another group to play in the afternoon.

### B. Preservation

1. We anticipate imminent approval 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. Installation is planned for next Spring.
2. A grant proposal for \$113,900 has been submitted to NYSED for the Main Street Wall Reconstruction Project. 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. Steve Moolin will present the proposal to the DRI committee on October 1st at 6 pm at the Union Springs Firehall. Thank you, Steve!
  - a) On October 5th, there will be a DRI booth at the Aurora Farmer's Market. There is a survey available to voice opinions for the projects that should receive support.
  - b) If DRI approves our project request, we will consider asking the Emerson Foundation for some additional funding.
4. Jeff Koehn of Yesteryears Restoration has completed the repair of the rotten trim wood pieces, sanded, primed, and painted the wooden side door on Cherry Ave.

### C. 125th-Year Celebration

1. The open-house celebration was a huge success!
  - a) There were approximately 125 guests, and feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with many compliments!

- b) Thank you to Sue Dean, as well as to Sandy, Tracy, Linda and Ginger for planning this spectacular event!

#### D. Capital Fundraising

1. Robin reported that the Book Lovers' Ball will take place on October 19th at Treleaven from 5-10 pm.
  - a) The early bird ticket sale has been extended, as ticket sales have been lower than expected. To date, 136 tickets have been sold.
  - b) We are still looking for sponsors and silent auction items.
  - c) Many thanks to Robin & Marie for all of their help!
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.

#### VII. Old Business

##### A. Trustee Requirements

1. Sexual harassment training must be completed by all Trustees, every year, by September 30. An additional two hours of trustee training must also be completed before Dec. 31 to satisfy NYS Library Trustee Training requirement.

#### VIII. New Business

A. New trustee may be needed starting Feb 2025. Ideas for potential new Trustees are welcome.

##### B. Other New Business

1. New York State Lactation Policy:
  - a) A motion was made by Lori, and seconded by Thea for the following update to the Lactation Policy:  
New York State Labor Law Section 206-C gives all employees the right to express breast milk in the workplace. Employers must provide thirty (30) minutes of paid break time for their employees to express breast milk when the employee has a reasonable need to express breast milk. Employees must be permitted to use existing paid break or meal time if they need additional time for breast milk expression beyond the paid 30 minutes. This time must be provided for up to three years following childbirth. Employers must provide paid break time as often as an employee reasonably needs to express breast milk. The number of paid breaks an employee will need to express breast milk is unique to each employee and employers must provide

reasonable break times based on the individual. Employers are prohibited from discriminating in any way against an employee who chooses to express breast milk in the workplace.

Motion carried: Yes-6, No-0

IX. Meeting Adjourned

On a motion made by Thea, and seconded by Sue, the meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm. Motion carried, Yes-6, No-0

**Next Trustee Meeting will be October 17, 2024.**