

Aurora Free Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2024

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

Absent: Lars Peterson

Invitees: Robin Driskel and Kelley Zabriskie

Staff: Sandy Groth

- I. Call to Order Board President David Eckhardt called the meeting to order at 5:33 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. As a board, we reviewed and edited the draft 2025 budget. We will discuss wage benefits for Library employees, including paid time off and sick leave, at our next Trustees Meeting.
 - B. A motion was made by Dave, and seconded by Dennis, to increase the Bookkeeper fee from \$21 per hour to \$25 per hour, and to include back pay at the new rate for the 2024 year to date. Motion carried: Yes - 6, No - 0
- V. Director's Report
 - A. See online Report.
- VI. Committee Reports
 - A. Book Lovers' Ball (Robin and Kelley)
 1. The 2024 Book Lovers' Ball net profit currently stands at \$27,990.82!
 - a) The silent auction raised approximately \$11,700.
 - b) Sponsorships raised an estimated \$20,900.
 2. The Committee is looking for new members.
 - a) Monthly meetings will begin in the spring, and as the event nears, will become more frequent.
 - b) There are many ways to contribute, and anyone interested may contact the committee. Please spread the word.
 - B. Morgan Opera House
 1. The MOH plans to work with a Certified Financial Advisor in order to invest funds in the amount of \$70,000 in a Charles Schwab

account. The funds were in large part from the estate of Alan Clugston and will be considered as an endowment.

2. On November 24th, at 2pm, the MOH will welcome Perry Ground, Haudenosaunee storyteller, to present stories which reveal the beliefs, customs and history of the Haudenosaunee people.
3. On December 7th, at 3pm, Embers, an Ithaca College brass ensemble will perform, with all donations going to the King Ferry Food Pantry.

C. 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 system specification and drawings, and then solicit three contractor bids. We may be able to award the installation contract at our February Trustees Meeting. The work could then start in early April, with completion by the end of May.
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. At the final meeting on October 28, the Local Planning Committee voted to include our project in the list that will be forwarded for final approval in April 2025 by NYS Department of State.

D. 125th-Year Celebration

1. A public celebration to mark the Actual Anniversary Date of the Aurora Free Library will take place on Wednesday, December 11th, from 4-6pm. It will include cake, slideshows and displays, and all are welcome!

E. Capital Fundraising

1. Annual Appeal letters are at the Jacobs Press printer, and will be mailed no later than Monday, November 25.
2. A fundraising dinner at Fargo Bar & Grill will be planned for Spring 2025. Sue will follow up regarding the dates available.

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 webinars in the coming month or through online sources shown on FLLS website.

VIII. New Business

A. Tax-Levy Discussion

1. An informal consensus was reached to increase the 2025 Tax Levy increase for the Aurora Free Library from \$5,000 to \$7,500. The School District vote will take place in May 2025.

B. Meeting Summaries

1. Dave and Sandy attended the FLLS Annual Meeting in Ithaca, and Dave also attended the FLLS Trustee Meet-Up Meeting, where he was able to talk with Trustees from two other libraries. Dave and Sandy also attended the Non-Profit Summit In Skaneateles.

IX. Meeting Adjourned

On a motion made by Bird, and seconded by Thea, the meeting adjourned at 7:58 pm. Motion carried, Yes-6, No-0

Next Trustee Meeting will be January 16, 2025. (No December Meeting)