

## Aurora Free Library Annual Association Meeting

February 13, 2025

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

Excused: Bird Cramer, Sue Dean, and Dennis Looney

Association Members: Robin Driskel, Rebecca Staehr

Zoom: Tracy Leffingwell

Staff: Sandy Groth

### I. Call to Order

Board President David Eckhardt called the meeting to order at 5:38pm.

### II. President's Welcome to Association Members

Thank you to everyone for attending. We've had a successful year, due in no small part to the hard work of Staff, Trustees, Committees, and Volunteers.

### III. Treasurer's Report

- A. We show a net profit of \$70,000 for 2024, though a large part - about \$60,000 - is grant income. Our overall profit for the year is approximately \$10,000-12,000.
- B. We'll ask for a larger increase of our tax levy this coming year, in the amount of \$7,500.
- C. Many thanks to Jim Burkett, who initiated putting money into the Community Fund, which we have yet to touch! We are financially secure.

### IV. Director's Report - Slideshow

- A. Many new events have taken place this year, including Lego Club, Scavenger Hunts, Painted Paper Art Club, Teen D & D, and Classic Movies!
- B. We celebrated the Aurora Free Library's 125th Anniversary with TWO gatherings. Both were a hit! Many thanks to those who served on the Anniversary Committee: Linda Kabelac, Tracy Leffingwell, Ginger Johnson, Susan Dean, Ellen Wikstrom, and Sandy Groth.
- C. Our programming last summer included Dan the Snakeman, the Stuffed Animal Sleepover, and several other favorites. Sandy and her family visited all 33 libraries as part of the FLX Library Road Trip!
- D. Over 2,000 visitors stopped into the Library between July 1 and August 31. A paper chain with 2,043 links was hung throughout the library as a visual representation!
- E. We had 8,823 people come into the library and offered a total of 234 programs with program attendance at 5,879. Our visitor attendance was

up by 26% and programs, and registered patrons are up from last year as well, as are our circulations. The Library's eContent saw a big jump, up almost 45%!

- A. We bid farewell to Library Assistant Annalise and our Wells student intern Sarah, and we welcomed Kathy as our new Library Assistant!
- B. Many thanks to our Community Partners and for our Grant Funding!

V. Committee Remarks

A. Morgan Opera House - Lars

- 1. We've had a wonderful year of programming, and are finalizing programming for this summer. A draft rental agreement will be distributed for theatrical and other groups that would like to use our space for upcoming events.

B. Preservation - Dave

- 1. The Morgan Opera House Air Conditioning Project is expected to be completed in spring 2025. It is funded by NYSED and Triad Grants, and is matched by the Dentes Family.
- 2. The Windows Renovation Project could potentially be funded by NY State Downtown Revitalization Initiative, and we hope to hear funding news this spring.
- 3. Funding for the Restoration of the Main Street Building Facade has been requested through a NYSED Library Construction Grant.

C. Fundraising - Dave

- 1. The Annual Appeal brought in 63 donations totaling \$12,000!
- 2. The Plant Sale, Book Sale, and Fargo Dinners were very successful.
- 3. We celebrated a new location for the Book Lovers' Ball at Treleaven Winery, and we thank Committee Co-Chairs Robin Driskel and Marie Dentes, as well as everyone on the Committee, including Kate Simons, Judy Jordan, Charlie Myers, Cathy Sheils, Rebecca Staehr, Kelley Zabriskie, Natalie Thompson and Mary Jo Gunderson May.

VI. Election of Board Trustees by the Association

- A. Call for Trustee Nominations from the Floor - none
- B. On a motion from Lars, and seconded by Lori, the following were nominated

Dave Eckhardt for a 2nd Term

Dennis Looney for a 2nd Term

Thea Miller for a 3rd Term

Motion carried: Yes - 4, No - 0

VII. Election of 2025 Board Officers by the 2024 Board of Trustees

- C. On a motion made by Thea, seconded by Dave, the following were slated:  
Dave Eckhardt - President  
Dennis Looney - Vice President  
Lori Knopp - Treasurer

Motion carried: Yes - 4, No - 0

- D. The secretary position will remain open until a New Board Member is Appointed.

#### VIII Meeting Adjourned

On a motion made by Lori and seconded by Thea, the 2025 Annual Association Meeting adjourned at 6:28 pm. Motion carried, Yes-4, No-0