

**Aurora Free Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes**  
**April 17, 2025**

**Present:** David Eckhardt, Lori Knopp, Mary Jo Gunderson May & Dennis Looney (Zoom)

**Excused:** Sue Dean, Thea Miller, Lars Peterson

**Staff:** Sandy Groth, Library Director

**1. Call to Order**

Board President, David Eckhart called the meeting to order at 5:33 pm.

**2. Consent Agenda Approval**

On a motion made by Dave, and seconded by Mary Jo, the Consent Agenda was approved – Yes 4-o-o vote.

**3. Conflict of Interest** There were no conflicts of interest.

**4. Treasurer's Report** Lori presented an updated report of current funds. Our current operating balance at CLNB is \$187,227.

Lori also noted that Melissa Jordan is gathering information for tax preparations, and she noted that it would be most efficient to use Quick Books as the one source for keeping financial records rather than Excel.

There was a discussion on various ways to possibly consider investing/distributing some of the funds into several secure accounts.

On a motion made by Mary Jo , seconded by Dennis the Treasurer's Report was approved – Yes 4-o-o vote.

**5. Director's Report** Sandy presented a thorough report which included several highlights with news that we will once again receive \$2,500 this year from the Village of Aurora budget, although as of now the funding for 2026 is uncertain. Other grants have been submitted to supplement grant programming funds that have been reduced.

Rosen grants support a variety of programming. Programs we have hosted as well as those up and coming were shared. Attendance has been very good, in most cases maintained and slightly improved from the previous year. Financial

and legal reports were mentioned including upcoming fundraisers. Circulation reports were shared and new items were discussed. There has been lots of positive community activity at the library!

## **6. Committee Reports**

**Morgan Opera House:** Dave presented a report from Chairperson Ellen Wikstrom that the opera house cooling system has been fully installed; the lighting boards are also being repaired. There have been several school organizations that are renting the space for rehearsals and performances.

**Preservation:** Dave reported the MOH cooling project is nearly complete, with only the outside electrical conduit to be painted to match the brown trim. The window restoration funding through NYS DRI has not yet been announced.

**Fundraising:** The Fargo will hold a fundraiser for the library next Friday, April 25. For every full meal purchased throughout the day, \$5 will be donated to the library. A QR code will be made available at each table for additional donations by the Fargo patrons. The Plant Sale will take place the Saturday before Mother's Day at 8 AM on May 10.

**Book Lover's Ball:** Mary Jo reported that a generous donation was made by Triad for \$5,000. Dave shared a responsive thank you letter that will be sent on behalf of the Library. Again, the Book Lovers' Ball date will be Friday, October 3 at 6pm and held once again at Treleaven Winery. The band will be Brass Inc. , who are comparable to The Destination, but considerably less costly.

## **7. Old Business**

**2025 Tax Levy Update** - On April 7, the SCSD Board of Education approved their school budget increase at a 5.25% and they also approved our ballot initiative for a \$7,500 tax-levy increase. The public vote for the SCCS budget and our Library tax-levy increase will be held on May 20th.

**Trustee Training-** Trustees are required to complete training in Sexual Harassment as well as 2 hours of Library training by the end of the year, annually.

Dennis shared information on a helpful webinar that addressed ways in which library staff may tactfully and safely deal with potential confrontations related to immigration enforcement issues that communities are currently

experiencing and the staff protocols to be followed. This would be a useful training source that he recommends for all Trustees, and he will share the online link.

**8. New Business** Dave made the following motion: The AFL hereby adopts as a Board policy that all required training will be completed annually by Board members by the last day of December each year and confirmed at the January Board Meeting. Dennis made the motion, seconded by Lori – Approved by a vote of 4-0-0.

There was no other new business reported.

**9. Adjourn Meeting** A motion was made by Mary Jo and seconded by Lori to adjourn the meeting. Meeting was adjourned at 6:26 pm by a unanimous vote: 4-0-0.

The next Board of Trustees Meeting will be held on May 15th at 5:30 pm.