

Aurora Free Library Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2025

Present: David Eckhardt, Lori Knopp, Thea Miller, Lars Peterson, Mary Jo Gunderson May and Dennis Looney (via zoom).

Excused: Sue Dean

Staff: Sandy Groth

1. Call to Order

Board President David Eckhardt called the meeting to order at 5:28 pm.

2. Consent Agenda Approval

On a motion made by Dave, seconded by Thea, the agenda was approved.

Motion carried: Yes 5-0-0 vote.

3. Conflict of Interest - No Conflicts of Interest.

4. Appointment of new Trustee to the Board : Dennis Looney made a motion that Mary Jo Gunderson May be appointed by the Board as a new Trustee to fill the current vacant position on the Board. This appointment will fill the remainder of the existing two-year term that was vacated, and it must be approved by the Aurora Free Library Association at its next Annual Meeting in February 2026. Motion made by Dennis Looney and seconded by Lori Knopp. Carried: Yes 5-0-0.

The motion was then made by Dave Eckhardt that Mary Jo Gunderson May be elected by the Board as the new Board Secretary. Motion by Dave Eckhardt and seconded by Lori Knopp. Motion carried: Yes 6-0-0 vote.

5. Treasurer's Report- No report was made at this time, but a full quarterly report will be available at our April Meeting. It was recommended that an accounts balance summary would be sufficient for non-quarterly reports.

6. Director's Report: Sandy Groth presented a thorough report that included updates of the IMLS funding and the potential concerns of funding. Sandy's Report also highlighted many tasks that are underway as well as Compliance updates. Sandy's report also included an attendance data comparison chart for 2023 vs. 2024 and then adding in 2025 to date.

7. Committee Reports:

Morgan Opera House: Lars Peterson reported that the MOH is working on the draft rental agreement which states the policies and costs when the MOH space is rented to outside organizations.

Preservation: Dave Eckhardt shared a report on the various NYSED projects, including The MOH Cooling Project and The Main Street Wall Reconstruction Project. Dave also discussed the Regional Economic Development Council

Grant Application that we submitted for Downtown Revitalization Initiative funding for the Windows Restoration Project. We are waiting to hear on the funding allocations to be awarded.

Fundraising:

*The Fargo will host a fundraiser for the Aurora Free Library on Friday, April 25th. A percentage of sales will be donated to AFL. (\$5 per meal sold). Sandy noted that the recent MOH Fargo Fundraiser dinner netted \$680 for the MOH.

* Annual AFL Day Plant Sale is May 10. Robin and Marie are overseeing.

*AFL Book Sale will once again be Route 90 Yard Sale Weekend.

Dennis is not available that weekend, so we will need additional oversight.

*Book Lover's Ball: Mary Jo May reported on behalf of the BLB that the BLB will once again be held at Treleaven Winery and will take place on Friday, October 3rd at 6pm. There will not be an increase in cost this year. The music will be Brass Inc. which is compatible to the Destination, but considerably less expensive, which will add to the final net profit to benefit the Library.

8. Old Business:

-Dave Eckhardt gave a brief summary of the Feb. 13th Annual Association Meeting – 4 trustees, Sandy and 3 Association members attended.

-Dave also presented an update on the 2025 Tax Levy. We are asking for an increase of \$7,500 from our previous year's increase of \$5,000. The School Board vote and tax-levy votes will be on May 20, 2025.

9. New Business:

-We reviewed the 2025-26 Trustee Calendar.

-We discussed the AFL COI, Ethics, and Whistleblower policies and board members signed for the year.

-We reviewed the MOH Rental Contract that was presented to the Trustees by MOH Chairperson Ellen Wikstrom and Trustee Lars Peterson. Dave made a motion to approve the Contract Agreement and Lars seconded it. Carried: 6-0-0.

-We were reminded of the Trustee Training requirements for NYS, to be completed by Dec 31.

Other New business:

-Sandy Groth suggested that we move forward with hiring Melissa Jordan as a part-time substitute Library Aide in the event that there are times when other staff are not available. Following discussion by the Trustees, Thea made a motion to hire Melissa Jordan at \$17/hr and Mary Jo seconded it. Carried: 6-0-0.

10. Meeting Adjourned

On a motion made by Lori and seconded by Thea, the meeting adjourned at 6:38 pm. Carried:, 6-0-0.

Next Trustee Meeting will be April 17th, 2025 at 5:30 pm.