

Aurora Free Library

Board of Trustees Meeting May 15, 2025

Facilitator: David Eckhardt, President AFL Board of Trustees

Trustees: Dennis Looney (via zoom), Mary Jo Gunderson May, Lori Knopp, Thea Miller, Sue Dean, Lars Peterson

Staff: Sandy Groth, Library Director

1.Call to Order- Dave called the meeting to order at 5:34 pm.

2. Consent Agenda Approval- The April Board Minutes and the Board Meeting Agenda were presented and Dave made for a motion of approval. Lori seconded it, and the vote was approved -7-0-0 vote.

3. Conflict of interest: No conflicts were reported.

4. Treasurer's Report: There was no official Treasurer's Report as Lori had shared that at our last meeting. An update on our current operating balance was given. The current balance is \$175,362.47.

We had a brief discussion on ways to consider investing some of our funds in such a way as to both maintain security/lower factors/risks as well as look into interest rates of those types of investments, such as CDs.

5. Director's Report: Sandy shared her Director's report and gave us some of the updates on various topics. We will receive the \$2,500 grant from the Village this year, but it was cut from the Village's budget for next year because of projected water system costs. We did not receive the funding from the Downtown Revitalization Initiative Grant. Sandy shared possible short term concerns for staff scheduling that we may need to address, and the Trustees agreed to offer support to fill in any gaps as needed.

6. Committee Reports:

Morgan Opera House- Lars shared information on various groups that have rented as well as those performing. We are optimistic that the new cooling system will enhance the comfort and promote greater attendance at the theater in the summer months.

Preservation- Dave shared a thorough report of which included that the new Morgan Opera House cooling units have been successfully installed. We shared thoughts on which projects would be our next priority – Renovation of the Main Street building facade and restoration of selected windows. The Board discussed how to best utilize existing funds, as well as reaching out to the Emerson Foundation and the Metcalf Foundation, who have supported us financially in previous years.

Fundraising- Sue and Dave shared that the Fargo fundraiser was a success, as we raised \$620 plus \$75 in donations. The Mothers Day Plant Sale was also a great success. The Annual Book Sale will take place on July 25-27 during the Route 90 Garage Sale. Robin and Marie will assist with that. We will need someone to oversee that weekend since Dennis will be out of town.

Book Lovers' Ball- Mary Jo reported that the "Save the Date" postcards will be going out by the end of the month. The date of the BLB is Friday October 3 from 6 to 10 pm at Treleaven Winery. Brass Inc. will be the band this year, saving us a considerable amount of money while still providing top quality music.

7. Old Business: The 2025 Tax Levy vote is next Tuesday May 20, 7 am to 9 pm.

8. New Business: The current AFL Strategic Long Range Plan Document was shared. Dave encouraged Trustees to share visions at the next meeting as we will revise and update the plan as needed for 2026 thorough 2030. A committee will be formed in the future, and Trustees are encouraged to think of potential committee members that will represent our community.

9. Adjourn Meeting: A motion was made by Sue to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Thea, with a unanimous 7-0-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:54pm.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, June 19th at 5:30 pm.