

Aurora Free Library

Board of Trustees Meeting July 17, 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 5:38 pm.

2. Consent Agenda Approval: The May Board Minutes and the July Board Meeting Agenda were presented and Dave made for a motion of approval. Sue seconded it, and the vote was approved by a 6-0-0 vote (Lars had not yet arrived).

3. Conflict of interest: No conflicts were reported.

4. Treasurer's Report: Lori reported that our current operating balance is \$155,829.50. We had a brief discussion on the need for a future financial review of the Library accounts due to our yearly revenue exceeding \$250,000 in 2024. This figure includes funds acquired from all incomes including but not limited to various grants. A review would cost \$2,500. Dave will confirm with the FLLS about the requirements for such a financial review.

5. Director's Report: Sandy shared her Director's Report and gave us some of the updates on various topics, attendance, circulation of materials, upcoming events, maintenance checks, and building use. Sandy also mentioned an upcoming children's event in the works called, "Enchanted Festival" to take place on Saturday, August 23rd.

6. Committee Reports:

Morgan Opera House– Lars shared information on various groups that have rented as well as those having recently performed and upcoming events, all of which sound wonderful. Lars also shared plans for facility improvements, including new roller shades and wireless mics.

Preservation– Dave discussed the completion of the MOH air-conditioning installation and future plans to replace the ten MOH large casement windows plus renovation of the eight double-hung sash Library windows. We anticipate a funding decision soon by NYSED for the Main Street Wall Reconstruction Project.

Fundraising- Sue and Dave shared that Thank-you letters have been completed and mailed for our Annual Appeal Fund drive. Recent fundraiser dinners sponsored by the Fargo for the MOH and the AFL were very successful. Our Annual Book Sale will be next Friday through Sunday July 25-27 at the Aurora Masonic Center.

Book Lovers' Ball– Mary Jo reported that the “Save the Date” postcards were sent out, and formal invitations will be going out within the next few weeks. The date of the BLB is Friday, October 3 from 6 to 10 pm at Treleaven Winery.

7. Old Business: Our 2025 Tax Levy vote on May 25 had a favorable outcome with an approval rate by the public of more than two to one (361 Yes and 168 No).

8. New Business: A committee will be formed in the future to discuss the 2026-2030 Long Range Plan for the Library, and Trustees are encouraged to think of potential committee members that will represent our community.

9. Adjourn Meeting: A motion was made by Lori and seconded by Lars to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with a 7-0-0 vote. The meeting was adjourned at 6:54 pm.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, August 21st at 5:30 pm.