

Aurora Free Library

Board of Trustees Meeting

August 21, 2025

Facilitator: David Eckhardt, President, AFL Board of Trustees

Trustees: Dennis Looney, Mary Jo Gunderson May, Lori Knopp,
Thea Miller

Absent: Sue Dean, Lars Peterson

Staff: Sandy Groth, Library Director

1. Call to Order: Dave called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.

2. Consent Agenda Approval: The July Board Minutes and the August Board Meeting Agenda were presented and Dave made for a motion of approval. Dennis seconded it, and the vote was approved by a 4-0-0 vote (Thea had not yet arrived).

3. Conflict of interest: No conflicts were reported.

4. Treasurer's Report: Lori reported that our current operating balance is \$140,668.60. We decided that a financial review of the AFL 2025 accounts is not required, as according to Sarah Glogowski, FLLS Director.

5. Director's Report: Sandy did not have a formal report at this meeting, but she shared the highlights of various past and upcoming programs. Jo's painting class was well-received and attended by approximately 17 participants who later responded with positive feedback. Kathy and Sandy have been planning *Enchanted Festival by the Lake* for Saturday, August 23rd. It will take place between the Library and the Aurora Farmers' Market with a stop at Lafayette and Main. Sandy shared all the centers of interest. It looks to be a fabulous day for weather and festivities.

6. Committee Reports:

Morgan Opera House– Lars was not present to share any new updates.

Preservation– Dave discussed the completion of the MOH air-conditioning and AFL hot-water boiler installations. Future plans include restoration of the Main Street facade plus replacing the ten MOH large casement windows and renovation of the eight double-hung sash Library windows. We also have submitted a proposal to Senator Rachel May for restoration of selected leaded-glass windows. Dave shared other upcoming projects at hand including, but not limited to ducts to provide heating to the jail room. The Sure Temp supervisor will come to look at the space. No funding is available yet for the front steps masonry repair.

Fundraising- Dave shared that the Route 90 Book Sale was a success and ran smoothly due to the collaborative help from many community members. We made a total of \$1815.00 on the sale.

Book Lovers' Ball– Mary Jo reported that the formal invitations were going out this week. Tickets can also be purchased online through Eventbrite for \$125 until early bird expires on Sept. 15, at which time the cost is \$150. We have been blessed with several generous sponsorships already as well as incoming donations for silent auction items. The date of the BLB is Friday, October 3 from 6 to 10 pm at Treleaven Winery.

7. Old Business: Leftover books from the sale were selectively weeded and many were distributed to the Friends of Tompkins County Library, the Ithaca Salvation Army, and Ithaca Reuse. About 17 tubs of sorted books were returned to storage at AFL for the sale next year.

Jo inquired about the Annual FLLS Meeting in Cortland and who may attend. All Trustees and Staff may attend, but we only have one vote in the proceedings. The date is October 17.

The Board discussed plans for updating the AFL 2026-2030 Long-Range Plan, with Board leadership assumed by Dennis. Trustees are encouraged to think of potential committee members that will represent our community.

8. New Business:

Dave presented 2 proposals to the Trustees for consideration and a vote: They were as follows:

Resolved: The Aurora Free Library Board of Trustees encourages and hereby supports an application to the New York State Education Department Aid for Library Construction Program for the proposed project 0396-26-1649 "*Selective Window Restoration and Replacement*" for a total project cost of \$224,500, with our Library's projected cost share (10% match) of \$22,450.

A motion was made by Jo to approve the proposal and Lori seconded it.

The proposal passed with a 5-0-0 vote.

The second proposal was as follows:

Resolved: The Aurora Free Library Board of Trustees approves the waiver of the general liability insurance clause in the AFL/MOH Rental Agreement for the Southern Cayuga Community Chorus's use of the MOH on August 28-29, 2025. All other parts of the contract will remain in place.

Lori made a motion to approve this proposal and Thea seconded it.

The proposal was approved with a unanimous vote of 5-0-0.

No further business was brought before the Board.

9. Adjourn Meeting: A motion was made by Dennis and seconded by Thea to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Our next meeting will be on October 16, 2025.