Aurora Free Library
Minutes of the Board of Trustees Meeting
October 16, 2025

Facilitator: David Eckhardt: President AFL Board of Trustees
Voting Trustees: Mary Jo May, Lori Knopp, Thea Miller, and Lars Peterson (Zoom*)
Non-voting Trustee: Sue Dean
Excused Trustee: Dennis Looney
Staff: Sandy Groth, Library Director

1. Call to Order: Dave called the meeting to order at 5:41 pm.
2. Consent Agenda Approval: Dave made a motion to approve the 10/16/2025 Meeting Agenda and the 8/16/2025 Meeting Minutes. Jo seconded the motion.
The motion was approved 4-0-0 (Note: Lars had not yet joined the Meeting).
3. Conflict of Interest: There were no conflicts of interest.
4. Treasurer's Report: Lori shared the quarterly Treasurer's Report. The checking account balance as of today's Meeting is $119,158.76, which does not include the tax-levy check that was just received. There was discussion as to how to invest a portion of these funds in bank CDs to obtain a favorable interest rate for a 13-month term. A motion was made by Thea and seconded by Lori to allow the Treasurer to invest up to $100,000 in three separate CDs; the motion was approved 5-0-0.
A motion was made by Thea and seconded by Jo to accept the Treasurer's Report; the motion was approved 5-0-0.
5. Director's Report: Sandy shared her report and mentioned the various successful programs that have been held at the Library. She also mentioned that the family of Lili MacCormick would like to donate her puppets to the library. A plaque for them was discussed. Staff hourly adjustments have been made to accommodate personal needs, as Kathy will not be able to work on Mondays. New volunteers Carmen Boyce, Jennifer Connell and Taylor Lounsbery are being trained.
6. Committee Reports:
Morgan Opera House: Lars shared an updated report on the recent performances as well as some upcoming events at the MOH. The report also noted the recent installation of a new replacement shade for one of the tall south windows. Work is also being done on the sound system in preparation for the performance this weekend.
Preservation: Dave shared a report on the following projects:
– The 2024 MOH Cooling Project has been completed, and we have received permission from the State to close out the project.
– Our 2025 State grant application for restoration of the Main Street facade was not approved. We will pursue funding for this necessary project through an application to the Emerson Foundation.

– We have submitted a 2026 application to the State for grant funds to restore and replace selected clear glass windows.
– We are pursuing funding through the State CREST Program through Senator Rachel May's office for restoration of selected leaded glass windows.
– The exterior ground lights have recently been replaced with new fixtures.
Fundraising: There will be a Library fundraiser dinner at the Fargo on Friday, February 20th.
Booklover's Ball: Jo reported that the Ball on October 3rd was a successful and enjoyable evening, bringing in about $18,100 (not including late donations). This net amount is less than previous years, in part due to the lower attendance numbers. Jo mentioned that the BLB Committee will meet and discuss the details on the overall outcome, pros & cons, and potential changes in the venue and format.
7. Old Business: No old business was discussed.
8. New Business: A motion to approve the 2026 Tax Cap Override was made as follows:

Aurora Free Library Board of Trustees –Tax Cap Override Resolution:
Whereas, the adoption of the 2026 budget for the Aurora Free Library may require a tax levy increase that exceeds the tax cap imposed by State law as outlined in General Municipal Law Section 3-c adopted in 2011; and
Whereas, General Municipal Law Section 3-c expressly permits the Library Board to override the tax levy limit by a resolution approved by a vote of sixty percent of qualified board members; now therefore be it
Resolved, that on October 16, 2025 the Board of Trustees of the Aurora Free Library voted and approved to exceed the tax levy limit for 2026 by at least the sixty percent of the Board of Trustees, as required by New York State law.

Motion by: Thea Miller
Second by: Lori Knopp
Vote: __5__ In Favor
__0__ Opposed
__0__ Abstentions
__2__ Excused
__0__ Absent
Motion Carried.
Note: There are currently seven (7) members on the Library Board, and five (5) voting members attended the October 16, 2025 Board of Trustees Meeting, who unanimously approved this resolution. The five (5) in-favor votes constitute 71% of Board Membership.

Other Business:
– The Board discussed zoning concerns about non-compliant signage in the Village. Sandy met with Village officials who assured us that the concerns did not include Library signs.

– The Board discussed the Village proposal by Jennifer Connell and Tee-Ann Hunter for tree plantings, with a possible location at the Library.

9. Adjourn Meeting: Thea made a motion to adjourn and Jo seconded it.
Motion passed 5-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Next Board Meeting - November 20th, 2025 at 5:30 pm

***Note:** Trustee Lars Peterson attended by Zoom; Notice of this attendance and his physical address was previously published online with the Meeting Announcement and the Meeting Agenda.