AURORA FREE LIBRARY
Board of Trustees Meeting Minutes
July 16, 2026

Facilitator: Dave Eckhardt, President AFL Board of Trustees
Trustees: Dennis Looney, Mary Jo May, Thea Miller, Lori Knopp (Treasurer)
Excused Trustees: Lars Peterson, Michele Belot
Staff: Sandy Groth, Library Director

1. **Call to Order**: Dave called the meeting to order at 5:35 pm.
2. **Consent Agenda Approval**: Dave made a motion to approve the June 18 Meeting Minutes and the July 16 Meeting Agenda. Lori seconded the motion. The motion was approved 5-0-0.
3. **Conflict of Interest**: There were no conflicts of interest.
4. **Treasurer's Report**: Lori reported an operating balance of $39,803.89 in the checking account. The savings balance is near $27,000. Funds in the PayPal account were transferred to the checking account.
5. **Director's Report:** Sandy shared a thorough report that highlighted recent and upcoming programs.The Summer Reading Program is full steam ahead, and the theme is Unearth a Story focused on Dinosaurs and Rocks. Sandy expressed how nice it has been to have summer intern, Sarah Bullock. Weekly crafts and events on the dinosaur theme will continue. We had a great turn out of 124 people for "Dan the Snake Man" at the Aurora Golf Club, with a special thanks to sponsor Kevin Fitzgerald. An upcoming summer performance is "Jack and the Turnip Root" by The Rev Theatre Summer Outreach Tour this Monday 7/22.
6. **Committee Reports**:
    - Morgan Opera House- The all-male a cappella group "No Promises" will be performing on Saturday, August 8th, 7:30 pm.
    - BookLovers' Ball- Jo reported that invitations will go out on August 10th, with ticket sales starting on that date as well. Early Bird Pricing is $85 until September 14th, when the cost is $95.
    - Preservation: Dave reported that the funding for the front leaded glass windows through State Senator Rachel May has apparently fallen through. An application is in progress to the NYSED for $6,000 for the basement rooms' heating project. Maintenance was made on the stair chair. The fire safety alarm system was also updated with a new communication module.
    - Long Range Service Plan:
      Dennis has received feedback from about 64 survey respondents, and he shared some of the feedback, most of which was highly positive. We will extend the time

for the survey throughout the summer, and then he will establish a committee to summarize results and make recommendations to the Board.

- Route 90 Weekend Book Sale:
  Books will be transferred to the Masonic Lodge on Wednesday July 22nd, and the three-day weekend sale starts July 24th. Volunteers are welcome to sign up for a time slot to help.

7. **Old Business:** Sandy reminded Trustees to complete the Sexual Harassment Training Requirement as well as their 2 hours of Annual Trustee Training. No other Old Business.

8. **New Business:** Improved jail room heating is needed, as discussed in the Preservation Report. The estimated cost would be roughly around $5,966. Library matching cost would be 10% at a cost of $597. To address the heating issue, the following Resolution was submitted for approval through a motion by Dave, which was seconded by Dennis:

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 "Heating Improvement for Library Basement Rooms" for a total project cost of $5,966. Our Library's projected cost share (10% match) for this project is $597, and the Board at this time approves the future expenditure of the necessary matching funds for the cost share.

Vote: Yes: 5 No: 0 Abstained: 0

Motion was approved.

Dave announced that this past May 2026 marked the 30th anniversary for Sandy Groth as our esteemed Library Director! Dave and several other Trustees remarked that during Sandy's tenure over the last 30 years she has transformed our Library into the treasured literary institution and community center that our community has come to value. To mark the occasion, Dave presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Sandy, followed by a hearty applause by Board members. Well done, Sandy!

There was no other New Business.

9. **Adjourn Meeting**: Dave made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:21 pm and Thea approved it and Jo seconded it. The motion was approved 5-0-0.

There will be no meeting in August.

Our next meeting will be on **Thursday, September 17th** at 5:30 pm.