NORTHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING – Held in person and virtually, using Microsoft Teams
February 24, 2026, 7:00pm
MINUTES

An executive session was held on February 3 at 5:00 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter.

I. **Call to Order & Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order by Mike Smith at 7:00 PM. Present: Irene Caliendo, Alan Cech, Dana Getz, Noelle Ivankevich, Sarah Poweska, Mike Smith, and Varshini Sentilkumar. Excused: Casey Sample. Also present: Bob Lukitsch, Kelley Moten, Nicholas Yon, Alexis McKinley, Gilda Arroyo, Nathan Babich, Tony Dills, Amanda DeKnight, and Adam DeKnight.

II. **Comments from the Public:** None.

III. **President's Report - Michael Smith:** Thanked the board members and staff for their patience and efforts throughout the search for the new Executive Director.

IV. **New Business:**
   a. **Appointment of NPL Executive Director (VOTE):** Motion to appoint Amanda DeKnight the Executive Director of Northland Public Library, effective March 23, 2026, at starting salary of $120,000, duly made by Irene Caliendo and unanimously carried.
   b. **Update PLGIT account access and permissions (VOTE) - Bob Lukitsch and Kelley Moten:** Motion to approve Bob Lukitsch as interim PLGIT account administrator, duly made by Sarah Poweska and unanimously carried.

V. **Communications:**
   a. **Library Marketing & Communications – Nicholas Yon:** Have reached out to community partners about Northland's involvement in Community Days and other community events. MarCom, IT, and Maintenance collaborated to install an old TV screen for content sharing on the upper level. Continuing to support the Foundation's needs for the upcoming Garden Gala. Met with the sign vendor to improve wayfinding in Children and Teen Services department. Interest in printed newsletters continues to increase. Looking for ways to reduce costs.
   b. **Departmental Updates – Kelley Moten:** Moten recapped that the Construction Related Staff Recognition funds were spent on lunch when library was closed to move into the new spaces, New Northland branded drink cups for all staff, and new staff lounge furniture. Moten gave a year end statistics presentation.
   c. **Foundation – Alexis McKinley, Robert Tate:** McKinley gave a 2025 Year in Review presentation highlighting events, corporate giving, individual giving, the gift tree, and Love Your Library. Noted the extra funding given to

support the New Northland project including a $250,000 pledge, as well as funding of the new entrance sign and new interior furniture.

d. **Junior Board Member Report – Varshini Senthilkumar:** Senthilkumar, as a Book Nook volunteer, discussed the increased interest in the Book Nook now that it is on the lower level.

VI. Board Education: None.

VII. Unfinished Business: State Report – Kelley: Amy Steele completed most of the State Report before her retirement. Moten and Lukitsch finished it.

VIII. Legal Matters: Working on renewing the Articles of Incorporation for the library. Due for renewal by 2027.

IX. Consent Agenda (VOTE):

a. **Minutes from Board Meeting on January 27, 2026**
b. **Treasurer's Report**
c. **Executive Director's Report**

Motion to approve the consent agenda, duly made by Irene Caliendo and carried, 6 votes in favor and 1 abstention (Poweska).

X. Committee and Other Reports:

i. **Building & Grounds Committee:** Discussed furniture options for the lower-level space near circulation as well as stair railing remediation. Moving forward on a landscaping plan created by subcommittee. Drawings have been finalized for the upstairs restroom. Some sections of the parking lot will need to be repaved. Some lower level parking lot lights will have to be repaired. Northland has retained a new snowplow vendor.

ii. **Governance Committee:** Caliendo reviewed the committee's achievements since its inception a few years ago. Setting new priorities for 2026 including reissuing the board survey and hosting another legislative breakfast.

XI. Board Comments: Cech thanked Caliendo, Getz, and Rita Martin for their work organizing the retirement dinner for Amy Steele.

XII. Comments from the Public: None.

XIII. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn duly made by Irene Caliendo and unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 PM.

An executive session was held immediately after tonight's meeting at 8:17 p.m. to discuss a personnel matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Getz
Secretary