NORTHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING – Held in person and virtually, using Microsoft Teams
May 26, 2026, 7:00pm
MINUTES

I. **Call to Order & Roll Call:** The meeting was called to order by Mike Smith at 7:01PM. Present: Irene Caliendo, Alan Cech, Dana Getz, Noelle Ivankevich, Sarah Poweska, Casey Sample, Mike Smith, and Varshini Sentilkumar. Also present: Amanda DeKnight, Bob Lukitsch, Kelley Moten, Nicholas Yon, Gilda Arroyo, Nathan Babich, Alice Beckett-Rumberger, Courtney Bonnet, and Victoria Barnosky.

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

III. **President's Report: Michael Smith:** Smith shared some of the positive feedback he has received from the nonprofit community regarding Northland and our new director.

IV. **Executive Director's Report:** Part of the parking lot will be paved before summer reading starts. Bathroom renovation will be starting in six weeks; anticipate completion by fall. Onboarded 4 new employees this month. Received grant to establish a Memory Cafe to support patrons and caregivers affected by dementia. Analyzing eResource funding as costs have grown astronomically. Arroyo, Lukitsch, and DeKnight met with the architects and contractors to iron out final issues. Working with Hahn Nursery to purchase plants needed to complete the landscaping for the front of the building.

V. **New Business:** None.

VI. **Communications:**

a. **Library Marketing & Communications – Nicholas Yon:** Creating communications about Hoopla changes. Met with Commonplace Coffee to discuss collaborative social media content. Promotions for NerdCon, the Murder Mystery Fundraiser, and the Children's Gala are in process. Community Days outreach will begin next month. Yon highlighted the print newsletter and the interactive newsletter online.

b. **Departmental Updates – Kelley Moten:** The Children and Teen Services Department is combining paperback and hardcover books to make it easier for patrons to find books. The Teen collection has been combined, and the Children's collection will be combined after Summer Reading. Children and Teen Summer Reading programming are ready to go. Michelle Joyce of the Ingomar Garden Club has redone the aluminum garden containers in the Learning Garden with new book themes. Bonnet is working to replace the fairy garden in the Learning Garden.

c. **Foundation – Alice Beckett-Rumberger:** The 2026 Garden Gala raised a record high of $58,000 and sold a record number of 360 tickets. Beckett-Rumberger was on Ya Jagoff! Podcast/KDKA Radio Show to promote the

Garden Gala. Had great articles in TribLive highlighting the event. NPLF was invited to join the Pittsburgh chapter of Satell Institute. The Foundation will join as a Corporate Member, and the library will join the Institute for free as a supported nonprofit partner. Beckett-Rumberger participated in Ya Jagoff!'s Strawberry Jell-O Pretzel Salad Stand-Off fundraiser at the Block Northway on May 16.

d. **Junior Board Member Report – Varshini Senthilkumar:** Senthilkumar has noticed a growing interest in Manga at NASH as they recently increased their Manga collection and it has been very popular.

VII. Board Education:

a. **Strategic Plan SWOT Analysis—Amanda DeKnight:** DeKnight has been gathering information for the Strategic Plan from each department. DeKnight solicited feedback from the Authority Board members. DeKnight will move forward compiling the information.

VIII. Unfinished Business:

a. **Approval of the Revised Unattended Children & Vulnerable Adults Policy (VOTE):** Motion to approve the Revised Unattended Children & Vulnerable Adults Policy, duly made by Alan Cech, seconded by Irene Caliendo, and unanimously carried.
b. **Fidelity Bond & Insurance—Bob Lukitsch:** Lukitsch reviewed the library's insurance coverage. Cech questioned how we can evaluate what is considered an appropriate amount of insurance. There was some board discussion regarding how we can know value and how these policies compare to other libraries. The decision was made to form an insurance coverage working group to analyze and address this issue.

IX. Legal Matters: Arroyo discussed the meeting that took place with the architects and contractors. The Donation Policy will be reviewed more closely following input from additional stakeholders. The library's solicitors plan to approach the solicitors for each municipality regarding the amendment to Northland's Articles of Incorporation.

X. Consent Agenda (VOTE):

a. **Minutes**
    i. **April 28, 2026 Meeting**
b. **Treasurer's Report**
c. **Executive Director's Report**

Motion to approve the consent agenda, duly made by Irene Caliendo, seconded by Noelle Ivankevich, and unanimously carried.

XI. Committee and Other Reports:

a. **Building & Grounds Committee Update:** Committee met and discussed needed HVAC system repairs and cleaning company duties. Discussed goal to purchase new chairs for Conference Room 218. The contract for the new restroom has been signed and construction should begin soon. The

Committee tabled the discussion regarding adding furniture to the lower level lobby. Landscaping, parking lot lighting repairs, and driveway paving are all moving forward.

b. **Finance Committee Update:** Began discussing the 2027 budget. Some funding challenges with eResources pricing and building maintenance. Library audit was submitted to ACLA and was accepted. There were surprise costs in the 2026 budget for snow removal and building maintenance which may result in some other cuts in the budget later this year. They will be reviewing a new insurance policy.

XII. Board Comments: None.

XIII. Comments from the Public: None.

XIV. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn duly made by Irene Caliendo, seconded by Alan Cech, and unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:42 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Getz
Secretary