NORTHLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY AUTHORITY
BOARD MEETING – Held in person and virtually, using Microsoft Teams
August 25, 2026, 7:00pm
MINUTES

I. Call to Order & Roll Call: The meeting was called to order by Mike Smith at 7:01 PM. Present: Victoria Barnosky, Alan Cech, Dana Getz, Noelle Ivankevich, Sarah Poweska, and Mike Smith. Excused: Casey Sample and Varshini Sentilkumar. Also present: Amanda DeKnight, Kelley Moten, Bob Lukitsch, Nicholas Yon, Alexis McKinley, Gilda Arroyo, Tony Dills, Courtney Bonnet, Adrianne Krings, and Ramona McCall.

II. Comments from the Public: None.

III. President's Report: Michael Smith: Thanked the board for their support while he was away.

IV. Executive Director's Report: Amanda DeKnight: Kati Coleman was featured in the Trib for our new Memory Café program. Commonplace Coffee at Northland will reduce their hours by one hour each day to reduce overhead. Submitted Northland for the Library Journal Architectural Issue. Applied for the PA Cultural Exchange Fellowship and will learn within the next week. Encouraged the board to advocate against the proposed FCC cuts to E-Rate funding. Received insurance premium renewal. Building was evacuated on August 15 because of the smell of smoke in the café. Smoke was due to a fan issue in one of the AC fresh air units. Commonplace Coffee hired a new manager. Welcomed Ramona McCall as our new junior board member.

V. New Business:

a. **2027 Authority Board & Committee Meeting Schedule (VOTE)—Amanda DeKnight:** Motion to approve the 2027 Authority Board & Committee Meeting Schedule, duly made by Dana Getz, seconded by Alan Cech, and unanimously carried.

b. **2027 Draft Budget (VOTE)—Bob Lukitsch, Amanda DeKnight:** DeKnight reviewed notable changes affecting the budget including flat funding from the state, needing to realign payroll levels and add staff, and the huge increase to electronic resources due to the new formula. DeKnight and Smith shared there were some concerns with the budget in an initial meeting with municipal managers. Getz suggested spending more time in informal conversations with the municipalities before voting on the budget. There was significant discussion regarding this matter. After the solicitor investigated the municipal agreement, the board decided to table the vote to allow DeKnight more time to meet with the municipalities and address concerns. Motion to table the budget until the September NPLA Board Meeting or until a special meeting is called, duly made by Dana Getz, seconded by Sarah Poweska, and unanimously carried.

c. **2026-2030 Capital Improvement Plan Draft Review—Bob Lukitsch, Amanda DeKnight:** Lukitsch predicts that we will be able to fund the listed projects. DeKnight noted that this outline will guide her toward applying for grants that will help fund the projects and reduce the need to dip into the Capital Improvement funds.

VI. Communications:

a. **Library Marketing & Communications – Nicholas Yon:** The 2025 Annual report is available. Love Your Library yard signs will be available to patrons next week. New website is under construction and most content has been migrated. Finalized graphics for Love Your Library Fundraisers. A local business booked a weeklong rental for Conference Room 218 which garnered $2,700 in revenue!

b. **Departmental Updates – Kelley Moten:** Moten thanked the teen volunteers who helped with the summer reading. One of our Circulation Customer Service Representatives was promoted to a Circulation Supervisor. We are now hiring for that open position and an opening in the Children and Teen Services Department. eiNetwork is helping libraries identify bootleg items in the catalog.

c. **Foundation – Alexis McKinley, Tony Dills:** Love Your Library month starts September 1 – this is the best time to give because of the partial match, up to $500 per donor, by the Jack Buncher Foundation. Commonplace is doing a special Love Your Library Latte and giving $1 for each latte sold to Northland. Both nights of the Murder at the Speakeasy: A Northland Mystery Fundraiser are sold out. The Children's Gala 2026: A Rainforest Adventure is coming up soon on September 19. On September 30, there will be a Donor Appreciation Event. This is to thank donors who bought pavers or supported Northland in other ways over the last few years. Reading proposals for new financial advisors. New sign for the Northland Giving Tree has a QR code. Hosted The Pittsburgh Business Group at the library for a networking event. McKinley and Johnna Melchiorre attended CLP's Library Giving Summit. Amazon Wishlist is going strong.

VII. Board Education:

a. **CATS & Adult Services Library of Things--Courtney Bonnet, Adrianne Krings:** Bonnet and Krings shared non-traditional items that patrons can check out at the library such as dolls, puzzles, board games, video games, ukuleles, hotspots, radon detectors, activity kits, and more.

VIII. Unfinished Business: An executive session was held immediately prior to this meeting at 6:45 PM to discuss a legal matter.

IX. Legal Matters:

a. **General Updates—Gilda Arroyo:** The municipalities' solicitors received the amendment to the Articles of Incorporation to extend the library's corporate existence for another 50 years.

X. Consent Agenda (VOTE):

a. **Minutes**
    i. **July 28, 2026 Meeting**
b. **Treasurer's Report**
c. **Executive Director's Report:** In the Staffing section, remove accidentally listed employee name for privacy concerns.

Motion to approve the consent agenda with the amendment to the Executive Director's Report, duly made by Sarah Poweska, seconded by Alan Cech, and carried with 4 votes in favor and 2 abstentions (Getz and Smith).

XI. **Committee and Other Reports:** Finance Committee reviewed the budget. Building and Grounds Committee discussed HVAC and progress on the upper level restroom renovation.

XII. **Board Comments:** Poweska thanked the librarians for quickly putting together a display in honor of Dolly Parton's passing. Cech had some concerns related to Northland being the only municipal authority member within ACLA. Cech is interested in creating an ad hoc committee regarding this. Getz suggested receiving further education before forming a committee. DeKnight plans to provide and create education material about the consortium and its value.

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

XIV. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn duly made by Noelle Ivankevich, seconded by Dana Getz, and unanimously carried. The meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dana Getz
Secretary