

**Northland Library Cooperative
Advisory Council Meeting Minutes
Alcona County Library
Sep 23, 2021**

Introduction of Members:

Members Present:

Val Meyerson (Petoskey District Library),	Denise Bearre (Alcona County Library),
John Roberts (Kalkaska County Library),	Michele Howard (Traverse Area District Library),
Amber Alexander (Presque Isle District Library),	Ryan Deery (Charlevoix Public Library),
Amy Knepp (Oscoda County Library),	Jackie Skinner (Otsego County Library)
Sue Warner (Wolverine Community Library)	Linda Adams (Northland Library Cooperative Director)

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 10:35am by President, Amber Alexander.

Approval of Agenda:

D. Bearre made a motion to accept the Agenda, seconded by A. Knepp. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes:

J. Roberts made a motion to accept the August 19, 2021 Minutes seconded by D. Bearre. Motion carried.

Approval of Financial Reports

- **August 2021** L. Adams presented the financials noting nothing was outstanding except that we are under budget M. Howard made a motion to recommend to the NLC Board to accept the Financial Report, seconded by J. Roberts. Motion carried.
- **FY 20/21 Budget Amendment Review:** There is only a small adjustment that needs to be made based on expenses for Google Apps and Zoom. Travel is way down as all meetings are virtual. M. Howard made the motion to approve the amended budget and forward to the Board for approval, seconded by R. Deery. Motion carried.
- **FY 21/22 Budget Amendment Review** This is basically the same budget with minimal changes. The Legislature has approved increases to State Aid to move it to the \$.50 per cap funding. There is an extra \$6,000 to be moved to the contingency fund. V. Meyerson made the motion to approve the budget and forward it to the Board for approval, seconded by M. Howard. Motion carried.
- There was some discussion about moving our bank accounts, but that was tabled.

Directors Report:

Linda reviewed her presented report, noting the following updates:

- The Legislature approved \$4.2 million in ARPA grants and an extra \$2 million in State Aid. They added \$100K for a State Poet Laureate and \$800K for School/Library Projects.

Business:

- **Advisory Council Officers:** S. Warner motioned we accept the following Advisory Council officers and forward to the Board for approval, seconded by R. Deery. Motion carried.
Proposed Slate of Officers for October 2021- September 2023:
Chair: Val Meyerson
Vice Chair: Monica Peck
Secretary: Jackie Skinner
Treasurer: Michele Howard

- **Proposed Board Officers:** S. Warner motioned we accept the following Advisory Council officers and forward to the Board for approval, seconded by R. Deery. Motion carried.
Board Terms:
The following will end their three-year terms on the NLC board on 9/30/21:
Class 1: Helen Miller, Indian River
Class 3: Brian Frietag, Tahquamenon
Class 4: Val Meyerson, Petoskey
The following libraries are due to fill those positions for three-year terms (to begin in October 2021):
Class 1: Sue Warner, Wolverine
Class 3: Denise Bearre, Alcona
Class 4: Amber Alexander, Presque Isle
- **Bylaws Adoption:** L. Adams had Anne Seurnyck review the bylaws. V. Meyerson motioned that we forward the Bylaws to the Board for adoption, seconded by D. Bearre. Motion carried.
- **UpNorth Digital Fact Sheet** V. Meyerson completed this fact sheet and is seeking input. L. Adams will post to the website.
- Locations for the 2020-21 Advisory and Board Meetings are as follows:
 - October 21, 2021: Cheboygan Area Public Library
 - December 16, 2021: Traverse Area District Library
 - April 21, 2022: Charlevoix Public Library
 - August 18, 2022: Kalkaska County Library
 - September 15, 2022: Otsego County Library
 - October 20, 2022: open
- **Director Evaluation:** M. Peck, M. Howard and D. Bearre will form the Director Review committee to review the Director and recommend a new contract.

What's happening at your library?

Amber: Held a Film festival with lots of people unitizing the theater; Moved everything to the new branch in record time which is a great addition to the community (Posen Library). Looking forward to an open house. Struggling with various Friends groups.

Val: Going strong with fall programming. Val poked the bear by writing about the new addition to the ALA code of ethics. Val has had some complaints but has had some good conversations with patrons about who is welcome and what the library should be. Val is trying to use language that isn't triggering to some patrons. Val recommends the MCLS, Facilitators Toolbox. She says it was excellent for real hands-on tips and tools.

Linda for Crooked Tree District Library: Karen resigned and moved to the U.P. All new board with Sammie Place as Interim Director (6 mos experience). Linda went to the Board to encourage them to do some interviews so by next month we should be in place by next month.

Michele: Tons of financial stuff, budget; Uniform Chart of Accounts; new accounting software, Member negotiations! Sadly reports she had a Board member passed away.

Amy: Starting formal district Library process just waiting for 1 twp. Hopefully, this will provide better wages because she is having staffing problems because she doesn't play very much. Wonky things are happening but Anne Seurnyck is helping. Has longer haulers from Covid and is working hard to get things done and keep her energy up.

Sue: Is hopefully getting a new building! They already own the property for the last 20 years. Near the school and a nice piece of property. Schools will be back at the library! Very successful book sale.

Denise: Senator will be visiting and looking for talking points. Contract with Curtis Township is troublesome with Friends who want to run the library in the void of a permanent librarian. Curtis used to be a branch and is hoping to make it a branch again; then become a district. And then retire! :)

Ryan: Starting to do future planning and RFP for space study for some particular areas. Curious to see the ideas and costs. Updating meeting room to do hybrid zoom meetings: Camera and mics in the ceilings. \$25K-\$55K budgeted for \$15K + Friends. Losing their tech person (via contract) and hired a person from Seattle to be the new bookkeeper. Yay! Found a wonderful meeting room management software: Library Market. \$1500/year implementation is \$5,000. Hosted a 7-hour meeting for the Health Department about masks. Everyone was kind to the library staff and horrible to the Health Department personnel.

Jackie: Surviving and Thriving as a new Directors class. It was a good class and will share the Friends information to give to Amber. Mask issues are tense, with commissioners' meetings and no one masks. Fully staffed. Patrons loving Hoopla. Keep Maureen and her health issues in your thoughts. New children's librarian and public services librarian!

John: Hopeful to get the ARPA grant - staff says that Karren called!! This would really compliment the work being done in downtown Kalkaska. Approached by township commissioners to give John \$\$, with the help of Scott @ TADL they will provide some technology to help people with internet access. John is disheartened by some of the events in Kalkaska and trying to stay neutral.

Adjournment:

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 12:06pm.

The next scheduled Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 21, 2021, at 10:30 am at Cheboygan Area Public Library.

Respectfully Submitted,
Michele P. Howard, Director,
Traverse Area District Library