Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the
Alpena County George N. Fletcher Public Library
Board of Trustees

Call to Order: A meeting of the Alpena County Library Board of Trustees was called to order on Wednesday, July 15, 2026, at 4:00 pm by President Dustin Budd.

Present:
Board of Trustees: Dustin Budd, Julie Byrnes, Jennifer Graham, Traci Collins, Joe Fulkerson
Staff: Christina Markowski, Nancy Mousseau

Approval of Agenda: It was moved by Collins with support from Fulkerson to accept the agenda. The motion passed.

Review and Approval of June 17, 2026 Meeting Minutes: It was moved by Byrnes with support from Fulkerson to accept the minutes from the June 17, 2026 meeting. The motion passed.

Review and Approval of July 1, 2026 Special Meeting Minutes: It was moved by Graham with support from Byrnes to accept the minutes from the July 1, 2026 special meeting. The motion passed.

Financial Reports: The financial reports were reviewed by Markowski.

Approval of Bills: It was moved by Collins and supported by Graham that the bills as presented be approved. The motion passed.

Leadership Team Reports: The written reports were reviewed by Markowski.

Friends of the Library Reports: Markowski stated the Friends are receiving donations in bulk starting July 15th. There will be a bin for patrons to place their donations. Items not accepted include text books, encyclopedias, cassette tapes, CDs, periodicals. These items don't sell well. The Friends Hidden Book Store is now open two days a week, Tuesdays from 4-6 and Wednesdays from 10-1.

Public Comment:
Kathy Bawer, Alpena, stated she is President of the League of Women voters who support ALAs bill of rights and due process. 92% of all book challenges were initiated by groups and government officials. 3% by parents. She asked the board, "What do you

know that professionals do not know about the collection? Where is the parent movement?" She stated the current policies served the community for years and questions why they are being replaced.

Mark Hunter, Alpena, stated the collection development policy and some of the other policies are not well written. He mentioned in the reconsideration policy under harmful to minors that it states "the library recognizes adults have constitutional rights" and he stated minors also have rights that should be acknowledged. Mark recommends giving the reconsideration policy to those who are writing reconsiderations so people will understand how decisions are being made. He recommends using the word 'may appeal' instead of 'must appeal' in the reconsideration appeal part of the policy.

Old Business:

A. Reconsideration Policy: Board discussed changes to the policy and addressed public comment concerns and suggestions. Changes include;

- Adding and minors to statement, "The library recognizes the constitutional rights of adults and minors"
- Under Reconsideration Appeal rewording 2a as follows;
  If the patron is not satisfied with the Library Director's response, and would like to appeal the decision, they must complete and submit to the library a Reconsideration Appeal Form. The board's responsibility is to ensure policy was adhered to and clarify any difference of opinion between the director and requestor. The Reconsideration Appeal Form will be forwarded to the Board President within 7 days of the date on the Reconsideration Appeal Form.

It was moved by Byrnes with support by Fulkerson to accept the Reconsideration of Materials Policy with the above mentioned changes. The policy to be implemented after the Collection Development Policy is successfully updated.
The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Reports: The Policy Committee met to discuss the policies presented today.

New Business:

A. Strategic Plan: It was moved by Graham with support from Byrnes to accept the Strategic Plan with the below changes. The motion passed unanimously.

- In Phase II amendating should be amending
- Goal #2 add 'Funding' to Quantitative.

B. Top O' Michigan: The board discussed inviting Christine from Top O' Michigan to do a presentation at a board meeting. The board asked Tina to look into health insurance options with Alpena Agency, which the library currently goes through for liability insurance.

C. Social Media Policy: This item was tabled to allow time to rewrite revisions to the Social Media Policy based on the board's discussion and recommendations.

D. Collection Development Policy: This item was tabled to allow time for board members to send questions/comments to the Policy Committee for review. Questions/comments need to be sent by the first week in August.

E. Administrative Fee: It was moved by Collins with support from Graham to pay the administrative fee of $500 to the building authority.

Roll Call Vote
Collins Yes
Graham Yes
Byrnes Yes
Fulkerson Yes
Budd Yes

Public Comment:
Mark Hunter, Alpena, stated he did not know how someone can make a decision of an appeal on a book without reading the book. The requestor needs to read the whole book. He stated the board are not judges but there to make administrative decisions. He mentioned there is a phrase in the law, "community standards" and maybe questions or doubts if the board represents the whole community. He suggested reaching out to a lawyer about blocking on social media and if that is allowed. He asked if there is library police that sees a ten year old going into the adult section and stopping them to ask if their parent allows them in the adult section.

Dorris Feys, Alpena, posed a hypothetical question on the reconsideration and if the book can be appealed on the procedure or opinion. She asked what if the Director or the Board has a different opinion and whose opinion prevails? She stated it is a slippery slope if someone says this book is not appropriate for the community and it has led to bans of books including the Bible, and Harry Potter.

Michael Kramer, Alpena, thanked the board for their attention to duty and the rules, regulations they are writing up. He stated anyone who is violent or dangerous should be banned on social media, he has no problem with that. He thanked the board for looking at these books and moving them to the adult section.

Nonie Muller, Alpena, stated the reconsideration policy should be followed and clear for people to understand. She liked how the Michigan Code was added and it should be in there. She stated that people have feelings and views that should be considered when looking at a reconsideration.

Yvonne Johnson, Alpena, congratulated the board on their work they put into the policy. She is concerned that the board is sliding down a slippery slope if this policy is not strictly procedural. She stated some board members have very subjective feelings that don't represent the parents and the majority of the community. She stated the reconsideration policy can be streamlined that it should say the Library Board will review the procedure. She stated members in the community are concerned that the board does not have the experience/education of the Director. She stated she was confused that board member Fulkerson said no book will be moved but some in the community feel that books will be moved.

D. Board Comment:
Collins expressed appreciation for how much Carmen does and her amazing job.

Fulkerson wanted to clarify we are not removing books from the collection which is different then moving books.

Budd stated the reconsideration form is taking a book and moving it to the adult section if necessary, not to remove it from the collection.

Byrnes stated that everything in this library is accessible and it is up to the parents. She stated the board has given the parents the right to let their kids wander the library and check out what they want. She explained that if the library has a kids section, it needs to be a kids section and age appropriate. She stated there are many teachers on the board that have experience and are as valuable as a degree.

Collins clarified that kids are not allowed to wander around as the library has an unattended children policy.

Budd stated that everyone has a role, the board members, the community, and the staff all have responsibilities, and the board is there to help clarify them.

Adjournment: It was moved by Graham with support from Byrnes to adjourn the meeting. Budd declared the meeting adjourned at 6:02 pm. The next meeting will be Wednesday, August 19, 2026 at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Traci Collins
Secretary

Christina Markowski
Recording Secretary