

Friends of NDL Board of Directors Meeting

Thursday, September 11, 2025

1. **Call to Order** by President Martha Nork at 5:32 pm.
2. **Attendance**
Present: Racha Alchommali, Linda Bastien, Charlene Cach, Kathy Fox, Cindy Frango, Claire Kreher, Chris Litka, Regina Mingela, Martha Nork, Denise Stacer, Laura Mancini (NDL Director), Linda Schwelnus
Absent: Kimberly Meisel
Guest: Val Amsdill
3. **Approval of Agenda** - Motion to approve the agenda as amended (Martha would not be speaking for Laura Mancini, Bookmarks report added) was made by Denise and seconded by Racha. Motion passed.
4. **Review and approval of Meeting Minutes** from June 12, 2025
Motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Denise and seconded by Linda Bastien. Motion passed.
5. **Secretary's Report** - Kathy passed around two Thank You cards.
6. **President's Report** - Martha Nork
*A schedule for Friends Board meeting dates was handed out. All meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 5:30 pm.
*Judith Costigan donated \$2,000 to the Friends in August. She asked that the check be picked up in person, and I took her a bunch of flowers from the Friends.
*We are getting short on Friends brochures so we will be updating it and then will have new ones printed. Kathy and I have been working on that.
*Friends T-shirts? Do we want to explore options for this? Pam Unsworth has provided some designs for the front. I will make a decision on the color.
*FOML next meeting is Friday, October 10th at the Charlevoix Public Library starting at 9:30 am. Clare Membiela, Library Law Consultant will be giving the presentation on best practices for Friends groups. Board members are invited to attend.
*Kathy and Martha attended a Northville Chamber of Commerce Networking event on July 30th at the new Northville Township Essential Services Complex. The library is hosting a Chamber Coffee Connection networking event on October 22nd from 8-9am.
*Cider on Sunday is October 19th. Still accepting items for the two baskets.
7. **Library Director's Report** - Laura Mancini
Summer Reading
The 2025 Summer Reading program ended in August. This year's program had 1,374 registrants. Of these individuals, 839 were youth, 162 were teens and 373 were adults. The program saw a 6% increase in registrations from 2024 and is the highest number of registered people since before Covid. Seventy-six of the participants completed the

program, with the teen readers having a remarkable 80% completion rate. The Summer Reading finale party was held on August 6 th in the park behind the NDL and it was a smashing success. It was attended by 312 people, a 32 % increase from 2024. The party featured treats from Kona Ice, an inflatable bounce house, an inflatable obstacle course, and art stations provided by the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. A new feature of this year's party was a partnership with the City of Northville Fire Department. The firefighters sat in a dunk tank and raised \$527.00 for the Living and Learning Center. The NDL's librarians continue to make Summer Reading both an educational and fun experience! Their innovativeness and creativity are a pleasure to see in action. The Summer Reading program would not be possible without the financial support of the Friends of the NDL. This year you provided \$14,000.00 for the program, an increase of 17% percent from last year. A huge thanks goes to all of you for your incredible support!

Community Forums

The Library will be hosting two community forums to discuss its space planning. The first will be on Tuesday, October 14 at 7:00 p.m. at the NDL and the second will be on Monday, November 10 th at 7:00 at Township Hall. Registration will be required and more information will be released next week.

New ILS system

The Northville District Library successfully migrated to its new ILS system on July 21 st . Interloan requests are now being handled through the MelCat service. If you need any assistance using the catalog or MelCat, please do not hesitate to contact the librarians.

Volunteer Policy

Northville's Board of Trustees has passed a new policy regarding volunteers. Between now and October 1 st , the NDL is requiring all volunteers to register with the administration office. All volunteers will have set schedules. Name tags will be and security badge will be provided to all volunteers. The Library is also asking that all volunteers sign in and out when working. This will help the Library improve its building security and more importantly, expand its volunteer recognition awards program to honor all the work done by our incredible volunteers.

8. [Treasurer's Report](#) - Linda Schwelnus

For July and August 2025, Income included bank interest, dividends from the matured CD, donations, Memberships, Gift Books, and Used Book and vendor sales, for a total of \$12,382.14. Expenses included the fee paid to MI LARA and the scholarship for a total of \$1,020. Net income for the YTD is \$17,941.11.

Bank balances, including two CD's, totaled \$85,124 at the end of August. The matured CD funds were rolled over to a new 8-month CD in August.

A motion was made by Denise Stacer to approve the report, seconded by Kathy Fox and unanimously approved.

9. **Committee Reports:**

- A. Used Book Operations - Linda Bastien
We have been concentrating on filling up our shelves in the Cellar.
On September 25th we are bringing books and Friends' information to a booth at the Farmers Market. (7:30am - 2pm)
We are hoping for a Holiday Book Sale.
- B. Gift Books - Claire Kreher
Since June 12th, we received 17 Gifts - 8 Honorary, 9 Memorial
The \$898 includes \$175 from the Friends of NDL for 5 volunteers @ \$25 and 1 memorial for Robert Sochacki for \$50.
***80** books were added along with 6 Read-Along Books
- C. Volunteer Appreciation - Claire Kreher
July: Judy Tremonti
August: Patricia Pawlik
September: Elaine Brennan
- D. Membership - Cindy Frango
There were 4 new members since the June meeting. We gained 1 family, 2 Individuals, and 1 new business.
Our current membership is:
Patrons- **18** Businesses - **9** Family - **34** Individual - **69** Teens - **3**
Lifetime - **16** A total of **149 members**
- E. Newsletter & Public Relations - Chris Litka
The Fall Newsletter is almost finished. Sarah is working on final edits.
There is no information on City Lights Chorus except the date: 12/15
There was a suggestion to add another page to the newsletter. The cost of this would be \$170.15. The cost in the existing format is \$313.85. Total cost with the third page: \$486. Discussion about added postage with additional weight of the newsletter. The Mailing will be on 10/10 from 12:30 until 2pm. Racha, Kathy, and Martha have offered to help.
For the Spring Newsletter there is a suggestion of doing "behind the scenes of the Used Book Operation." Linda Bastien would need to be involved in this.
- F. Bookmarks - Denise
The Bookmark contest runs through October 1st. Participants must be 5-12 years old and a Northville resident or a member of Northville Public Schools. Entry information can be found at the Youth Desk. Kimberly sent information to her NPS colleagues.

10. **Guest Comments:** Val Amsdill volunteered to help with Friends activities

11. **Motion to Adjourn** 6:39 pm Motion passed.