

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**ORANGE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

**March 11, 2021 ~ 6:00 p.m.**

**Orlando Public Library**  
**101 East Central Boulevard**  
**Orlando, Florida 32801**

**And**

**Join Zoom Meeting**

**<https://zoom.us/j/92774488316?pwd=MUVSRmtoTDJLSTUrNkREeXZhRzM2dz09>**

**Meeting ID: 927 7448 8316**

**Passcode: 12345**

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**Meeting ID: 927 7448 8316**

**Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aeB4nk10yv>**

**Library Board Present:** Crockett Bohannon (3/0); Nicole Benjamin (6/0 – City);  
Danielle Levien (6/0 - City); Richard Maladecki (3/0);  
Lizannette Tam (3/0)

**Administration Present:** Mary Anne Hodel; Steve Powell; Kris Shoemaker; Ricardo Viera;  
Bethany Stone; Danielle King; Lynette Schimpf;  
Milinda Neusaenger

- 21-028 I. **Call to Order**  
President Bohannon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- 21-029 II. **Public Comment Policy & Procedures**
- 21-030 III. **Approval of Minutes: Library Board of Trustees Meeting  
February 11, 2021**  
Trustee Maladecki, seconded by Trustee Levien, moved to approve the minutes for the February 11, 2021 Library Board of Trustees Meeting. Motion carried 5-0.
- 21-031 IV. **Staff Presentation: West Oaks & Genealogy: Allison Ryall**
- 21-032 V. **Financial Statements and Summaries: February 2021**  
CFO Shoemaker briefed the Board regarding the several renovation projects and the annual investment report, which had great performance last year.
- 21-033 VI. **Dashboard: February 2021**  
COO Powell shared that the swag bags sent to juveniles who have a successful card registration are a really big hit. He also reported that the Vox book collection (children's

books that talk) has been expanded to all locations. These are very popular and are heavily circulated. He also reported that the Storywalk pop-up events are very popular as well. The events are held outside and participants walk around a path to read a story that is displayed on giant signs as they proceed with the walk. He reported that the Melrose editing bays and workstations will be reopening April 1, 2021.

21-034 VII.

**Action Items:**

21-035

**Server Purchase: Ricardo Viera**

Vice President Benjamin, seconded by Trustee Tam, moved to authorize Library staff to execute the purchase with SHI for the VXRail cluster to not exceed the amount of \$130,918.39. Motion carried 5-0.

21-036 VIII.

**Discussion and Possible Action Items**

21-037 IX.

**Information**

21-038

**Director's Report**

- Director Hodel welcomed Orange County Commissioner Nicole Wilson who attended the meeting in person and Orlando City Commission Jim Gray who attended virtually.
- Instructional Technology Specialists Vanya Walker and Michael Sweeney are creating classes for the NEFLIN 2021 Technology Conference.
- The South Trail Branch will be a COVID-19 vaccination center, possibly starting next week.
- The Lake Nona book drop will be opening soon.
- Today the Director and some senior staff toured five different parcels in the Lake Nona area. One site is to be a City of Orlando government center and the City has invited OCLS to be a part of the center on Dowden Road. The City offered to allow OCLS to piggyback off of their contractor and the lease would be approximately \$17,000 a year. Tavistock has made available three sites for purchase at market price. The first site is near an elementary school off Lake Nona Blvd, the second site is next to Lowes on Narcoossee Road and the third site also on Narcoossee Road is further south, nearer to the Osceola County line. The estimated price for two of the Tavistock parcels would be approximately \$1,100,000 per acre with about 3.5 acres at each one. Tavistock is estimating \$850,000 per acre for the parcel on Lake Nona Blvd. The fifth location would be in partnership with Valencia College on their campus on Narcoossee Road.

Discussion ensued regarding the Lake Nona and Horizon West areas. Both need a library branch but the Library cannot afford to build both at once. Director Hodel stated the only way two branches could be built at once is to increase the millage rate for taxes which would be very unpopular politically. Discussion also included the locations of the five Lake Nona sites in proximity to other library locations as well as the population of each community, with Horizon West being the most populated of the two. The Board expressed concern that the Horizon West library project would be delayed even though the area has a denser population than Lake Nona. The Board also asked staff the price of the Horizon West property, which is approximately \$338,000 per acre, with the plan to purchase 17.8 acres, of which 12 acres are buildable, for about \$4.1 million dollars. It was discussed that Trustee Maladecki, Director Hodel and other staff members had meetings with Tavistock in 2017 and that their proposed location for a library was offered at market value without incentives and not conducive to the needs of OCLS.

District One Orange County Commissioner Nicole Wilson addressed the Board, thanked them and stated that everyone has done a great job of researching data, projections, and the homes and construction in the Horizon West area. She further stated that she is fighting tooth and nail for the residents of Orange County District One to get them the library they have been told for

years is coming. She further stated that growth in the Horizon West community is not slowing down anytime soon.

District One Orlando City Commissioner Jim Gray stated that he has been pushing the City to develop a government center in Lake Nona for quite a while and would love to have a library and post office there. He stated land is very expensive, so a co-located center would help OCLS save money. He also stated that the City needs to strike a deal with the Greater Orlando Aviation Association (GOAA) which controls the property chosen by the City for the center. The property was chosen to serve Lake Nona and the nearby Vista Lakes community. He further stated that the City is ready to move forward with the Lake Nona city center even if OCLS is not ready. President Bohannon stated that the Board has chartered a course of direction and doesn't think the Board should divert from the plan.

The Board inquired as to what is next regarding Horizon West and Director Hodel stated that an environmental study needs to be conducted by Terracon at the Horizon West site. President Bohannon asked what would be the next step after the study. CFO Shoemaker said that once the environmental study is complete and it is determined if there are any issues that will need to be remedied, then approval is needed from the County and the City, as they are co-owners of the parcel. He indicated that it would be a June or July timeframe that the study and recommendation would be brought to the Board. Trustee Maladecki stated that in years past he and others tried to open the door to a Lake Nona library and now it seems there is an effort to sideline the Horizon West project. The Board expressed frustration with being pressured to move in a direction different from the Horizon West project because there had been no prior mention of any new properties in Lake Nona. It had previously been determined that the library could not build two branches simultaneously, and there were no financials presented relating to the Lake Nona properties for the Board to review or discuss.

20-039

**Public Comment: Non-Agenda Items**

Ashley Cisneros Mejia – Orange County Resident – addressed the Board about a branch in Lake Nona

Christopher Hertel – Orange County Resident – addressed the Board about a branch in Lake Nona

**X. Adjournment**

Trustee Maladecki, seconded by Trustee Levien, moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0. President Bohannon adjourned the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

**Next Meeting Dates:** – April 8, 2021 ~ Orlando Public Library; 101 East Central Boulevard; Orlando, Florida 32801 --- May, 13, 2021 ~ Orlando Public Library; 101 East Central Boulevard; Orlando, Florida 32801

**Florida Statutes section 286.0105:** If any person desires to appeal any decision with respect to any matter considered at a Library Board of Trustees meeting, such person will need a record of the proceedings; for this purpose, such person may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made to include the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

**In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodations to participate in this proceeding due to a disability as defined by ADA may arrange for reasonable accommodations by contacting the Director's Office on the fifth floor of the Main Library in person or by phone at 407.835.7611 at least two days prior to the meeting.**