

MEETING MINUTES
ORANGE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

September 9, 2021 ~ 6:00 p.m.

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

Library Board Present: Nicole Benjamin (12/0 – City); Danielle Levien (12/1 - City);
Richard Maladecki (9/1); Lizannette Tam (9/0)

Library Board Absent: Crockett Bohannon (9/1)

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

- 21-115 I. **Call to Order**
Vice President Benjamin called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.
- 21-116 II. **Public Comment Policy & Procedures**
- 21-117 III. **Approval of Minutes: Library Board of Trustees Meeting
August 12, 2021**
Trustee Maladecki, seconded by Trustee Levien moved to approve the minutes for the
August 12, 2021 Library Board of Trustees Meeting. Motion 3-0.
- 21-118 IV. **Staff Presentations:**
➤ **Summer Reading Program ~ Natalie Houston & Jessica Pinkowski**
➤ **Summer BreakSpot ~ Carolyn McClendon**
Trustee Tam arrived at 6:03 p.m.
- 21-119 V. **Financial Statements and Summaries: August 2021**
CFO Shoemaker briefed the Board about the budget for the month of August 2021.
He indicated that delivery costs will be higher due to the new book drops. He gave the
Board an update regarding the two new branch projects. He stated that staff continue to
meet with the County and the City every two weeks and they are preparing the two leases
and have some edits to make. The City of Orlando’s Public Works Director, Alan Oyler,
sent a draft RFP for review for the Lake Nona project. RFQ’s have been issued for
architects for the Horizon West project and there is a nice group of architects interested and
the plan is to bring the short list to the December Board Meeting. Additionally, the
Construction Manager at Risk meeting was held and there were several interested firms that
attended and the hope is to bring this short list to the December Board Meeting as well.
- 21-120 VI. **Dashboard: August 2021**
COO Powell reported that August started and ended with a focus on kids. It began with the
most popular event in August with the virtual End of Summer Celebration hosted by the
Youth Services Department. The event took place on August 7th and had 470 attendees
participating in fun family activities and learning the winners of the Summer Reading
Program grand prize giveaway. At the end of August, OCLS shared a post on several social
media channels about homework help for children available with a library card, and it
turned out to be a highly engaging and popular post. It received 941 engagements across all
platforms, including 169 clicks through to the website and 66 shares from people who
viewed the post. COO Powell also explained that OCLS is not able to transition to Wise at

this time. The ILS and OPAC do not provide the level of functionality and configuration required by OCLS's customers and staff. OCLC is aware that OCLS is not establishing a go-live date at this time and that OCLS intends to stay on the project as an early adopter until a go-live can be accomplished. The next step is for OCLS is to notify Innovative Interfaces Inc., of its intent to renew the Sierra contract for another year. Further discussion ensued regarding the statistics that are down. He explained that the door counts are down as there are no in-person events or classes. He also mentioned that online virtual fatigue can be the reason that people are taking fewer online classes.

21-121 VII. **Action Items:**

21-122 **Approval of Document for State Aid to Libraries:**

➤ **Annual Plan of Service FY 2022**

Trustee Maladecki, seconded by Trustee Levien moved to approve the Annual Plan of Service. Motion carried 4-0.

21-123 VIII. **Discussion and Possible Action Items**

21-124 IX. **Information**

21-125 **Director Search Update: Yvonne Hartley**

HR Director Hartley reported that the deadline to submit applications for the Director's position has been extended and will continue to advertise the position. She stated that to date 21 applications have been received with 12 meeting the requirements. The questionnaire has been sent to the candidates. She also indicated that the Search Committee meeting may be moved to October.

21-126 **Director's Report**

Since Covid does not seem to be abating, the Library's Staff Day will again be virtual. I know staff were looking forward to an in-person event, but COVID is taking its toll again this year.

Another casualty of COVID's hold on our community is Sunday hours. The Library will be delaying starting back Sunday hours until January 9, 2022.

September 15 through October 15 is Hispanic Heritage Month. Every year, OCLS marks the occasion with events, programs, presentations and exhibits that focus on Hispanic culture, art, food and literature. Some of the highlights this month include a bilingual performance by children's singer/songwriter Sonia de los Santos, a Cuisine Corner that will demonstrate how to make Puerto Rican alcapurrias, and a Mexican storytime for children. We also have an impressive art exhibition hanging on the first floor highlighting the work of Colombian artists Carlos Alberto Quintero and Alberto Gomez Gomez, both of whom draw inspiration from the roots of Latin American magical realism to create kaleidoscopic works drenched in expressive color and imagination.

This National Library Card Sign-up Month is already off to a strong start. On September 8, Main Circulation reported more online applications for juvenile cards than we've ever had at 128 new applications. On a normal day, we would usually see six to eight juvenile applications. We can attribute this success to our School Partnership Program, which is running a library card signup drive in partnership with Orange County Public Schools. We also saw a significant jump in online applications for adult applications – we had 101 on September 8th alone, which is twice what we usually see in a typical day. Thanks to our Information Desk staff for processing these new applications – they email each customer and mail the cards out by hand in a single day. It was a lot of work, and they do a great job!

OCLS was awarded a \$5,000 Community Project Grant from Florida Humanities for the "Zora Neale Hurston: The Storyteller and Her Town" project. In addition to several virtual

offerings, the project will also include a community talk on Hurston's life and the town of Eatonville followed by a walking tour of the town. Special thanks to Eatonville Branch Manager Sara Brown and Hiawasse Assistant Manager Selina Raghunath for all their work in applying for and winning this grant for the library system.

21-127

Public Comment: Non-Agenda Items

Ricardo Garcia – No Answer

Ashley Cisneros Mejia – spoke in favor of a library in the Lake Nona area.

Christina Patterson – requested that Isa Vogel's library privileges be reinstated.

Chadwick Hardee – spoke in favor of a library in the Lake Nona area.

X. Adjournment

Trustee Maladecki, seconded by Trustee Levien, moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0. Vice President Benjamin adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Next Meeting Dates:

September 9, 2021 ~ Orlando Public Library; 101 East Central Boulevard; Orlando, Florida 32801 --- October 2021 ~ To Be Determined.

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.