

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

**September 8, 2022 ~ 6:00 p.m.**

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

Library Board Present: Crockett Bohannon (9/0); Nicole Benjamin (12/2 – City);  
 Richard Maladecki (9/2); Danielle Levien (12/3 - City);  
 Lizannette Tam (9/0)

Administration Present: Steve Powell; Kris Shoemaker; Danielle King; Bethany Stone;  
 Yvonne Hartley; Erin Sullivan; Lynette Schimpf;  
 Milinda Neusaenger

- 22-122 I. **Call to Order**  
 President Bohannon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- 22-123 II. **Public Comment Policy & Procedures**
- 22-124 III. **Approval of Minutes:**  
**Library Board of Trustees Meeting – August 11, 2022**  
**Director Search Meeting – August 20, 2022**  
 Trustee Tam, seconded by Trustee Maladecki, moved to approve the minutes for the August 2022 Library Board of Trustees Meetings. Motion carried 5-0.
- 22-125 IV. **Staff Presentations:**
- **Summer Reading Program: Caitlin Hill and Matthew Blood**
  - **Adult Summer Reading: Christine Lindler and Josh Shidel**
  - **Summer Break Spot: Carolyn McClendon**
- 22-126 V. **Financial Statements and Summaries: August 2022**  
 CFO Shoemaker introduced Jim Riedel, the New Construction Manager. Mr. Riedel comes to OCLS with over 25 years of experience in the construction industry. CFO Shoemaker briefed the Board regarding the Melrose stage project and the North Orange roof project stating that the materials are in and that both projects have begun.
- 22-127 VI. **Dashboard: August 2022 – Danielle King**  
 CBO King reported to the Board that early voting occurred from August 8<sup>th</sup> to the 21<sup>st</sup> and thus had an increase in door count. Over 25,000 came in for early voting. She further reported that digital products usage has increased by 61%. She announced that September is National Library Card sign-up month and encouraged everyone to get their card.
- 22-128 VII. **Action Items – Consent Agenda:**  
 Trustee Levien, seconded by Vice President Benjamin, moved to approve the items on the consent agenda. Motion carried 5-0.
- 22-129 **Strategic Plan FY 2023 – FY 2025**  
 The Board voted to approve the FY 2023 – FY 2025 Strategic Plan.
- 22-130 **State Aid FY 2023 Document:**
- **Annual Plan of Service – FY 2023**  
 The Board voted to approve the FY 2023 Annual Plan of Service.

22-131 VIII. **Discussion and Possible Action Items**

President Bohannon took a few minutes to honor Joe Goldstein:

Joe was an avid library supporter and advocate. He served on the board of the Friends of the Orange County Library System for more than 15 years. He served as Board President from 2019 through 2020, and in that role, he helped guide the organization through some tough times, when COVID forced us all to change the way we do business. The Friends' primary income is through book sales, and when the library closed, so did the bookstore. Joe worked with the board to come up with a plan to cut expenses and look at new revenue streams during the shutdown, which helped keep the organization solvent. He was adamant that the Friends not forget that the pandemic was also having an impact on the volunteers who worked in the bookstore and gift shop. He urged the Friends to show their appreciation and support by sending them thank you letters and Publix gift cards, in lieu of the volunteer appreciation luncheons that were canceled due to COVID.

During book sales, Joe could often be found working alongside library staff and volunteers at the pricing table. He always went out of his way to promote the library system in the community, helping to obtain support from local businesses for Friends events or special projects, including the library's *Books & Beyond* magazine.

Joe was a devoted Rotarian and an avid reader, and he helped to create what has become one of the library's most popular annual events, the Southwest Author Series, which is held every spring at the Southwest Branch in partnership with the Rotary Club of Dr. Phillips. That series has brought many fantastic authors to speak at the Southwest Branch over the years, including Anne Perry, James Grippando and Kristen Harmel. Joe loved that event.

In his professional life, Joe was an attorney, and he worked as general counsel to Darden Restaurants as well as BBA Aviation. His opinion and expertise were valued by the library, and he generously shared it with us in multiple ways, serving on committees and offering his opinion with leadership as needed. Most recently, he was part of the Director Search Committee, which narrowed down our field of candidates for the job of Library Director to the final three that were recommended to the Board. Even when he was spending time at his second home in Montana, he participated in the Director Search process, Zooming in for meetings from the mountains when he wasn't in Orlando.

We lost Joe suddenly on August 26<sup>th</sup>, and it was a shock for everyone who knew him. His voice and his counsel will be greatly missed, as will his generous nature and his camaraderie. We were lucky to have had someone like Joe on our side for as long as we did. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I'd like to extend our condolences to Joe's friends and family.

President Bohannon advised the Board that contract negotiations with Director Powell are at an end. He stated he will sign the contract tonight and asked the Board if anyone would like to review it beforehand and no one requested to do so.

22-132 IX. **Information**22-133 **Director's Report**

Orange County Library System lost a huge fan and supporter on August 26, when longtime Friends of the Library board member Joe Goldstein passed away suddenly. I know that some of you knew Joe from the time you have served alongside him on the boards of other community organizations in which he was active, such as the Rotary Club of Dr. Phillips. He was a great advocate for causes he believed in, and he certainly believed in literacy and learning. He helped the library in so many ways, including serving as president of the Friends board, volunteering at book sales and serving on the Director Search Committee. The library and the Friends are grateful to him for his many years of service, and we are going to miss him.

The 5th Annual Melrose Film Festival celebrates the art of visual storytelling in short films, animation, and music videos. This year's festival is all virtual, with online screenings of selections chosen from over 2,000 submissions from more than 90 countries. Categories include Animated Shorts, Documentaries, Micro Shorts, Music Videos, and Short Films. Melrose Center staff will also offer virtual and in-person events on scene and character development, screenwriting, sound effects, 3D animation, and motion capture on select dates throughout the festival. Screenings will premiere Friday, September 9, at noon, and remain accessible through Saturday, September 24, at 6:00 p.m. (Visit [ocls.info/melrose-film-festival](https://ocls.info/melrose-film-festival) for screenings, information about virtual events, and to vote for the audience choice award.)

The Technology and Education Center has been awarded a PLA Literacy Grant to conduct digital literacy programs using [digitallearn.org](https://digitallearn.org) resources. The grant, funded by the Public Library Association and supported by AT&T, offers libraries support in helping to close the digital divide in their communities. The library's TEC will use the grant to offer classes on cyber security, videoconferencing, and internet and email basics. Some of the funding will be used to translate classes into Haitian Creole to be offered at select branches.

On 27 August, the Orlando Public Library hosted its first-ever "In-Person: Orlando Literary Expo," where 201 attendees connected in-person with Orlando-area literary organizations and resources for local writers.

Fairview Shores Branch supports our special needs community and encourages life skills activities and social interaction through events and classes. During August, staff met with the principal and a group of teens from the Avalon Private School, gave them a tour of the branch and created sensory crafts for them to take back. As a part of our efforts to expand our partnership with this school and to expand accessibility to all, staff created a series called "Life Skills for Special Needs," which will feature sensory-inclusive events that will help to stimulate the growth and development of our special needs teen customers.

September is National Library Card Signup Month, and we are celebrating by giving out stickers and pins to people who renew or sign up for a new card this month. For adults, we have "I got carded" pins and stickers, and for kids, we have the option of "I got my first library card." The "I got carded" message is also being shared in ads and promotions this month with a QR code that links to our online library card signup form.

22-134 **Holiday / Closed Day Schedule: FY 2023**

22-135 **Public Comment: Non-Agenda Items**

X. **Adjournment**

Trustee Maladecki, seconded by Trustee Levien, moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 5-0. President Bohannon adjourned the meeting at 6:45 p.m.

**Next Meeting Dates:**

**October 13, 2022 ~ Orlando Public Library; 101 East Central Boulevard; Orlando, Florida 32801 --- November 10, 2022 ~ 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.**