

MEETING MINUTES
ORANGE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES
April 14 2005
Edgewater Branch Library
5049 Edgewater Drive
Orlando, Florida 32810
407-296-5153

- 05-061 I. **Call to Order**
Board Members Present: Sara Brady (4/0); Gloria Fernandez (4/0);
James Tyson (4/1); Tom Kohler (4/1);
Matthew Pardy (4/0)
- Library Administration Present: Mary Anne Hodel; Debbie Moss; Robert Tessier;
Carla Fountain; Eric Atkinson; Marilyn
Hoffman; Craig Wilkins; Sally Fry; Kathryn
Robinson; Milinda Neusaenger
- President Brady called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.
- 05-062 II. **Public Comment**
Public comments of items listed on the agenda will occur just prior to the Board's
discussion and possible action of the agenda item. Public comments of items not listed
on the agenda will occur at the end of the meeting agenda.
- If a request is made for written comments to be included in the official record of this
meeting, it is helpful if the requestor is able to provide the comments in an electronic
format. However, this is not required. This is to ensure the completion and accuracy
of the official record when posted on the Library's website, www.ocls.info . For more
information, contact Milinda Neusaenger at 407.835.7611 or
neusaenger.milinda@ocls.info .
- 05-063 III. **Approval of Minutes: Library Board of Trustees Meeting –
March 10, 2005**
Trustee Tyson, seconded by Trustee Fernandez, moved to approve the minutes of the
March 10, 2005 Board of Trustees Meeting. Motion carried 5-0.
- 05-064 IV. **Staff Presentation: None**
- 05-065 V. **Financial Statements and Summaries: March 2005**
Finance Manager, Janelle McDaniel, gave an overview of the Value Card and how the
concept will enable customers to purchase a card and maintain a monetary balance on it
to pay for photocopying and printing charges. The Value Card project will initially be
implemented as a pilot project at the Main Library and South Creek Branch. If
successful, the project will be implemented system-wide and require Board approval for
the purchase of additional equipment. Brief discussion ensued.
- 05-066 VI. **Statistics and Summaries: March 2005**
Further discussion was not necessary, as the information in the Board Packet was

sufficient.

05-067 VII. **Action Items**

05-068 **Consent Agenda**

In the interest of time, Trustee Kohler seconded by Trustee Pardy, moved to defer Consent Agenda items 05-070 through 05-073 until a future meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

05-069 **Amendment to the Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule**

Trustee Tyson, seconded by Trustee Kohler, moved to approve the proposed changes to the Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule for Fiscal Year 2005. Motion carried 5-0.

05-070 **Kwik Cases for CD's & DVD's**

05-071 **Self Check-out System for West Oaks**

05-072 **Agreement with Unique Management Services for Notices**

05-073 **Collection of Overdue Patron Accounts**

05-074 **Non-Consent Agenda**

Trustee Kohler, seconded by Trustee Pardy, moved to extend time for public comment regarding the Edgewater Branch closure. Motion carried 5-0.

05-074.1 **Commissioner Vicki Vargo to Address the Board of Trustees**

Orlando City Commissioner Vicki Vargo, spoke against the closure of the Edgewater Branch, stating that it is an institution that has for years served the diverse communities in the surrounding area. Commissioner Vargo mentioned the previous talks Library Staff had with City officials regarding a new branch at the nearby Trotter's Park. She stated she was advised that at issue was the fact that the City of Orlando was not willing to give OCLS free land for the branch. Commissioner Vargo again asked to Board to reconsider closing the Edgewater Branch. There were no questions for the Commissioner, however, Trustee Kohler spoke in order to correctly state the position of the City of Orlando's Parks Division regarding a Trotter's Park branch location. Trustee Kohler stated that at issue was not that the City would not donate land for a branch location, but that the price of the building increased as the City continued to add on more requirements. This resulted in the Board and Administration taking a step back in order to readdress the entire strategic allocation of resources. Trustee Kohler also advised that three branches serve the eastern half of Orange County and ten branches serve the western half of the County, and that the Board continues to be the steward of the resources available and needs to be serving the entire County in an equitable and judicious manner. Trustee Kohler stated that it costs approximately one million dollars to operate a branch annually, and that taxes are not rising as fast as the population growth in Orange County, so therefore the Library has a fiduciary responsibility to serve all residents with limited resources. Brief discussion ensued.

05-075 **Edgewater Branch Closure**

The following individuals spoke against the closure of the Edgewater Branch Library:

Murray Marcus – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Ted Lewis – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Shirley Sharpe-Terrell – Aide to Orange County Commissioner Bob Sindler
John Dobbs - Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Daniel Taylor - Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Lois Wilkerson - Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Ashley Bray – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Jayne Thiesing – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Maria Tuzzeo – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Robert Froat – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Jim Greene – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Judy Whitsell – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Lena Fascetti – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Amit Gandhi – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Ellen Wolking – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Patrick Mullery – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Merrell Bailey – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Celeste Houlihan – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Jacquelyn Lamerty – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Harry Lamberty – Orange County Resident
Edie Dossett – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Dena Wolking – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Elizabeth Rohrer – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Roberta Wood – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Nicole Hugues – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Russell Ullom – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Bill Peterson – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Beverly Dasher – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Thomas Hockman, Esq. – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Laura Reich – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Paul Lloyd – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Erminie Furst – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Jenny Williams-Cohen – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Jeanette Hinkle – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
R.J. Nelson – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Harry Hinkle – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Emerson Lacey – Orange County Resident
Mary Thompson – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
David Furst – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Donna Jean Nelms – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Sharon Tatum – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Janet Galloway – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Warren Black – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Rocio Castiblanco – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Jucylene Stewart – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Fran Carlton – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Tammi Eubank – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder
Ken Daubresse – Orange County Resident and Library Cardholder

Public comments concluded at 8:36 p.m.

Branch Administrators Craig Wilkins and Sally Fry, gave a presentation outlining the Strategic Plan objective to address library service and access in the eastern part of Orange County. They discussed the driving distances to branches, and the services loads at some locations, such as the circulation at the Alafaya Branch, which exceeds that of the Hiawassee and Edgewater Branches combined. Mr. Wilkins explained that the distribution of library locations is so divergent in the eastern part of the County when compared to the western part, it is necessary to address the inequality of service provided to those residents in the east side of the County. There are three branches east of downtown and 11 branches west of downtown and residents living in established communities in the east travel anywhere from 7.5 to 12 miles to the nearest branch location. Mr. Wilkins explained that since the Edgewater lease is up for renewal this year, there is an opportunity to terminate the lease in order to financially afford another branch on the east side of the County. Ms. Fry advised that the decision to terminate the lease cannot be delayed as the landlord requires a 90 day notice to terminate, which would need to occur in May. Ms. Fry also stated that another option would be to terminate the Hiawassee lease, which expires in 2010. Discussion ensued.

Trustee Kohler stated he was overwhelmed with the community response regarding the Edgewater Branch. He also stated that when the time comes for the Board and Administration to ask for an increase in millage, he hopes there will be the same community support to address the Governing Board.

Trustee Fernandez stated she was also overwhelmed by the emotion and compassion from members of the community regarding the Edgewater Branch and believes that it is necessary to continue to serve the community – especially the children and schools in the area. Trustee Fernandez advised that she supports renewing the Edgewater lease for another year, and that the Board needs the community's support in order to motivate the landlord to upgrade the center.

Trustee Tyson agreed that he was overwhelmed as well by the community support and that at last month's meeting he had suggested forming a community group to proactively address the situation. Trustee Tyson further stated that the Board has a fiduciary responsibility to all residents in Orange County, including those living in long established developments in East Orange County communities such as in Union Park, South Goldenrod, Christmas, and other areas along East Colonial Drive, who are desirous of additional library locations. Trustee Tyson concurred that Edgewater is a valuable community resource and supports renewing the lease for another year.

Trustee Pardy stated he was very moved by the passionate speeches and that continued community activism is needed to support the Library System when the time comes to seek increased funding so that services can be expanded for everyone throughout the County. Trustee Pardy agreed that he supports renewing the Edgewater lease for another year.

President Brady stated that she was overwhelmed by the support for the Edgewater Branch and that the emails she had received from Edgewater were beautifully

written and the arguments were articulated well and with integrity. She also stated that the all of the members of the Library Board have volunteered to be on the Board because of their personal commitments and devotion to this Library System and that it is not about politics. Trustee Brady stated she supports renewing the Edgewater lease for another year.

Trustee Kohler, seconded by Trustee Pardy, moved to renew the Edgewater Branch Lease for one year. Motion carried 5-0.

Trustee Kohler suggested a standing committee be formed to address issues before the lease is up for renewal next year. He also stated that one of the committee's objectives could be outreach to other parts of the community so that when the time comes to go before the Governing Board asking for an increase in millage, representation and support would not be just from Edgewater and the Northeast part of Orange County, but from all of Orange County.

Trustee Kohler, seconded by Trustee Pardy, moved to establish a standing committee for library support, coordinated by Marilyn Hoffman with a liaison to be determined in the future. Motion carried 5-0.

05-076 VIII. **Discussion and Possible Action Items**

05-077 **Strategic Plan Update**

Trustee Pardy gave a brief overview of the progress made regarding items on the Strategic Plan. He highlighted that there were over 12,000 hits to the FCAT Tutorial website created by OCLS to assist Orange County students and parents in preparing for the tests; and that a program will be formulated to assist kindergartners obtaining the preparatory skills necessary to succeed in grade school.

05-078 **Director's Goals Update**

05-079 IX. **Information**

05-080 **Director's Report**

■OCLS has been selected as the winner of the SOLINET (Southeast Library Network) 2005 Outstanding Library Programs Award for Continuing Education and Staff Development for its Ready, Set, Go! Internal Staff program. The award will be presented at SOLINET's Annual Membership Meeting 5-6 May 2005 in Atlanta.

■OCLS will be interviewing library users who are in the library searching for information but not using the Internet during the week of 23-30 April. The survey is designed as an exit survey of users 18 years of age or older. We are one of five libraries nationwide to be selected. OCLS will receive \$4,690 from the IMLS grant.

■Yesterday's Business section indicated the Colonial Promenade Shopping Center, that houses the Herndon Branch, was sold to Continental Real Estate for \$6.1 million. The article listed the anchors of the Center but did not show the Library's name. The Center is built on land owned by the airport. The article indicates

Continental plans to renovate the Center. They have been managing the Center and now they also own it.

■The Library has been invited to participate in the 3rd Annual Make 'm Smile: Luvin' on the VIP Kids of Central Florida on Saturday, June 4 at the Lake Eola Amphitheatre in Downtown Orlando. This event is for kids with special needs that include any physical, mental or medical disability, chronic or life threatening illness or those that are medically fragile. We will share Library information, register participants for Library cards and have a visit from Squirt.

■The Library has installed display cases on the 3d floor of the Main Library. The five cases display items relating to the history of the OCLS, including a old cards from the original catalog, a letter from Melville Dewey (with phonetic spelling), a doorknob from the Albertson Library as well as the numerous awards the Library has won in more recent times. Stop by a take a look at the lovely displays.

05-081

OCLS As An Employer Survey - 2005

The Library has improved in every category from last year. Noteworthy is the question *OCLS as an Employer Overall*, 94% of Staff Members agreed that OCLS is a great place to work.

05-082

DVD Circulation Parameters

05-083

Winter Garden Project Summary

05-084

Final Eatonville Lease

05-085

Public Comment: Non-Agenda Items

X. **Adjournment**

President Brady adjourned the meeting at 9:43 p.m.

Next Meeting Dates: May 12, 2005 – South Creek Branch Library, 1702 Deerfield Boulevard; Orlando, Florida 32837 --- June 9, 2005 – Herndon Branch Library, 4324 East Colonial Drive; Orlando, Florida 32803.

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.