

MEETING MINUTES
ORANGE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

January 13, 2022 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Orlando Public Library
101 East Central Boulevard
Orlando, Florida 32801

- Library Board Present: Crockett Bohannon (1/0); Richard Maladecki (1/0); Danielle Levien (4/2 - City); Lizannette Tam (1/0)
- Library Board Absent: Nicole Benjamin (4/2 – City)
- Administration Present: Mary Anne Hodel; Steve Powell; Kris Shoemaker; Ricardo Viera; Danielle King; Lynette Schimpf; Milinda Neusaenger
- Administration Absent: Bethany Stone

22-001 I. **Call to Order**

President Bohannon called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
Vice President Benjamin joined the meeting via phone conference.

22-002 II. **Public Comment Policy & Procedures**

22-003 III. **Approval of Minutes: Library Board of Trustees Meeting
December 9, 2021**

Trustee Maladecki, seconded by Trustee Tam, moved to approve the minutes for the December 9, 2021 Library Board of Trustees Meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

22-004 IV. **Presentation: Honoring Mary Anne Hodel in her Retirement**

The following individuals spoke to honor retiring Director Mary Anne Hodel:

Carol Burkett, of Orange County Government – honored Director Hodel with a proclamation from Orange County Mayor Jerry Demings and the Board of County Commissioners naming January 21, 2022 Mary Anne Hodel Day.

Marcia Hope Goodwin, of the City of Orlando – honored Director Hodel with a letter from Mayor Buddy Dyer and the Orlando City Council.

Joe Goldstein, of the Friends of the Library – thanked Director Hodel for always being very supportive of the Friends and for professionally contributing to OCLS and the Friends.

President Bohannon presented the following resolution from the Board:
The Board Resolves:

WHEREAS, Mary Anne Hodel has served as Director/CEO for Orange County Library System since 2002; and

WHEREAS, Orange County Library System operates 15 locations and serves a diverse and growing community of approximately 1.4 million residents; and

WHEREAS, when she started in her role as Director, she recognized the need for the Orange County Library System to update and enhance its facilities and increase the number of technology classes and training opportunities to match the needs of an increasingly digital world; and

WHEREAS, she greatly expanded the library's digital resources, adding virtual programs, live online classes, computer training opportunities and new databases to better serve the community; and

WHEREAS, with the help of a generous donation from the Melrose Family Foundation, she established the Dorothy Lumley Melrose Center for Technology, Innovation and Creativity, at the Orlando Public Library; and

WHEREAS, the Melrose Center is a unique facility that provides public access to professional-quality creative software and equipment, including photo, video and audio studios, as well as classes that train people to use them; and

WHEREAS, she introduced other service innovations, such as ESOL classes for people who needed to improve English-language skills, technology classes in Spanish and Haitian Creole, and a Citizenship Inspired course to assist people in passing the U.S. Naturalization exam; and

WHEREAS she oversaw the relocation of the South Creek, Fairview Shores and Winter Garden branch locations; and

WHEREAS, she oversaw the renovation of the Orlando Public Library and most of the branches; and

WHEREAS she oversaw the addition of the Chickasaw and Eatonville branches to the library system; and

WHEREAS, the Orange County Library System has won numerous awards during her tenure, including the 2010 and 2021 Florida Library of the Year, as well as a 2018 National Medal from the Institute for Museum and Library Services; and

WHEREAS, Mary Anne Hodel won the FLA Lifetime Achievement Award for 2021; and

WHEREAS, Mary Anne Hodel has made an indelible mark on the Orange County Library System, making it a standout institution among modern public libraries; and

WHEREAS Mary Anne Hodel made a point of making a personal connection with her employees, and treated every person with respect; and

WHEREAS Mary Anne Hodel was a steadfast supporter and member of the Friends of the Library, contributing to their efforts to support the Library; and

WHEREAS Mary Anne Hodel demonstrated the library purpose of Learn, Grow, Connect in all her interactions with customers, staff and community members; and

WHEREAS Mary Anne Hodel's legacy is one of service and commitment both to the Library and to the community; and

WHEREAS, Mary Anne Hodel retires from her role at Orange County Library System on January 21, 2022;

Now be it resolved that the Orange County Library System Board of Trustees publicly recognizes, honors, thanks, and congratulates Mary Anne Hodel for her excellent and steadfast service to the Orange County Library System. The Board wishes her well upon her retirement and the next chapter in her life.

AYES: 4 NAYS: 0

The Board and the following individuals praised Director Hodel for her tireless dedication and professionalism in overseeing OCLS: Lisa Franchina, Craig Wilkins,

Ken Gibert and Wendi Bost. The Board presented Director Hodel with a small gift and her portrait and plaque were unveiled.

- 22-005 V. **Financial Statements and Summaries: December 2021**
CFO Shoemaker gave a summary of the December 2021 finances to the Board. He also reported that the annual audit is scheduled to be completed in February. He further reported that negotiations are coming along with Borelli for the design of Horizon West and are in good shape for the contract to be presented at the March meeting. He also indicated that the RFQ's for the Horizon West construction management at risk are out and will be presented to the Board in the near future.
- 22-006 VI. **Dashboard: December 2021**
COO Powell briefed the Board regarding the December 2021 statistics. A Board Member asked about the increase in digital products and he explained the 55% increase is due to the social media marketing that the Marketing and Public Relations Department (MPR) conducted. He also reported that the first episode for the 2022 series of Melrose in the Mix will air on WUCF-TV on January 26th.
- 22-007 VII. **Action Items: None**
- 22-008 VIII. **Discussion and Possible Action Items**
- 22-009 IX. **Information**
- 22-010 **Director's Goals FY 2022 – 1st Quarter Update: Danielle Levien**
Trustee Levien reported that Director Hodel is on target with her goals. She cited several projects that are progressing well, such as: the Melrose stage, a new classroom, the continued meetings with Orange County and the City of Orlando regarding the Horizon West and Lake Nona branch projects, the Creole Connect event at South Trail and the collection of customer stories by MPR to name a few.
- 22-011 **Strategic Plan FY 2022 – 1st Quarter Update**
Director Hodel reported that the progress with the Strategic Plan is positive and moving forward.
- 22-012 **Director's Report**
OCLS achieved the Silver Level recognition with the American Heart Association Workplace Health Achievement Index again this year. Congratulation to the Health Safety and Wellness Team Award.

Window World Will donate \$50,000 again this year to the Library's Summer Reading Program 2022. Thank you, Window World!

The City of Orlando is making changes to the crosswalk on Central Boulevard. They are making it a raised crosswalk. Cars will have to slow down to cross over it and pedestrians will be elevated so car drivers can see them better. Work should be completed by the end of February or early March.

I am delighted to announce that we will finally have a new social worker starting on the January 18th. She is Dalie-Ange Pierre. She has extensive experience in assisting with homelessness and mental health issues and is trilingual with French, Creole, and English. She will be rotating between South Trail, Hiawasee, Southeast, North Orange, and South Trail branches. We are still searching for an additional social worker to help our customers at the Main library.

Windermere Branch will be awarded \$1,000 from the Florida Humanities to host their Florida Talks Series this spring that will feature two separate speakers. More details to come! Congratulations to Leisa Caravello for her efforts on this project!

I wanted to express my thanks and gratitude for the opportunity to serve as the Library Director for the past 20 years. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve this wonderful community and lead this fabulous group of managers and employees. I have confidence in the current administration to keep the Library moving forward, keeping innovation and relevancy to the community uppermost in their mind as they plan the Library's future. It has been my privilege to call you colleagues and friends. I am thankful to the Library's Board of Trustees and the Library's Governing Board for allowing me to lead this amazing organization all these years. Thank you for your past support and I know you will continue to do to provide this community with excellent redefining library service! I also want to thank Mayors Demings and Dyer for their accolades.

22-013

Public Comment: Non-Agenda Items

Ashley Cisneros Mejia – congratulated Director Hodel upon her retirement.

X. **Adjournment**

President Bohannon adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Next Meeting Dates:

February 10, 2022 ~ Orlando Public Library; 101 East Central Boulevard; Orlando, Florida 32801 --- March 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.