

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

**October 13, 2022 ~ 6:00 p.m.**

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

Library Board Present: Crockett Bohannon (10/0); Nicole Benjamin (1/0 – City);  
Richard Maladecki (10/2); Danielle Levien (1/0 - City);

Library Board Absent: Lizannette Tam (10/1)

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

- 22-136 I. **Call to Order**  
President Bohannon called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
- 22-137 II. **Public Comment Policy & Procedures**
- 22-138 III. **Approval of Minutes: Library Board of Trustees Meeting - September 8, 2022**  
Vice President Benjamin, seconded by Trustee Maladecki, moved to approve the minutes for the September 8, 2022 Board of Trustees Meeting. Motion carried 4-0.  
Trustee Levien arrived at 6:06 p.m.
- 22-139 IV. **Staff Presentations:**
- **Melrose Film Festival – Jim Myers**
  - **Orange Crate: Maggie Finley and Mike Raghunath**
- 22-140 V. **Financial Statements and Summaries: September 2022**  
CFO Shoemaker reviewed the twelve-month preliminary year-end statements and reports. He also gave an update on the North Orange Roof and Melrose projects. He also reported that fines are down 62% from 2015.
- 22-141 VI. **Dashboard: September 2022 – Lynette Schimpf**  
CLLO Schimpf reported to the Board that there are trends and increases with some measurement points - such as physical items used, door count, digital downs, classes, etc. and that these trends have been going on for at least 5 months and some for 11 months in a row. She also reported that 95 schools participated in the annual school library card drive with 820 new registrations. She also reported that staff is very excited that OCLS was awarded a \$447,000 grant to purchase 1,000 hotspots to distribute to the community. OCLS will be partnering with Neighborhood Centers for Families as distribution points.
- 22-142 VII. **Action Items:**
- 22-143 **Election of Board Officers and Committee Appointments**  
Trustee Levien nominated President Bohannon as President for another year, Trustee Maladecki seconded the nomination. Motion carried 4-0.  
Trustee Levien nominated Vice President Benjamin as Vice President for another year, Trustee Maladecki seconded the nomination. Motion carried 4-0.

Vice President Benjamin nominated Trustee Levien to continue to chair the Personnel Committee, Trustee Maladecki seconded the nomination. Motion carried 4-0. The remaining committees, Finance, Marketing, Partnership and Planning, will remain vacant until further notice.

22-144 VIII. **Discussion and Possible Action Items**

22-145 **Removing Barriers to Service – Overdue Fines: Sara Gonzalez & Jon Crowley**  
Sara Gonzalez, Southwest Branch Manager, and Jon Crowley, Acquisitions Assistant Manager, presented to the Board recommending the removal of fines for overdue materials which have been known to prevent residents from using library resources. Discussion ensued regarding eliminating fines and how fines collected by the library have gone down in recent years. Trustee Levien stated that it seems the amount of fines revenue is outweighed by the amount of energy staff use to pursue the fines. She further stated that if OCLS is here to serve the community, then limiting access to materials is not the best course of action. Further discussion ensued with Director Powell stating that as demonstrated by other library systems, without fines more materials will be returned and people will be less hesitant to use the library. Trustee Maladecki, seconded by Trustee Levien, moved to authorize staff to eliminate overdue fines in order to remove a barrier to accessing library materials and services. Motion carried 4-0.

22-146 IX. **Information**

22-147 **Strategic Plan FY 2022 ~ 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Update: Steve Powell**  
Director Powell reported that Patron Point is a company that has been hired to use targeted email marketing to reach new customers. He said new user stories are to debut next month. He also reported that the DEIA committee continues to develop, and that grants for the quarter total \$141,000. He stated that he is proud to say all staff participated and contributed to the success of the Plan.

22-148 **Director’s Goals FY 2022 ~ 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Update: Danielle Levien**  
As a part of Director Powell’s goals, Trustee Levien stated that the Countdown to K program was attended by 767 children from May to July. She reported about the six events held for teens that totaled 76 teens in attendance. She also reported that the OCLS 100-year anniversary plans are underway and that the Orange County Regional History Center is partnering with OCLS to plan events.

22-149 **Director’s Report**  
September was National Library Card Signup Month, and as we do every year, we use this as an opportunity to market the value of a library card and to encourage people to sign up. This year’s campaign, “I Got Carded,” used a social media video, ads in digital and print media, posters at libraries and content in e-newsletters to get people’s attention. Customers who signed up for new cards during the month were given stickers or pins to celebrate – similar to the concept of giving out “I Voted” stickers given out on Election Day. During September, our online registration form, where we directed most of our customers to sign up, received 2,329 submissions resulting in 1,392 new adult library card accounts being created. Of those, 431 customers indicated on their submission form that they signed up because of seeing an advertisement (press or social media), receiving an email or being encouraged to sign up by library staff. Also, during September, the Juvenile Library Card registration form received 1,191 submissions resulting in 917 new adult library card accounts being created.

On November 14, at 7 p.m., we will be hosting an information session for the community to talk about plans for the new Horizon West Branch. People can come to learn more about the future of the branch and meet the architects, Borrelli + Partners, and the builders, H.J.

High Construction. The event will be free and open to the public, and it will be held in the Waterleigh Community Clubhouse ballroom.

This year for Hispanic Heritage Month, we had the opportunity to partner with Latino Leadership to host a moving photo display called *Por Siempre María*, which showcases the photography of Janel Norton, who documented the immediate aftermath of Hurricane María in Puerto Rico. Latino Leadership did a presentation and had several speakers on stage to talk about the resilience of the Puerto Rican community. The event drew 112 people, including elected officials such as Orange County Commissioner Maribel Gomez Cordero and Florida Representative Daisy Morales. The photo display will be on the walls at the Orlando Public Library through the end of the year.

The Chickasaw Branch is offering the FIRST Robotics Challenge, a STEAM series that helps kids ages 11-15 build robots and participate in the Annual FIRST Robotics Competition. The series is taught by a UCF engineering student and runs from September 8 until February 20. The participants learn to build a robot while learning engineering concepts and creating a design for their robot that can be entered into the FIRST Robotics Competition in February 2023.

Over the last three years, OCLS has received a total of \$244,300.63 from Orange County Government to provide its award-winning BizKids Club youth entrepreneurship program in underserved communities throughout Orange County. The Citizens Review Panel-funded program ended on September 30, 2022. Although the grant funding has ended OCLS will continue to support and provide youth entrepreneurship to the community.

The new Melrose Gallery saw its first official opening on September 15, with Pedro Berrios' show *Buildings, Lines and Reflections*. Pedro's photographs feature stunning visions of Downtown Orlando architecture. The opening drew 20 attendees.

Finally, I would like to say "thank you, thank you, thank you" to this board from all library staff. Your decision to allow OCLS to go overdue fine free will be a game changer for the community. It fully supports our mission, vision, and values, will allow the entire community to Learn. Grow. Connect. and provide opportunities for staff to change lives in many ways. Again, thank you.

President Bohannon announced that Bethany Stone is the new COO and he congratulated her.

Trustee Maladecki thanked staff for honoring Joe Goldstein in the *Books & Beyond* magazine. He also asked that the topic of naming a room at Main to honor Mary Anne Hodel be on the next meeting agenda in November.

22-150

### **Public Comment: Non-Agenda Items**

#### **X. Adjournment**

Trustee Levien, seconded by Trustee Maladecki moved to adjourn the meeting. President Bohannon adjourned the meeting at 7:22 p.m.

#### **Next Meeting Dates:**

November 10, 2022 ~ Orlando Public Library; 101 East Central Boulevard; Orlando, Florida 32801 --- December 8, 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.**