

MEETING MINUTES
ORANGE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

February 8, 2024 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Orlando Public Library
101 East Central Boulevard
Orlando, Florida 32801

Library Board Present: Crockett Bohannon (2/0); Nicole Benjamin (5/1 – City); Ashley Cisneros Mejia (5/0 – City); Sharon Smoley (2/1)

Library Board Absent: Venessa Tomlin (1/1)

Administration Present: Steve Powell; Bethany Stone; Kris Shoemaker; Yvonne Hartley; Danielle King; Lynette Schimpf; Erin Sullivan; Sara Gonzalez; Leasha Tavernier; Erica Grant; Milinda Neusaenger

- 24-017 I. **Call to Order**
President Bohannon called the meeting to order at 6:09 p.m.
- 24-018 **Oath of Office: New Board Member**
This agenda item is tabled until a later date.
- 24-019 II. **Public Comment Policy & Procedures**
- 24-020 III. **Approval of Minutes: Library Board of Trustees Meeting – January 18, 2024**
Vice President Benjamin, seconded by Trustee Smoley, moved to approve the minutes for the January 18, 2024 Library Board of Trustees Meeting. Motion carried 4-0.
- 24-021 IV. **Staff Presentation: Community Engagement Department: Genevieve Traas**
- 24-022 V. **Financial Statements and Summaries: January 2024**
CFO Shoemaker reviewed the financial reports for January 2024 and reported that Revenues are over 31 million and that additional tax revenues will be received.
- 24-023 VI. **Dashboard: January 2024 – Sara Gonzalez**
Chief of Lifelong Learning Gonzalez shared some highlights from the dashboard. This month there was a 24% (24.47) increase in public computer usage, a 15% (15.11) increase in door count, and a 29% (28.75) increase in circulation. Overall, digital checkouts continue to be strong coming in at nearly 24% (23.57) higher than last January. In fact, January was a record-setting month for digital usage. We set system records in overall digital usage, daily average usage, Hoopla monthly checkouts, Kanopy monthly usage, Kanopy daily checkouts, Overdrive monthly and daily checkouts and Overdrive monthly holds placed.

Records set:

Overall digital usage – 304,917 (previous 290,615 in October 2023)

Daily average usage – 9,836 (previous 9,557 in November 2023)

Hoopla monthly – 35,712 (previous 33,261 in August 2023)

Kanopy monthly – 5,820 (previous 4,925 last month)

Kanopy daily – 264 on 1/31/24 (previous 241 on 12/4/23)

OverDrive monthly – 227,426 (previous 208,442 in October 2023)

OverDrive monthly holds placed – 105,209 (previous 88,509 in July 2023)

OverDrive daily – 8,798 on 1/2/24 (previous 8,580 on 12/29/23)

Event attendance is up by 11% (11.24) from last year. In January 2024, staff offered 1,245 events with an attendance of 34,965. Of these, staff served 6,511 people at 153 Offsite Events. Last year, the library offered 1,089 events with an attendance of 31,366.

Class attendance is also up by 28.4% compared to last year. This year, staff offered 1,027 classes with an attendance of 4,185. In January 2023, staff offered 1,001 classes, with an attendance of 3,259. CLL Gonzalez shared a couple of unique events that staff facilitated. On 15 January, West Oaks Branch staff participated in the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Unity Day Parade. A total of 66 staff members and Library customers walked together in the parade, distributed Library giveaways, and carried posters in support of Dr. King's message of community, equity, and togetherness. On January 31st, the Melrose Center Audio Studio hosted and recorded a segment of the popular podcast *A Corporate Time with Tom & Dan*. The show's remote session highlighted the Melrose Center's 10th Anniversary celebration happening on Saturday, February 10th. Tom Vann, Daniel Dennis and show Producer Samantha Haar welcomed three guests – local Hip Hop luminary E-Turn, and Jim Myers and Marko Torres from the Melrose Center. During the segment (which aired Monday, February 5th) E-Turn discussed her previous performances at the Melrose Center, and that she'll be taking the Melrose Stage at the 10th anniversary to perform her first Orlando show in more than a year before going on tour. It was great welcoming the Tom & Dan show back to Melrose and as always, we appreciate their support. The January Mystery Shopper Reports were very high for January 2024. All branches/departments earned 90% or higher.

24-024 VII. **Action Item – Consent Agenda:**

24-025 **Southwest Author Event Request to Serve Alcohol: Leasha Tavernier**
Trustee Smoley, seconded by Vice President Benjamin, moved to approve the serving of alcoholic beverages in accordance with the Board-approved policy at the event on April 12, 2024, at the Southwest Branch Library. Motion carried 4-0.

24-026 VIII. **Discussion and Possible Action Items**

24-027 IX. **Information**

24-028 **Director's Goals: 1st Quarter Update: Sharon Smoley**
Trustee Smoley reported that she met with Director Powell and he is current with his goals and that there are no issues or concerns.

24-029 **Director's Report**

On January 24, Bethany Stone, Erin Sullivan and I went to Tallahassee to participate in Florida Library Association's Library Day. Every year, FLA urges libraries to visit legislators in their offices at the Capitol to ask for their support for initiatives that help libraries offer vital services to the community. This year, we met with Senators Dennis Baxley, Geraldine Thompson, Victor Torres and an aide to Senator Jason Brodeur. In the House, we met with Reps. Rita Harris, Carolina Amesty, Johanna Lopez and Anna Eskamani. We urged everyone we met with to support FLA's legislative platform, which includes funding for workforce development programs, including Career Online High School, State Aid to Libraries and the Construction Grant Fund. Overall, we were received warmly by the Orange County delegation. They had good questions for us about how they can support libraries, and many of them asked us to make sure we kept in touch with them about upcoming library events and initiatives.

On January 30, Bethany Stone and I attended the Orange County Public School Board meeting to see the school board honor Audrey Wooten, the 9-year-old who dropped off more than \$700 worth of toys for the Mayor's Toy Drive at Orlando Public Library. Audrey, who raised the money to purchase the toys by herself, is a student at Audubon Park Elementary School, and we were happy to be able to see her donation recognized by OCPS.

On January 26th, Special Projects Coordinator, Gabrielle Baco, along with Eatonville Branch staff, hosted award-winning children's author Alicia D. Williams for a meet the author event at the Eatonville Branch.

More than 100 customers attended this event, including several groups of students from local schools, which was a part of this year's ZORA! Festival Season – a monthlong celebration honoring the legacy of Zora Neale Hurston. Baco and Williams also visited Saint Andrew Catholic School to host a writing workshop for a group of 21 middle school students. During the workshop, students played games, participated in writing exercises, and had the opportunity to share their writing projects with the author and their fellow students.

This coming Saturday, February 10, Melrose Center celebrates its 10th anniversary. Melrose has come a long way in a decade, now boasting its own stage, full-size whisper booths, a *Melrose in the Mix* TV show on WUCF, and studios that are always bustling with activity. The celebration will include an open house, a special musical performance by Orlando hip hop artist E-Turn, a Second Saturday improv show, and an announcement about the return of the Melrose Awards. The event begins at 2 p.m.

Another significant event happening this month is the return of the annual African American Read-In, which takes place at Orlando Public Library on February 18 at 2 p.m. Local media personalities, musicians, artists and elected officials will take the stage to illuminate the work of African American authors and poets by reading and performing some of their favorite works on the Library Central stage.

One final note: When you pick up your February issue of *Books & Beyond* this month, you'll notice that it has a fresh look. The goal is to evolve our monthly publication from a listing of library events to become more of a magazine that provides information and insights that help people better connect with the library. This month's issue features a story about the Hannibal Square History Center, which recently joined our Local Wanderer program, as well as a brief profile about one of our Branch Outreach Specialists. We hope our customers will enjoy learning more about the library with each issue.

24-030

Public Comment: Non-Agenda Items

Joan Bannister – spoke about an incident in which she lost her keys that had fallen into the toilet at the Hiawassee branch.

Vice President Benjamin, seconded by Trustee Cisneros Mejia, moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0.

X. **Adjournment**

President Bohannon adjourned the meeting at 6:41 p.m.

Next Meeting Dates:

March 14, 2024 ~ Orlando Public Library; 101 East Central Boulevard; Orlando, Florida 32801 --- April 11, 2024 ~ Orlando Public Library; 101 East Central Boulevard; Orlando, Florida 32801 ---

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.