

MEETING MINUTES
ORANGE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 02, 2024 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Orlando Public Library
101 East Central Boulevard
Orlando, Florida 32801

Library Board Present: Crockett Bohannon (5/0); Nicole Benjamin (8/1 – City); Ashley Cisneros Mejia (8/0 – City); Venessa Tomlin (4/1)

Library Board Absent: Sharon Smoley (5/3)

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

- 24-060 I. **Call to Order**
 President Bohannon called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.
- 24-061 II. **Public Comment Policy & Procedures**
- 24-062 III. **Approval of Minutes:**
- **Library Board of Trustees Meeting – April 11, 2024**
 Trustee Tomlin, seconded by Trustee Cisneros Mejia, moved to approve the minutes for the April 11, 2024 Board Meeting. Motion carried 4-0.
 - **Board Strategic Plan Retreat – April 13, 2024**
 Vice President Benjamin, seconded by Trustee Tomlin, moved to approve the minutes for the Board's Strategic Plan Retreat. Motion carried 4-0.
- 24-063 IV. **Staff Presentation: Social Worker Services Video: Danielle King**
 Chief of Neighborhood Services King reported that the library currently has four social workers on staff. One is dedicated to serving clients at the Orlando Public Library (Thomas) and one Spanish speaking social worker (Stephanie) who visits the Alafaya, Southeast, South Creek and Chickasaw branches. There is also a Haitian Creole speaking social worker (Chantal) who visits the South Trail, Hiwassee, Fairview Shores, and North Orange branches. There is also a new position; Outreach Social Worker (Yvette) and she provides social services out in the community with various community partners. For instance, she is working with Healthy West Orange to provide educational series to seniors and she is attending the OCPS Homeless Resource Summit to provide information on housing resources. She is also working on developing a network of service providers who agree to work together. Thus far, 24 organizations have joined the collaboration and identified liaisons within their organizations to help customers access service more efficiently. WKMG recently did a feature on the service the social workers provide at the library.
- 24-064 V. **Financial Statements and Summaries: April 2024**
 CFO Shoemaker reported that since the Board approved the Horizon West building project at the April 2024 Board meeting, he will begin to provide monthly reports in the future. He also stated that the financial reports provided are as of April 24, 2024, and the full April 2024 statements will be issued at the June Board meeting.
- 24-065 VI. **Dashboard: April 2024 – Danielle King**

CNS King shared that in April there was a 7% increase in physical materials checked out, a 17% increase in digital checkouts, which is an average of 9,423 items per day. There was also a 19% increase in door count.

Event attendance went up 54% and technology class attendance went up 6% compared to last year. Staff hosted a total of 1,500 events with a total attendance of 45,814. From that total attendance, 37,283 were for in-person events and 8,531 were events hosted offsite. Staff also attended 54 community events, reaching 4,362 people. The Community Engagement team checked out 498 library items and registered 387 people for library cards during these offsite events, the highest since the department was formed in October.

CNS King also highlighted and shared the following stories:

On April 8, many library locations across the system hosted Eclipse Viewing Parties. Staff hosted 16 different viewing parties, with a total of 3,872 attendees. The Orlando Public Library partnered with the Orange County Regional History Museum and 392 people gathered at Heritage Square Park to view the eclipse in real time and participate in eclipse activities. At the Washington Park Branch, the Central Florida Astronomical Society visited and set up a telescope for viewing. At the Eatonville Branch, Congressman Maxwell Frost stopped by and viewed the eclipse with some of the library's youngest customers.

Leading up to eclipse day, staff hosted educational programs where customers could get their solar viewing glasses. In April, staff hosted a total of 38 eclipse programs reaching 4,737 attendees. OCLS received 20,000 solar viewing glasses and 4 kits which included the solar telescopes and sun spotters for eclipse programming from the Space Science Institute's STAR Net team in preparation for both the Annular Eclipse in October and the Total Eclipse in April. Customers were very happy with programs staff offered, and the Chickasaw Branch received a card that read "*Dear Librarians, thank you for giving us the solar eclipse glasses. We saw the moon! It was orange! Thank you. P.S. We love coming to the library!*" The events were successful, and staff will be prepared and ready for the next eclipse in 2044, in just 20 more years.

Ms. King shared a story from the Southwest Branch. It is exciting to see what library students do with the knowledge they gain when taking a class, Staff were so happy that this student, customer Mildred N. shared a photo with the Southwest Technology Trainer, Rebecca Sung after taking her Hand Sewing Sashiko classes:

"Lessons applied. Thank you so much for your classes. They are amazing. This is one of those good things that have come out of the pandemic. Reaching out over the city and bringing us to learn together something great that helps us relax and enjoy time together."

The last item she shared is the Southwest Author Series. On April 12, there were 89 customers who participated in the 17th Annual "Southwest Author Series" featuring bestselling author, Lauren Groff at the Southwest Branch. This annual event is presented in partnership with the Rotary Club of Dr. Phillips. It was very fortunate to have this author speak at the event because shortly after, it was announced that Lauren Groff was named as one of the 100 Most Influential People of 2024 by *Time Magazine*.

Horizon West Opening Day Collection Purchase: Bethany Stone

Trustee Tomlin, seconded by Vice President Benjamin, moved to approve the vendor ranking: 1. Baker & Taylor, LLC; 2. Brodart Company; 3. Ingram Library Services, LLC., and to approve the opening day collection purchase not to exceed \$1.25 million, and to authorize staff to execute a contract with Baker & Taylor, LLC to supply the Horizon West Branch opening day collection. Motion carried 4-0.

24-067 VIII.

Discussion and Possible Action Items**PRELIMINARY Orange County Library District Annual Budget FY 2024-2025: Steve Powell**

Director Powell asked the Board if there were any questions regarding the Budget and there were none. He also reported that he, Bethany Stone and Kris Shoemaker will be meeting with the members of the Library Governing Board in May and June regarding next year's budget.

24-068 IX.

Information

24-069

Director's Goals FY 2024: 2nd Quarter Update – Sharon Smoley

This topic was tabled until another meeting.

24-070

Director's Report

On April 11, Youth Services hosted the Orange County Public Schools High School Battle of the Books, in which 96 students and their teachers participated in a fun reading competition at Orlando Public Library. Battle of the Books consisted of teams from 13 schools from around Orange County. Students competed in escape rooms themed around titles from the Florida Teens Read list, and the challenges tested how much the students knew about each title on the list. After a final battle on the main stage in Library Central, Edgewater High School emerged victorious and claimed the trophy.

On April 23, the Downtown Orlando Partnership presented OCLS with a Golden Brick Award of Excellence for our 100 Year Celebration. The award recognizes the library for the yearlong initiative, which "highlighted the past, present, and future of the library, positioning it as a welcoming destination that has had something to offer for everyone for the past century." Every single person who works at OCLS played a role in making the 100 Year Celebration successful, and they continue to make our libraries vital and relevant, so congratulations to everyone on staff for earning this recognition. And many thanks to the DOP for the award – it's always a thrill to see our work highlighted alongside the other amazing organizations, people, and projects that make Orlando special.

On April 25, the library hosted a Take Our Children to Work Day for all OCLS families. Employees with children ages 8-15 were invited to bring their kids with them to work for the day, to experience tours, and activities, and a chance to see the kinds of jobs their parents, grandparents, or caregivers do. There was a unique experience for children and caregivers at the West Oaks Library and Genealogy Center. The branch was the recipient of 32 *Asclepias incarnata* (Swamp milkweed) plugs from the organization, Monarchwatch.org. As part of their Take Our Children to Work Day, staff members and their youngsters got their hands dirty as they added these valuable plants to the "collection." Monarch Watch is an outreach program based at the University of Kansas. Their goal is to restore milkweeds in landscapes and habitats to increase populations of these beautiful pollinators. Overall, 31 kids participate in this year's Take Our Children to Work Day.

On May 18, the Orlando Book Festival takes over the Orlando Public Library. This annual event is a daylong celebration of books, featuring keynote speakers, panel discussions, book signings, and opportunities for readers and writers to connect. This year's keynote speaker is *New York Times* bestselling author Tayari Jones, whose 2018 novel *An American Marriage* was an Oprah's Book Club selection and an entry in President Barack Obama's summer reading list. The event will also feature panels on illustration, writing for children, romance, and authors who write about life in the Sunshine State.

24-071

Public Comment: Non-Agenda Items

Ms. J. Bannister signed up online to speak, but she did not answer the call to address the Board.

X. **Adjournment**

Trustee Tomlin, seconded by Trustee Cisneros Mejia moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0. President Bohannon adjourned the meeting at 6:36 p.m.

Next Meeting Dates: June 13, 2024 ~ Orlando Public Library; 101 East Central Boulevard; Orlando, Florida 32801 --- July 11, 2024 ~ 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.