

MEETING MINUTES
ORANGE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

July 10, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

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

Library Board Present: Crockett Bohannon (6/1); Nicole Benjamin (8/2 – City);
Ashley Cisneros Mejia (8/0 – City);
Venessa Tomlin (6/0)

Library Board Absent: Sharon Smoley (6/3)

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

Administration Absent: Sara Gonzalez

- 25-089 I. Call to Order**
President Bohannon called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
- 25-090 II. Public Comment Policy & Procedures**
- 25-091 III. Approval of Minutes: June 12, 2025 Library Board of Trustees Meeting**
Vice President Benjamin, seconded by Trustee Tomlin, moved to approve the minutes for the June 12, 2025 Library Board of Trustees Meeting.
Motion carried 4-0.
- 25-092 IV. Staff Presentation: Melrose Center – Jim Myers**
- 25-093 V. Financial Statements and Summaries: June 2025**
CFO Shoemaker reported to the Board that 92.6%, over \$67,000,000, of Ad Valorem Taxes have been received thus far, which is in line with year-to-date expectations. He also reported that over \$414,000 in donations have been received. This includes \$55,000 from Window World for the Summer at Your Library program and \$306,318 from the estate of Henry Doose.
- 25-094 VI. Dashboard: June 2025 – Danielle King**
Chief of Neighborhood Services King shared a few highlights of the June statistics. Door count was up 1%, card registrations were down 7%, but checkouts were up 4%. Digital usage continues to grow with a 16% increase in usage compared to June 2024. 344,485 items were checked out which is an average of 11,483 items per day.
- Attendance for events and classes decreased by 8%. A key factor affecting the summer statistics this year is the change to the Summer Breakspot Program provided by OCPS. Due to budget cuts at OCPS, the program's duration was reduced from 1 hour to 30 minutes at participating branches. As a result, there was a 44% decline in attendance for the month of June compared to last year.
- She shared that the Mystery Shopper Score program achieved an average score of 98%, with every location earning at least 90% or higher. Furthermore, the

average Net Promoter Score is 94%, based on the survey question, "I would recommend using the library to friends and family."

After a soft roll out of the library's new app on June 2, the marketing campaign was released on June 23rd. As of today, 5,681 people have installed the app, 4,395 from Apple and 1,286 from Android.

Ms. King shared a quote from a Winter Garden customer "In a world full of pricey streaming apps and constant screen time, OCLS is the ultimate free subscription. It's education, fun and rooted in something deeper: community, imagination, and access for all. We love it. We use it. We tell everyone about it."

25-095

Strategic Plan: June 2025 – Danielle King

CNS King shared some highlights that the library accomplished this month for the strategic plan. Both items support the goal of "Be Welcoming."

In efforts to partner with more organizations willing to host offsite library events, the Customer Engagement Department leadership team met with officials at the Orange County Jail to explore options for expanding their partnership and providing more services to inmates.

In efforts to evaluate the customer experience in public spaces, new public PC furniture was installed at the Orlando Public Library, each accommodating three PCs while offering customers a greater sense of privacy. The updated layout has enhanced the space's openness and overall appeal.

25-096

VII. Action Items: Consent Agenda

Trustee Tomlin, seconded by Trustee Cisneros Mejia, moved to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Motion carried 4-0.

25-097

Orlando Public Library First Floor Renovation Project Design Services Amendment #1: Bethany Stone

The Board approved Amendment #1 design services budget of \$112,500, which includes a \$7,628 contingency; and they approved the amended design services budget for the OPL First Floor Renovation Project of \$1,312,500; and authorized the Director/CEO to execute Amendment #1 with Borrelli for \$104,872.

25-098

Southwest Branch Lighting Replacement Project: Leasha Tavernier

The Board authorized the Director/CEO to execute a contract with Ruby Builders for \$104,400; and they approved the project of \$135,250, which includes a \$8,850 contingency.

25-099

VIII. Action Items: Non-Consent Agenda: None

25-100

IX. Discussion and Possible Action Items

25-101

X. Information

25-102

Director's Report

During the month of June, Director Powell, Chief Operating Officer Bethany Stone, and Chief Financial Officer Kris Shoemaker, met with the Governing Board to go over highlights from the past year and present the budget proposal for 2025-2026. He reported that the meetings went well, and they received a lot of positive feedback from the County Commissioners and Mayor Demings about the work OCLS has been doing in the community.

Staff recently announced the names of the authors coming to town for OCLS' biggest and most popular author events. On Friday, September 26, the Chickasaw Branch will host bestselling author Abby Jimenez (*Say You'll Remember Me, Just for the Summer*) as the featured speaker for Romance, Wine and Chocolate. Tickets go on sale on August 1. On January 17, 2026, OCLS will host author Nicholas Sparks (*The Notebook, Nights in Rodanthe*) at the Dr. Phillips Center for the Performing Arts for the second annual Lillian Louise Pharr author series event. Tickets will go on sale on October 3.

Every year, when the legislative session ends, some local elected officials like to use library locations to host mobile office hours for constituents. This summer, OCLS is hosting mobile office hours for Rep. Erica Booth, Rep. Rita Harris, Rep. Anna Eskamani and Sen. Kristen Arrington.

Partnerships are one of the most impactful ways to reach the community, and July marks 20 years of hosting storytimes with city partner Leu Gardens. On July 7, staff worked with the City of Orlando to mark the occasion. Mayor Buddy Dyer and his wife Susie attended the event and sat in on a storytime. The media were in attendance to cover the event, as well, raising the profile of OCLS' relationship with this beloved Orlando garden. Friends of the Orange County Library System contributed to the event by donating books that were given away to children in attendance.

Director Powell shared a video showing progress in Horizon West. This drone fly-through, shot by H.J. High, gives one an idea of how construction is advancing.

25-103

Public Comment: Non-Agenda Items

XI. Adjournment

Vice President Benjamin, seconded by Trustee Tomlin, moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0. President Bohannon adjourned the meeting at 6:37 p.m.

Next Meeting Dates:

August 14, 2025: Orlando Public Library, 101 East Central Boulevard, Orlando, Florida 32801

September 11, 2025: Orlando Public Library, 101 East Central Boulevard, Orlando, Florida 32801

Section 286.0105, Florida Statutes, states that if a person decides to appeal any decision made by a board, agency, or commission with respect to any matter considered at a meeting or hearing, he or she will need a record of the proceedings, and that, for such purpose, he or she may need to ensure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

La Sección 286.0105 de los Estatutos de la Florida establece que si una persona decide apelar cualquier decisión tomada por una junta, agencia o comisión con respecto a cualquier asunto considerado en una reunión o audiencia, necesitará un registro de los procedimientos y que, para tal fin, es posible que deba asegurarse de que se haga un registro literal de los procedimientos. cuyo expediente incluye los testimonios y las pruebas en que se basará la apelación.

Seksyon 286.0105, Lwa Florida, deklare ke si yon moun deside fè apèl kont nenpòt desizyon ki te pran pa yon tablo, ajans, oswa komisyon ki gen rapò ak nenpòt pwoblèm konsidere nan yon reyinyon oswa yon odyans, li pral bezwen yon dosye sou pwosedi yo, e ke, pou rezon sa yo, li ka bezwen asire ke yon dosye vèbal nan pwosedi yo fèt, ki dosye gen ladan temwayaj ak prèv ki montre apèl la dwe baze.

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Si tiene problemas de audición o del habla, puede comunicarse con los números de teléfono anteriores marcando 711.

Orange County pa fè diskriminasyon sou baz ras, koulè, orijin nasyonal, sèks, laj, relijyon, andikap oswa sitiyaasyon fanmi. Moun ki gen kesyon oswa enkyetid konsènan non diskriminasyon, moun ki bezwen asistans espesyal dapre Lwa Ameriken andikape yo (ADA), ak moun ki bezwen asistans nan lang (gratis) ta dwe kontakte Kowòdonatè Tit VI/Nondiscrimination nan access@ocfl.net oswa lè yo rele 3-1-1 (407-836-3111). Si w gen pwoblèm pou tande oswa pou w pale, ou ka kontakte nimewo telefòn ki anwo yo lè w konpoze 711.