

MEETING MINUTES
ORANGE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

May 14, 2026 6:00 p.m.

Orlando Public Library
101 East Central Boulevard
Orlando, Florida 32801

Library Board Present: Crockett Bohannon (5/0); Venessa Tomlin (5/1); Sharon Smoley (5/1)

Library Board Absent: Nicole Benjamin (7/3 – City); Ashley Cisneros Mejia (7/2 – City)

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

Administration Absent: Danielle King

- 26-068 I. Call to Order**
 President Bohannon called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.
- 26-069 II. Public Comment Policy & Procedures**
- 26-070 III. Approval of Minutes:**
- **Personnel Committee Meeting: April 7, 2026**
 - **Library Board of Trustees Meeting: April 9, 2026**
 - **Personnel Committee Meeting: April 17, 2026**
 - **Finance Committee Meeting: May 4, 2026**
- Trustee Smoley, seconded by Trustee Tomlin, moved to approve the minutes. Motion carried 3-0.
- 26-071 IV. Staff Presentation: Bookmobile, Horizon West and Lake Nona Update: Bethany Stone**
 COO Stone briefed the Board with project updates and reported that plans are underway for forthcoming grand opening events.
- 26-072 V. Financial Statements and Summaries: April 2026 ~ Kris Shoemaker**
 CFO Shoemaker briefed the Board on the current state of revenues, expenditures and project budgets.
- 26-073 VI. Dashboard: April 2026: Leasha Tavernier**
 Chief of Neighborhood Services Tavernier gave the Board an overview of the April statistics. She reported that checkouts were up 3% over last April and the trend of digital item circulation continues to grow. Digital checkouts were up 12% over last April with over 376,000 items used.

She reported that events and class attendance was up by 6% with 2,000 more attendees at events over last April. While fewer events were offered, the difference is nominal. Fifteen fewer events were provided this April and those are accounted for by the April 25th closure at OPL due to the Puerto Rican Parade and Festival. For context, a typical day of events and classes at OPL is over 15, so these would have been more without the closure. Overall, achieving

a 6% increase in attendance despite a slight decrease in offerings is a very positive outcome.

In the spotlight this month is offsite contacts. Both website visits and Questline interactions are down, and this is not unexpected in these areas with the rollout of the OCLS app since the app is now another way for customers to interact with library services. Speaking of the app, more people are discovering it with 1,113 apple downloads and 367 android downloads in April.

There are two customer comments to share this month. The first is from customer Grace G., *Dear Librarians, Thank you so much for everything you do! I am so grateful for all of the OCLS Services, but especially book delivery, Libby, and Hoopla! I saved over \$1,500 last year and over \$600 this year vs buying new. Thank you!* The second comment comes from radio station XL106.7, the hosts were celebrating 407 Day and read comments sent to the station. One comment was *Orlando has the best library system in the country.*

- 26-074 Annual Plan Update: April 2026: Leasha Tavernier**
CNS Tavernier highlighted an event under the primary goal of *Be Connected*: The library launched the annual Friends of the Library Head Start Book giveaway event, visiting 26 locations to provide books and storytime sessions to 1,815 children enrolled in Head Start.
- 26-075 VII. Action Items: Consent Agenda**
Trustee Tomlin, seconded by Trustee Smoley, moved to approve the items on the Consent Agenda. Motion carried 3-0.
- 26-076 South Trail Branch Lease Extension: Leasha Tavernier**
The Board approved the terms of the fourth amendment to the lease agreement with Orange Blossom Associates, LLC., and authorized staff to execute the fourth amendment to the lease agreement with Orange Blossom and Associates, LLC.
- 26-077 Lake Nona Furniture Purchase: Bethany Stone**
The Board authorized staff to execute a contract with BOS for \$466,385.87, and approved the project budget of \$499,032.87, which includes a \$32,647 contingency.
- 26-078 VIII. Action Items: Non-Consent Agenda**
- 26-079 IX. Discussion and Possible Action Items**
- 26-080 PROPOSED Orange County Library District Budget FY 2026-2027: Steve Powell**
Director Powell gave the Board a thorough review of the proposed budget for the FY 2026 – 2027. Trustee Smoley asked that the Finance Committee be included in next year’s timeline.
- 26-081 Finance Committee Formation**
The Board adjourned the meeting at 6:55 p.m. and convened as the Finance Committee. Trustee Smoley, seconded by Trustee Tomlin, moved to approve the virtual and in-person Finance Committee meeting schedules. Motion carried 3-0.

Trustee Smoley, seconded by Trustee Tomlin, moved to nominate President Bohannon as the Finance Committee chair. Motion carried 3-0. The Finance Committee meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

The May Board meeting was reconvened at 7:04 p.m.

26-082

X. Information

26-083

Director's Report Master Plan Survey Update

Staff recently met with the consultants supporting the Master Planning project to review preliminary survey data. Participation exceeded expectations, with more than 6,000 online responses, over 180 staff surveys completed, and around 350 in-person responses at events.

Notable Recognitions

OCLS received several recognitions this past month:

- The Florida Library Association (FLA), selected Fairview Shores Branch Librarian Ashton Maggard as the recipient of the 2026 Outstanding New Librarian Award.
- Maria Guerrero, board member of the Friends of the Orange County Library System, was named FLA's Outstanding Citizen for her dedicated support of OCLS. She has dedicated over 15 years championing the Orange County Library System as a Friends of the Library board member and arts advocate.
- Melrose Center received a Golden Brick Award in the Technology and Innovation category from the Downtown Orlando Partnership for the 2025 Orlando Game Jam.

April Event Highlights

- Southwest Author Series: More than 150 attendees heard author Tess Gerritson speak at the Southwest Branch.
- Battle of the Books: Over 140 students who read Sunshine State Young Readers Award titles participated in this lively literary competition at Orlando Public Library.
- The Story Beneath the Story: This virtual program with author Janice Hardy attracted more than 125 attendees and focused on using dialogue to reveal hidden character motives.

Upcoming Dates

- June 1: Summer at Your Library begins
- June 11–12: Southern Fried Poetry Slam events at Melrose Conference Room and Orlando Public Library third-floor meeting rooms

App Engagement

There have been more than 37,000 app downloads to date.

Community Engagement

On April 11, Horizon West Branch Manager Lelia Higgins represented OCLS at the American Heart Association's Orlando Heart Ball. Her participation reflects the ongoing partnership between OCLS and the AHA.

User Impact Story

The Marketing and Public Relations Department has been looking for unique stories that highlight the unexpected value that customers find at the library.

[Here](#) is a video featuring Breanna Covington, a WWE wrestler who also goes by the name Layla Diggs. She uses the sewing studios to make her costumes.

26-084 Public Comment: Non-Agenda Items

XI. Adjournment

Trustee Tomlin, seconded by Trustee Smoley, moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 3-0. President Bohannon adjourned the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Next Meeting Dates:

June 11, 2026: Orlando Public Library, 101 East Central Boulevard, Orlando, Florida 32801;
July 9, 2026: 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.