

MEETING MINUTES
ORANGE COUNTY LIBRARY SYSTEM BOARD OF TRUSTEES

June 11, 2026 6:00 p.m.

Orlando Public Library
101 East Central Boulevard
Orlando, Florida 32801

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

Library Board Absent: Nicole Benjamin (8/4 – City)

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

Administration Absent: Erica Grant

- 26-080 I. Call to Order**
President Bohannon called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.
- 26-081 II. Public Comment Policy & Procedures**
- 26-082 III. Approval of Minutes:**
- **Library Board of Trustees Meeting: May 14, 2026**
 - **Finance Committee Meeting: May 14, 2026**
 - **Finance Committee Meeting: June 1, 2026**
- Trustee Smoley, seconded by Trustee Tomlin, moved to approve the minutes for the three meetings. Motion carried 4-0.
- 26-083 IV. Staff Presentation: Melrose Center Golden Brick Award: Stephanie Lum & Juan Rivera**
- 26-084 V. Financial Statements and Summaries: May 2026: Kris Shoemaker**
CFO Shoemaker reported that the library budgeted \$8,000,000 for various building improvement projects such as the OPL's roof replacement, OPL's front entrance improvements, OPL's first-floor renovation design, various HVAC replacements and other system-wide improvements. The \$2,151,257 expended thus far is primarily related to the first-floor renovation design, South Trail carpet replacement, Bookmobile leased space renovation and the OPL roof replacement.
- 26-085 VI. Dashboard: May 2026: Sara Gonzalez**
Chief of Lifelong Learning Gonzalez shared some highlights from the May dashboard, as well as some insights into those statistics.
- Checkouts were up 5% over last May and the growth trend of digital items circulation continues. Digital checkouts were up 12% over last May with over 389,000 items used. Which is, again, a new record for monthly digital usage. This record was recently broken in March 2026 with 379,104 items utilized.
- Attendance at events and classes was down by 18%. Notably, OCLS hosted the Orlando Book Festival last year but, not this year. Historically, this event has

been funded by a Florida Humanities grant, which unfortunately wasn't available in time to support it this year. Another contributing factor to the decline in events & classes is the strategic shift away from scavenger hunts and other take-home, passive programming. These continue to be offered, but now the focus is on more active programming.

In the spotlight this month is internet access. Computer sessions were flat from 2025 to 2026 while WiFi sessions decreased by 42%. This is once again due to the change in the way WiFi sessions are calculated, and this discrepancy will continue in comparing the numbers until 2027.

CLL Gonzalez shared two customer comments: The first one, *Kudos to the Orange County Library and to instructors Ms. Brenda and Ms. Carmen for their Spanish-language offerings. Learning a new language boosts mental sharpness and opens doors to meaningful connections. It's a gem of a program and a perfect reminder of why public libraries matter.* This was published in the Orlando Sentinel on May 15th in the "Ticked Off: The Flip Side" section.

The second comment was sent via e-mail to the Youth Services department regarding the "1,000 Books Before Kindergarten" program: *Just wanted to share... Hannah (age 1) has Down syndrome, and I have been told if I can teach her to read by kindergarten, the world will view her as competent. I'm grateful to our library system for all the resources available to both my children. My son, Luke (age 6) completed his challenge before his third birthday and currently reads at a 10th grade level, as per a recent assessment/STAR test. Hannah is very interested in books, and adores her visits to the Windermere branch, where she is always greeted by the happiest, kindest people. My family just wants you to know how much we appreciate you and the OCLS.*

26-086

Annual Plan Update: May 2026: Sara Gonzalez

CLL Gonzalez highlighted an event under the primary goal of *Be Connected*: Seniors First celebrated its 60th anniversary with an exhibition of artwork at the South Trail branch. The artwork was created by ten Seniors First clients as part of the virtual program Project Connect.

26-087

VII. Action Items: Consent Agenda

26-088

VIII. Action Items: Non-Consent Agenda

26-089

IX. Discussion and Possible Action Items

26-090

X. Finance Committee Meeting

This meeting was cancelled.

26-091

XI. Information

26-092

**Director's Report
Summer at Your Library**

Summer at Your Library kicked off on June 1 and runs through July 26, and the library got started with some good press from the Orlando Weekly, which reported on the fact that kids who sign up for the Summer Reading Challenge will receive a free book to take home, courtesy of the Friends of the Orange County Library System. Prizes for the summer reading challenge were generously underwritten once again by Window World of Orlando.

May Statistical Highlights

OCLS had the highest number of unique customers ever, with 105,701, approximately 5,000 more than any other month.

Legislative Update

At the end of May, staff received an email from Gray Robinson stating that the governor had called for a special session to begin June 1 to address property taxes. They shared the text of his proposed legislation, and OCLS responded by sending letters to the library's delegation members to urge them to consider the impact not just on OCLS, but on libraries across the state that will experience funding shortfalls if drastic tax cuts are made.

On June 2, the Florida Legislature voted to send Gov. Ron DeSantis' proposal to overhaul property taxes to voters in November. If passed, the measure will increase property-tax exemptions on homesteaded properties to \$150,000 beginning January 1, 2027; in 2028, property tax exemptions will be increased to \$250,000 in assessed value.

Before the vote, an amendment was proposed to Rep. Anna Eskamani to protect funding for libraries; unfortunately, her amendment did not pass. But the discussion about the value of libraries on the floor is worth [watching](#).

26-093

Public Comment: Non-Agenda Items

XII. Adjournment

Trustee Tomlin, seconded by Trustee Cisneros Mejia, moved to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried 4-0. President Bohannon adjourned the meeting at 6:44 p.m.

Next Meeting Dates:

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

August 13, 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 decide 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.

Orange County does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability or family status. Those with questions or concerns about nondiscrimination, those requiring special assistance under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and those requiring language assistance (free of charge) should contact the Title VI/Nondiscrimination Coordinator at access@ocfl.net

or by calling 3-1-1 (407-836-3111). If you are hearing or speech impaired, you may reach the phone numbers above by dialing 711.

El Condado de Orange no discrimina por motivos de raza, color, origen nacional, sexo, edad, religión, discapacidad o situación familiar. Aquellos que tengan preguntas o inquietudes sobre la no discriminación, aquellos que requieran asistencia especial según la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades (ADA) y aquellos que requieran asistencia lingüística (gratuita) deben comunicarse con el Coordinador de No Discriminación/Título VI en access@ocfl.net o llamando 3-1-1 (407-836-3111).

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.