

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING
GRINTON I. WILL LIBRARY
NOVEMBER 17, 2022

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Stephen Jannetti Hon. Michael Sabatino Stephan Giuffrida Patricia Duggan
LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Jesse Montero
ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Shauna Porteus
BUSINESS MANAGER:	Vivian Presedo
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY:	James Hackett
WLS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:	Trustee Puglia
UNION REPRESENTATIVE:	Brandon Neider
GUESTS:	Jay Chawla

The Board Meeting began at 7:00 pm.

Board President Maron opened the meeting by welcoming Jay Chawla, who was recently hired as a new Technical Support Specialist. He noted that he was pleased to join YPL and the IT department and meet the Board. The Board introduced themselves and welcomed him to YPL.

MINUTES

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Sabatino and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of October 20, 2022.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Director Montero reported that two new employees were hired since the last meeting, including Mr. Chawla, whose experience at Southern Westchester BOCES Director Montero hoped will improve YPL's own IT best practices, and Samantha Morton, who was hired as a Clerk II at the Will Library Circulation Department after previously working as a part-time page at Riverfront Library and who has a diverse range of experience in retail and customer service.

Director Montero discussed YPL's recent Staff Development Day, which was held on the afternoon of Friday, October 28 at Will Library following a shortened day of public service. It featured a luncheon, ceremony honoring employees who reached various years of service milestones, several workshops on first aid, de-escalation techniques and personal wellness, as well as system-wide departmental meetings.

Director Montero updated the Board on the several shifting and space layout projects underway throughout YPL, specifically the Fine Arts and Teen areas and Main Reading Room of Will Library. He presented several photos of the Main Reading Room and its new chairs and tables equipped with power outlets and USB ports arranged in long rows similar to the layout at New York Public Library. He hoped the new design would attract new patrons seeking better workspaces.

Director Montero announced a new partnership with Feeding Westchester and their child nourishment program. Riverfront Library has already received hundreds of 8-12 pound bags of unsold food from Feeding Westchester and delivered by Arc Westchester for distribution to families in need. The food is nonperishable and shelf-stable and delivered weekly. The program is still in its pilot phase but has been successful so far; all bags received have been distributed.

Assistant Director Porteus discussed Will Library's 60th birthday party earlier in the week. The party was an informal celebration of the library's history and featured appearances by State Senator Shelley Mayer, Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, Christina Gilmartin of the Mayor's Office and Councilmembers Tasha Diaz and Anthony Merante, as well as many old and new employees. President Maron was pleased with the success of the event, noting the presence of the elected officials and the exposure many of the library's services received.

President Maron inquired further on the system-wide departmental meetings at Staff Development Day. Assistant Director Porteus replied that they went well and believed it was important to maintain continuity and consistency in practice and service; she added that additional quarterly departmental meetings have already been scheduled.

President Maron commented that she was pleased with the new appearance of the Main Reading Room at Will Library and asked if Riverfront would be similarly updated, noting the rebound of activity in the downtown area and the needs of the community there. Director Montero replied that Riverfront has seen an increase in gate counts and patronage, Assistant Director Porteus agreed, specifically noting the return of many teens and young adults to the third floor. Director Montero further discussed plans to refresh the teen room, as well as the rebranding of the Small People's Place as The Cove and furnishing the Arts & Crafts Room with equipment for patrons with autism and sensory sensitivities in need of a calming and safe place.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Representative Neider reported that the Union sent an email to YPL's negotiator requesting dates to begin contract negotiations and was awaiting a response.

PERSONNEL REPORT

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Duggan and unanimously carried, the Board ratified the following appointments:

Ayedun, Ayomide, P/T Page, \$15.00/hr, eff. 10/21/2022

Powell, Crystal, P/T Page, \$15.00/hr, eff. 10/21/2022

Morton, Samantha, Permanent Clerk II, \$46,313.00/year, eff. 10/28/2022

Ojeakhen, Iziengbe, P/T Page, \$15.00/hr, eff. 10/29/2022

Chawla, Jay, Permanent Technical Support Specialist, \$73,058.00/year, eff. 11/14/2022

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fundraising & Development – Maron (chair), Jannetti

Foundation update: President Maron announced that the Foundation’s fundraising campaign had begun and asked trustees to share contacts to whom they can reach out to for support.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Sabatino and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #845.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Maron distributed a draft of YPL’s five-year strategic plan and discussed the process of drafting it. The board was asked to review the plan, which is expected to be finalized by the end of the year.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Montero presented an outline of its operating budget request for the fiscal year ending in 2024. He characterized it as a modest request that maintains much of its current operations, stating that an ambitious request would be unwise due to contract negotiations and urgently needed capital investments in building operations. YPL would not request any new full-time positions, but additional funding would be requested to secure a rental chiller unit for next summer, as a permanent replacement is unlikely to be ready by then. YPL will also ask that one-time requests from last year for special items such contract negotiations, marketing, logo redesign, printing and professional development be maintained in the next budget.

The Board discussed the process of renting a chiller for a second summer, the status of books and other library materials as an operating budget item, and the overall sequence of the budget process. President Maron agreed that the operating budget request was modest and wise considering the urgent need for a large capital budget to maintain building operations and repairs.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Maron motioned the Board into Executive Session at 7:43 pm to discuss the performance of management and asked Director Montero and Business Manager Presedo to join them. Business Manager Presedo exited at 7:51 pm. The session ended at 8:21 pm.

On motion of Trustee Sabatino, seconded by Trustee Giuffrida and unanimously carried, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE – Thursday, December 15, 2022 at 7:00pm at Will Library.

Jesse Montero
Library Director & Secretary