

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING
RIVERFRONT LIBRARY
APRIL 18, 2024

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Joseph Puglia Stephen Jannetti Michael Sabatino Patricia Phelan John Daily Jr. Ofunne Edoziem
LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Jesse Montero
ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	NONE
BUSINESS MANAGER:	Vivian Presedo
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY:	James Hackett
WLS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:	Trustee Phelan
UNION REPRESENTATIVE:	Brandon Neider

The Board Meeting began at 7:00 pm.

MINUTES

On motion of Trustee Daily, seconded by Trustee Puglia and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of March 21, 2024.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Director Montero announced that Yonkers Public Library is again hosting early voting and started this year's election cycle with presidential primary voting last month and will again in October and November for the general elections. YPL represents two of three sites in Yonkers and is only one of three libraries in the county that will host it this year.

Director Montero reported on programming around the solar eclipse on April 8. Thanks to Zahra Baird, Crestwood Library Administrator, YPL obtained 2,000 glasses for distribution to the public to safely view the eclipse. All three libraries hosted viewing parties and he

commented that all libraries experienced a lot more demand for the glasses than expected.

Director Montero reported that again Will Library has rented a temporary chiller for the warmer months; the chiller arrived on April 15 and will remain through October 15. He also reported that the City of Yonkers recently bonded for capital funding, which included YPL's previously-authorized \$2 million capital budget for a permanent chiller and HVAC replacement system. With the funding complete and available, YPL has contracted architects and engineers to prepare specifications and bidding documents to begin the project. He explained that there are two main components to the project, first an upgrade to electrical switchgear in the building for compatibility with a modern HVAC system and later, the chiller itself. He was pleased to have the funding available and was hopeful that the new system will be in place for the summer of 2025, but noted that there are still substantial supply chain issues and it may still be necessary to rent a temporary unit again.

Director Montero reported that the Yonkers YMCA hired the library's DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) committee to conduct a series of three workshops for their leadership team, two of which were already successfully conducted. The workshops covered topics such as unconscious bias, microaggressions and generational diversities and believed it was a validation of the work of the committee and their leadership in the field of DEI. The workshops were grant-funded and indicative of the close relationship between YPL and YMCA and he looked forward to future partnerships in areas such as peer mediation.

Director Montero updated the Board on staff news. He reported that Zahra Baird has been promoted to Librarian IV, Branch Administrator of Crestwood Library. Ms. Baird, in her time running the library for nearly a decade, has increased programming, partnerships and circulation and the promotion was a recognition of her success growing Crestwood. Director Montero also reported that the Will Children's Department hired Librarian I Sharon DeYoung, who comes from Brooklyn Public Library with strong training in youth and family services, and the Riverfront Children's Department promoted Amanda Ospina from Trainee to Librarian I following her graduation from SUNY Albany. Director Montero also noted that Carlos Figueroa, Technical Support Manager, was married on April 6. The Board congratulated Director Montero on the good staff news.

Trustee Daily expressed an interest in meeting new employees and inquired about the orientation process. Director Montero replied that the library has already begun work on standardizing the process from several departmental perspectives and offered to introduce him to new staff members.

Trustee Phelan arrived at 7:10 pm.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Representative Neider had no report.

WLS REPORT

Trustee Phelan reported that she had already shared her notes from a workshop she attended on April 14 and had nothing further to add.

PERSONNEL REPORT

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

DeYoung, Sharon; Permanent Librarian I, \$65,366.00/yr, eff. 3/18/2024

Owusu, Brandon; Junior Clerk (PT), \$16.00/hr, eff. 4/6/2024

Acknowledged the following termination:

Castro, Angel; Provisional Manager of Public Relations and Marketing, \$84,563.00/yr, eff. 4/9/2024

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fundraising & Development- Trustee Jannetti (chair)

Foundation Update: President Maron reminded the Board that the Foundation's annual fundraiser gala honoring Mary Calvi and Riverfront Administrator Sandy Amoyaw is April 25 and shared more invitations with them. She noted that there has already been more responses and enthusiasm as well as more sponsorships than in previous years.

Buildings & Grounds- Trustee Daily (chair)

Trustee Daily reported that he has begun research on branch history. Director Montero stated that the library has already conducted research on branch history in connection with the DHPSNY archival needs assessment and offered to share it with him. Trustee Daily hoped to have a presentation soon.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Puglia and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #862.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Maron was pleased with the discussion of the new naming policy at the last meeting and thanked Trustee Edoziem for the new proposals following her detailed review. On motion of Trustee Daily, seconded by Trustee Edoziem and unanimously carried the Board approved the YPL Naming Policy as presented in their Board Report.

Trustee Sabatino arrived at 7:17 pm.

Board Meeting – April 18, 2024

Director Montero updated the Board on the library's budget request for FY25. They were still awaiting the Mayor's Executive Budget, which was delayed by the fact New York had not yet approved its own budget. The library had been invited by the City Council for a hearing on their request on May 1, but he expected that to be postponed as a result.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Montero proposed an updated schedule of room rental fees for the Board's approval. He reported that he has discussed with the branch administrators the current fees in place for non-partners and businesses and he believed they do not accurately recognize the value of library space and encouraged the Board to approve the proposed schedule. The Board discussed the proposal at length. A member of the public (Daphne Squires) expressed concern that the proposed schedule puts fee-paying organizations at a disadvantage to partners and non-profit organizations who are not subject to the schedule. Director Montero discussed the need to prioritize partners and non-profit organizations that share the library's mission and encouraged Ms. Squires and anyone else who may feel this policy excludes them from access to spaces to contact him directly.

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Puglia and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Updated Schedule of Room Rental Fees as presented in their Board Report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Maron motioned the Board into Executive Session at 7:39 pm to discuss the employment history and performance of a particular employee and asked Director Montero and Business Manager Presedo to join them.

The Executive Session ended at 8:37 pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE –Thursday, May 16, 2024 at 7:00pm at Grinton I. Will Library.

On motion of Trustee Sabatino, seconded by Trustee Puglia and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the Meeting at 8:38 pm.

Jesse Montero
Library Director & Secretary