

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD MEETING  
GRINTON I. WILL LIBRARY  
APRIL 20, 2022

**ATTENDANCE**

|                             |  |
|-----------------------------|--|
| TRUSTEES:                   | Nancy Maron<br>Josephine Ilarraza<br>Joseph Puglia<br>Hon. Michael Sabatino<br>Patricia Duggan |
| LIBRARY DIRECTOR:           | Jesse Montero  |
| ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR: | Shauna Porteus   |
| BUSINESS MANAGER:           | NONE   |
| ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY:   | James Hackett  |
| WLS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:   | Trustee Puglia   |
| UNION REPRESENTATIVE:       | Brandon Neider   |
| GUESTS:                     | Mary Robison   |

The Board Meeting began at 7:03 pm

**MINUTES**

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of March 17, 2022.

**MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Director Montero reported that Mayor Spano released his Executive Budget for the fiscal year ending in 2023. The proposed operating budget met all of Yonkers Public Library's requests, including increased funding for professional development and a redesign of YPL's logo, website and other marketing materials. The proposed capital improvement budget also met YPL's request of \$1.4 million in funding for Phase I of the Will Library Renovation project, which includes the cost of an architectural redesign of the Pincus Auditorium, health and safety systems such as new emergency lighting and an upgraded HVAC system. Director Montero planned to advocate for the budget before City Council passes it on June 1.

Director Montero announced that YPL would expand its public service hours beginning on May 2. Riverfront Library and Will would expand service from 55 hours per week to 62. Both

libraries would be open as late as 8:00 pm. Crestwood Library would expand service from 42 hours per week to 47, with further expansion expected following a stabilization in staffing.

Director Montero reported that Riverfront saw its highest turnstile count since the pandemic began two years ago. However, the increased traffic also brought with it more security incidents as well. He reported that administration is revising its security policies, such as printed code of conduct pamphlets, standardized incident reports and disciplinary actions and re-entry interviews for patrons who have been asked to leave or have been banned from library buildings.

Director Montero updated the Board on the status of the present capital improvement budget passed last fiscal year that funds the elevator repair at Will Library, roofing at Crestwood Library, and books and other library materials. He reported that YPL only obtained access to those funds recently after the City of Yonkers completed its municipal bond sale. While the cost of the elevator repair has grown since the budget was passed, he was confident the funding was adequate and repairs would be completed in the next 12 months. He was pleased to report that roofing repairs had begun this week at Crestwood and new furniture and equipment has already been purchased and installed.

Director Montero updated the Board on the progress of YPL's 5 year strategic plan. Community surveys were released two weeks ago and have returned nearly 1,500 responses, with much more expected following additional publicity. Dozens of staff members joined committees and were participating in field trips and research on other libraries in the area.

Director Montero reminded the Board that Will Library would host the Foundation for Yonkers Public Library Annual Gala on May 11. The gala will honor former YPL administrators Ed Falcone and Susan Thaler. He was excited about the opportunity to feature some of the expected improvements and build support for Phase I of the Will renovation capital project.

Assistant Director Porteus discussed YPL's "Library of Things". She explained that the Library of Things is a collection of non-traditional library items available for circulation that patrons may not have access to otherwise, such as telescopes, musical instruments, digital cameras, blood pressure cuffs, and museum passes. Many of these items, like telescopes and blood pressure cuffs, will also be featured in upcoming programs.

## **UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

Representative Neider had no report.

## **WLS REPORT**

Trustee Puglia had no report. Director Montero added that WLS will begin replacing many of its PCs next week and was hopeful the change would result in meaningful improvements.

## **PERSONNEL REPORT**

On motion of Trustee Sabatino, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board ratified the following appointments:

Farah, Lawrence, Permanent Clerk IV, \$62,824.00/yr, eff. 3/18/2022  
Robles, Alison, P/T Page, \$15.00/hr, eff. 3/18/2022

Acknowledged the following terminations:

Chavis, Armani, P/T Page, \$15.00/hr, eff. 3/22/2022  
Floyd, James, Permanent Librarian II, \$83,806.00/yr, eff. 4/6/2022 (retired)

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Finance, Budget & Planning**- Maron, Jannetti (chair), Sabatino

Board President Maron had no report beyond the budget update in Director Montero's management report.

### **Employee Relations** – Maron, Puglia (chair), Duggan

No report

### **Buildings & Grounds** – Maron, Giuffrida (chair)

No report

### **Policy** – Maron, Ilarraza (chair), Puglia, Sabatino

Trustee Ilarraza reported that the committee was working on a joint document to form a policy on communication with the public at meetings and would discuss it in more detail later in the meeting.

### **Fundraising & Development** – Maron (chair), Jannetti

Foundation Update: Trustee Maron urged the Board to spread the word and distribute invitations to the upcoming gala. She hoped the gala would meet the Foundation's goal of raising \$30,000 in support of Yonkers Public Library.

## **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #838.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Trustee Sabatino reported that he attended a recent workshop on trustee ethics and policy. He suggested the Board consider a code of ethics that addresses any future potential conflicts of interest and review policies on collection development, assessment and insurance; public space usage; and patron privacy. He also suggested reviewing policies on how to handle difficult patrons who deliberately seek to provoke confrontation with staff and shared a recent

experience he had with a group of people who sought to provoke a confrontation with him on First Amendment rights. The Board discussed the subject of these policies at length.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The Board discussed policy ideas that govern public participation and communication at Board Meetings, such as advance notice, sign-up or registration requirements and what subjects would be open for comment. Trustees Sabatino and Duggan discussed the rules and regulations on public participation at City Council meetings and Board of Education meetings, respectively. The Board also discussed the location of future meetings and voiced some support to return to an electronic format, citing the increased public attendance, and reserving in-person meetings on a quarterly basis.

Board President Maron updated the Board on Make Music Day scheduled for June 21. She was pleased to announce that support for the event was broadening as Untermyer Park and Gardens and Ridge Hill recently expressed interest in hosting musical events for Make Music Day. The Board discussed promotion ideas and other potential venues for events.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

NONE

**NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE**

Thursday, May 19, 2022 at 7:00 pm via Zoom.

On motion of Trustee Ilarraza the Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Jesse Montero  
Library Director & Secretary