

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

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Josephine Ilarraza Stephen Jannetti Joseph Puglia 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:	Vanessa Tapia
GUESTS:	NONE

The Board Meeting began at 7:00 pm.

MINUTES

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Ilarraza and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of September 15, 2022.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Director Montero discussed Hispanic Heritage Month at Yonkers Public Library. YPL hosted over 50 events, curated several special collections and highlighted a number of staff of Hispanic descent. He noted that Yonkers is 42% Hispanic and he was pleased with the way YPL reflected the community it serves and thanked the Hispanic Heritage Committee that planned much of the month's activities.

Director Montero announced that Riverfront Library was recently awarded \$30,000 from the Community Development Block Grant. The grant is federally funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and only available to Riverfront due to the low-to-moderate income community it serves. The funds will be used to rebrand the Small People's Place as "The Cove", a modern playspace modeled after places like the Hall of Science and the

Brooklyn Children’s Museum, citing the lack of playgrounds and parks in the area and the developmental value of play for young children. Play equipment has already been purchased from Imagination Playground and additional furniture will be purchased from Community Playthings following consultation with the Sarah Lawrence College Institute of Childhood Development.

Director Montero updated the Board on several IT projects. Director Montero discussed the value of digital equity and inclusion and announced that Riverfront and Will Library has launched a laptop and wifi hotspot loaning program in partnership with Westchester Library System. He also reported that library staff are being trained in cybersecurity awareness and education following recent ransomware attacks suffered by WLS and the City of Yonkers. He also discussed several new programs, including gaming at Will and Reconnect with Tech, a program directed toward assisting recently incarcerated individuals familiarize themselves with technology.

Trustee Duggan arrived at 7:08 pm.

Director Montero reported that YPL would soon roll out new self-checkout machines from Biblioteca. Self-checkout machines are becoming common in libraries and allow patrons the option to use credit cards to pay fines and other fees and add funds to their print cards. Trustee Ilarraza asked if staff would still be available to assist patrons and if cash would still be accepted; Director Montero replied there would be no reduction in staff availability and cash would still be an option.

Director Montero updated the Board on several adult programs. Will and Crestwood Library are a part of NNORC, a neighborhood naturally occurring retirement community, and recently hosted Senior Law Day at Will, an all-day program that featured workshops on financial fitness, wills and trusts, the power of attorney and several one-on-one sessions with attorneys, retirement planners and legal professionals. Other programs that will be hosted soon include Smart DriverTek with AARP, Demystifying Medicare and free hearing tests courtesy of Mercy College. Riverfront Library also hosted a flu and COVID vaccine clinic and Will Library would host one on November 3.

Assistant Director Porteus updated the Board on 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten. While the program was introduced to daycare centers and schools earlier in the month, the program was officially launched on Wednesday with the reveal of a mural. Two pediatricians from St. Joseph’s Hospital were present for the event following a meeting with library staff earlier in the week and took packets and material to bring to the hospital, including “prescriptions” for children and their caregivers to return to the libraries. Assistant Director Porteus looked forward to more engagement in the future and maintaining participation in the program.

Assistant Director Porteus announced that Will Library is nearing its 60th anniversary on November 11 and that several programs would be held throughout the month in its honor, including a birthday party on November 16. She distributed invitations to all of the trustees.

Assistant Director Porteus reported that YPL has expanded its partnership with Yonkers Public Schools by regularly hosting eight classes of students from Roosevelt High School with developmental disabilities. The program initially began at Tech Central in Riverfront Library and as it grew in popularity, it was moved to Will Library, which is closer to Roosevelt. The class visits are focused primarily on literacy skills, arts and crafts and other activities.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT

NONE

WLS REPORT

Trustee Puglia announced that he did not attend the last meeting; however, Director Montero advised that he attended to see that the WLS Board of Trustees approved YPL’s state library construction grant application to replace the chiller at Will Library and forward to the state.

PERSONNEL REPORT

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

- Duran, Pablo, P/T Custodial Worker, \$15.00/hr, eff. 9/23/2022
- Mejia, Diana, P/T Page, \$15.00/hr, eff. 9/23/2022
- McCluskey-Nightengale, Ella Mbali, P/T Page, \$15.00/hr, eff. 9/30/2022
- Tapia, Andrew, P/T Page, \$15.00/hr, eff. 10/7/2022
- Ramos, Gabriela, P/T Page, \$15.00/hr, eff. 10/14/2022

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

President Maron reminded the committee and Board that fall is when they begin to think about the budget request for the following fiscal year and she asked if management would be prepared to discuss the request for FY24 at the next meeting; management agreed that they would.

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Duggan and unanimously carried, the Board authorized Business Manager Presedo to renew the following certificate of deposit:

10/27/2022 Contributions Funds: Sunnyside Federal Savings & Loans Bank, 12 mo. CD, \$54,474.89

Employee Relations – Maron, Puglia (chair), Duggan

NONE

Buildings & Grounds – Maron, Giuffrida (chair)

NONE

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

NONE

Fundraising & Development – Maron (chair), Jannetti

Foundation update: President Maron reported that the Foundation is preparing its annual appeal and expected to have promotional material in time for the Will Library’s 60th birthday party event in November. President Maron also announced that the Foundation would host a book signing event with First Lady of Yonkers Mary Calvi on February 17. Ms. Calvi is expected to release a historical fiction novel about Theodore Roosevelt and his first love on Valentine’s Day.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Ilarraza and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #844.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Director Montero presented the proposed schedule of holiday closings for 2023. As was the practice last year, he noted that if a holiday would fall on a Monday the libraries would close on the preceding Sunday, citing an expected lack of staff interest in working the voluntary Sunday assignment.

On motion of Trustee Ilarraza, seconded by Trustee Puglia and unanimously carried, the Board approved the proposed holiday schedule as presented in its packet.

Director Montero reminded the Board of their tradition of closing the libraries at 12:00pm on Christmas Eve. In light of the fact the holiday falls on a Saturday in 2022 and should the Board choose to close early at 12:00pm, there would only be two hours of public service that day. He asked the Board to consider instead closing for the whole day, citing the expected reduced demand for service on a holiday weekend and the fact that staff assigned to work that day would have to receive a full day off earlier in the workweek, a week he expects many departments to be already understaffed. The Board further discussed the implications and impact of the closing.

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Ilarraza and unanimously carried, the Board approved closing all library buildings on Saturday, December 24, 2022 in observance of Christmas Eve.

President Maron reported to the Board that the terms of Trustees Ilarraza and Duggan will expire at the end of the year on December 31, 2022; Trustee Ilarraza will complete a full term and Trustee Duggan will complete the resigned term of previous trustee John Saraceno. Trustee Ilarraza informed President Maron that she would not ask to have her term renewed by the Board of Education while Trustee Duggan expressed interest in returning.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NONE

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE – Thursday, November 17, 2022 at 7:00pm at Will Library.

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Ilarraza and unanimously carried, the Meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

Jesse Montero
Library Director & Secretary