

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING
ELECTRONIC MEETING
MARCH 17, 2022

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Steve Jannetti Joseph Puglia Hon. Michael Sabatino Stephan Giuffrida, M.D. 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:	Arnaldo Torres
GUESTS:	Mary Robison, Zahra Baird, Emily Power, Rose Bannister, Eileen Fusco, Scott Griffith

The Board Meeting was held electronically via ZOOM®, Conference ID# 871 2054 5156

The Board Meeting began at 7:04 pm

MINUTES

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of February 17, 2022.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Director Montero acknowledged that approximately two years ago the COVID-19 pandemic necessitated the first closures of Yonkers Public Library buildings; he also acknowledged that it was approximately two years ago that he first joined Yonkers Public Library as its director. Several trustees and guests congratulated Director Montero on his two years.

Director Montero was pleased to report two staff members had children. Lawrence Farah welcomed his second son, Luca Farah on February 11, and Rose Avilés welcomed her first daughter, Luna Rose Avilés, on February 25.

Director Montero reported that YPL ended its policy requiring patrons and staff to wear masks in public areas of its buildings, although masks are still strongly encouraged and available upon request. He noted that the transition has been smooth: there have been fewer difficult interactions with patrons and most staff are comfortable with the new policy. He also noted that he has observed more foot traffic in the buildings, especially at Riverfront Library.

Director Montero announced that Riverfront will also host three upcoming vaccine clinics in the next month with the Westchester County Department of Health (DOH) and will be the first of its kind with a cash incentive offer. He added that, in partnership with Westchester County DOH and Westchester Library System (WLS), YPL has also begun to receive and distribute more than 5,000 free COVID-19 rapid tests to the public.

Director Montero updated the Board on the ongoing shifting projects at the libraries. He illustrated the progress made at Will Library's Young Adult, CD and Fine Arts collections with before and after photographs and diagrams. The project has allowed more space to expand the Young Adult section with new furniture appropriate for teenagers.

Director Montero reported that Yonkers Public Library had received from Westchester County Board of Legislators \$16,752 in funding for technology classes and programming and \$10,000 for programs to raise awareness on street and graffiti art. He thanked Legislator Jose Alvarado for securing the funding. He also noted that this was in addition to \$30,000 already received this year for gardening and sustainability programs and displayed a chart demonstrating the growth in funding from Westchester County over the last three years.

Director Montero announced that one of the results of the gardening and sustainability funding was a new seed-lending library. YPL purchased over 2,500 seed packets for lending and distribution to the public and refitted old card catalogs for its storage and display. The seeds will grow vegetables, fruits, flowers and herbs. Patrons may borrow up to four packets at a time and can sign up to a mailing list for gardening and cooking tips. Patrons can also return the remaining seeds after the plants are harvested and they will be repackaged for future distribution.

Assistant Director Porteus updated the Board on the progress of the marketing department. She presented photographs of new signs and endcaps prominently placed at various locations in the stacks and aisles. The new signage contains new subject headings and dewey decimal ranges as well as aisle numbers that she believed would improve navigation and wayfinding for patrons. The enhanced appearance is also consistent with other design changes elsewhere in the buildings. She thanked graphic artist Mario Pereira and the custodial departments for producing and installing the new signage.

Several trustees were pleased with the seed-lending library and discussed the new service at length.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Representative Torres had no report.

WLS REPORT

Trustee Puglia announced that the WLS Board of Trustees elected a new slate of officers and completed its evaluation of the executive director. He also announced that WLS reorganized several of its committees and he has joined the nominating and Board development committees.

The Board discussed trustee education opportunities and Trustee Puglia invited the other trustees to attend a seminar hosted by WLS on the topic. He was hopeful these education opportunities would help make library trustees everywhere more effective.

PERSONNEL REPORT

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

Moudud, Aliya, P/T Page, eff. 2/25/2022

Ward, Natiq, P/T Page, eff. 2/25/2022

Luke-Aleman, Zaivy, P/T Page, \$15.00/hr, eff. 3/11/2022

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Trustee Jannetti reported that they are awaiting the release of the Mayor's Executive Budget in April and was hopeful that it would meet YPL's requested budget.

Employee Relations – Maron, Puglia (chair), Duggan

Trustee Puglia reported that the committee recently met with library administration to better familiarize themselves with the labor contract.

Buildings & Grounds – Maron, Giuffrida (chair)

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

Fundraising & Development – Maron (chair), Jannetti

Foundation Update: Trustee Maron reported that the Foundation recently met to begin planning the gala at Will Library on May 11. She also presented a sample of invitations that they would send soon and asked trustees to share with the Foundation any contact lists they may have.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #837.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

President Maron discussed a meeting she held recently with the Yonkers Parks Department regarding Make Music Day on June 21 and announced that their application to host it at Van Der Donck Park was approved. She looked forward to YPL's leadership again this year and hoped others in the city would participate and grow the event for the future.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NONE

PUBLIC COMMENT

A former part-time staffer spoke during public comments, requesting the Board consider the circumstances surrounding his employment at the Library. President Maron thanked him for his comments, but advised him that the Board does not discuss employee issues at its public meetings.

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE – Wednesday, April 20, 2022 at Grinton I. Will Library

On motion of Trustee Jannetti the Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Jesse Montero
Library Director & Secretary