

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD MEETING  
GRINTON I. WILL LIBRARY  
APRIL 20, 2023

**ATTENDANCE**

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Stephen Jannetti Joseph Puglia Patricia Phelan John A. Daily Jr.
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:	Angel Castro, Mary Robison, Ana Gantzer, Jay Chawla, Eileen Fusco, Kim Arline, Dominick Savarese, Christine Bittetti, Tara Somersall, Tyisha Baker, Haifa Bint-Kadi, Jay Savino

The Board Meeting began at 7:00 pm.

**MINUTES**

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Phelan and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of March 16, 2023.

**MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Director Montero updated the Board on YPL's budget request for the next fiscal year. The Mayor recently proposed his executive budget that included nearly the entirety of the Library's request, with only minimal cuts to the part-time and overtime budgets. He also noted that the \$3.4 million capital budget request for renovations at Will Library was included as well. Director Montero was pleased with the proposal and hopeful that the City Council will adopt it.

Director Montero reported that Riverfront Library recently hosted Mayor Spano's State of the City address. He noted that the Mayor specifically remarked on several library achievements, but the highlight of his library remarks was the proposal for a new fourth library location in the southeast part of Yonkers. Director Montero was proud of the recognition of these

accomplishments and the applause it received and looked forward to conversations with the Mayor about a fourth library.

Director Montero announced that Riverfront Library was honored by the Westchester County Department of Health with a special award in recognition of its service hosting 17 COVID-19 vaccination clinics and assisting administer over 1,800 shots. The award was presented at an event at Scarsdale Public Library and was attended by County Executive George Latimer and County Health Commissioner Sherlita Amler.

Director Montero reported that The Cove at Riverfront Library was recently opened and hosted events on April 18 and 19. The Cove is a new playspace at Riverfront Library and replaces the old Small People's Place. The event was featured in Westchester Magazine and was well attended by elected officials such as Mayor Spano and several Councilmembers. Those in attendance also received tours of the new Teen Room and Sensory Room and all appeared to be impressed with the new space improvements.

Trustee Daily arrived at 7:06 pm.

Director Montero updated the Board on the building situation at Will Library. YPL is again renting a chiller unit for the Will Library to cool the building in the summer months, which arrived on April 14 and he expects to have the unit through October. He also advised the Board that YPL expects to open sealed bids on Friday for proposals on removing the old disabled chiller and its electrical connections. He also expects to meet with a City of Yonkers building inspector after receiving a permit to begin construction on a new elevator.

Assistant Director Porteus discussed the return of the popular Seed Library program for a second year. Over 25 varieties of seeds were purchased in bulk and placed in branded packets for circulation. The process of purchasing the seeds in bulk was a more significant undertaking than last year but it allowed them to double their production while reducing waste and she thanked the staff and volunteers for assembling the packets.

Assistant Director Porteus updated the Board on the partnership with Einstein College of Medicine. Administration recently met with three first-year medical students to discuss plans for their first program, "Pathways to a Career in Medicine." The program is a panel discussion targeted toward teens with an interest in the medical field and is scheduled for May. Future program topics beginning in June include cancer prevention, children storytimes and fitness.

## **UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

Representative Neider noted the large presence of staff at the meeting and their hard work and service toward YPL and urged the Board to conclude contract negotiations as soon as possible. Board President Maron was pleased with the large presence of staff and explained that while she could not discuss details of the negotiations, she did confirm the Union and YPL management were currently exchanging proposals and gave an outline on the process of negotiations.

## **PERSONNEL REPORT**

Board Meeting – April 20, 2023

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

Gonzalez, Kayla; P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 3/17/2023  
Jones, Zaniah; P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 3/17/2023  
Whelan, Aili; Provisional Librarian III, \$84,697.00/year, eff. 3/31/2023  
Gmitter, Andrew; P/T Custodial Worker, \$15.00/hour, eff. 3/31/2023

Acknowledged the following terminations:

Slattery, Seana; P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 3/30/2023  
Mentzer, Hali; P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 4/8/2023

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Fundraising & Development** – Jannetti (chair).

Foundation Update: President Maron announced that the all-women jazz band Sage would headline next month's Foundation gala on May 10 and shared invitations with trustees and asked them to invite others as well. She also discussed the opportunities the gala might provide for YPL's rebranding, logo and website.

## **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Phelan and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #850.

On motion of Trustee Daily, seconded by Trustee Puglia and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:29 pm.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE** – Thursday, May 18, 2023 at 7:00pm at Grinton I. Will Library.

Jesse Montero  
Library Director & Secretary