

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING
GRINTON I. WILL LIBRARY
MARCH 16, 2023

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Joseph Puglia Patricia Phelan John A. Daily Jr. Michael Sabatino
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, Kathleen Walsh, Linda Youngren

The Board Meeting began at 7:16 pm.

MINUTES

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

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Director Montero reported the hiring of Pablo Duran. Mr. Duran was hired on February 20 as a Custodial Worker in the Riverfront Custodial Department. He previously worked in a part-time capacity at Riverfront and has a background in carpentry.

Director Montero announced the conversion of the Arts & Crafts Room at Riverfront Library into the Sensory Room. The Sensory Room features special equipment, furniture and lighting that provides a calming environment for individuals with sensory processing challenges. The space was designed with input from Yonkers Public Schools therapists and special education therapists and is the first of its kind among regional libraries, including New York City. YPL staff are presently in the process of making policy and scheduling training to make the space open and accessible to the community.

Director Montero went on to summarize the other completed space improvement projects at YPL, displaying several before and after photos of various spaces.

Director Montero reported on the most recent author talk with Mary Calvi, which was hosted by the Foundation for Yonkers Public Library on February 17 at Riverfront Library. The event was attended by over 100 individuals and sold more than 100 copies of her most recent book, *If a Poem Could Live and Breathe*. It was the most well-attended in-person author talk since 2020. He noted Ms. Calvi would also be hosted by Crestwood Library the following week.

Assistant Director Porteus updated the Board on YPL's ongoing emergency and first aid training workshops. Approximately 40 staff members attended or have signed up to attend workshops at Riverfront and Will Libraries. The training was provided by Westchester County Department of Health and instructed staff in the appropriate use of Narcan, or Naloxone nasal spray.

Assistant Director Porteus updated the Board on YPL's partnership with the Center for Urban Renewal at Beczak (CURB). A passive art display of curated stories about the environment and nature was installed at the Riverfront Adult Services department and would be on display through March and April. Director Montero also discussed new displays by Groundwork Hudson Valley and Yonkers Historical Society at Will Library.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Representative Neider reported that the Union was currently investigating possible violations of the collective bargaining agreement.

PERSONNEL REPORT

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

Malave, Erik; Permanent Librarian Trainee, \$46,345.00/year, eff. 2/6/2023

Duran, Pablo; Permanent Custodial Worker, \$44,736.00/year, eff. 2/17/2023

Castro, Angel; Provisional Manager of Public Relations and Marketing, \$82,500.00/year, eff. 2/21/2023

COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Maron updated the Board on procedure regarding committee reports, noting that only committees with reports to give would be included in the meeting agenda going forward, with the exception of the Fundraising & Development Committee, where she will continue to give a monthly update on behalf of the Foundation for Yonkers Public Library.

Fundraising & Development – Jannetti (chair)

Foundation Update: President Maron reported that the Foundation had begun mailing invitations and selling tickets for its annual fundraising gala on May 10 at Riverfront Library and was pleased to note that the price of tickets remained the same as last year. She asked trustees to spread the word of the gala and to reach out to the Foundation with any ideas on sponsorships and auction items at the gala.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Phelan and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #849.

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Sabatino arrived at 7:31 pm.

Director Montero presented the Board with a proposed update to the library's Affirmative Action policy following a review by Policy Committee Chair Sabatino at the last meeting. After some discussion, the Board, on motion of Trustee Daily and seconded by Trustee Phelan, unanimously passed the update to the library's Affirmative Action policy.

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Daily and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:42 pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE – Thursday, April 20, 2023 at 7:00pm at Riverfront Library.

Jesse Montero
Library Director & Secretary