

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING
CRESTWOOD LIBRARY
OCTOBER 19, 2023

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Joseph Puglia Stephen Jannetti Ofunne Edoziem Patricia Phelan John A. Daily Jr. Michael Sabatino
LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Jesse Montero
ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Shauna Porteus
BUSINESS MANAGER:	Vivian Presedo
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY:	James Hackett
WLS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:	Joseph Puglia
UNION REPRESENTATIVE:	Brandon Neider
GUESTS:	Cathleen Walsh, Mary Robison, Zahra Baird, Gabriella Monaco, Elizabeth Caruso, Tim Baird, Jacqueline Leone, Nnenna Akoma-Ononaji, Joe Harbison, Pat Manning, Linda Youngren, Eileen Fusco, Joe Harbison, Karina Borrani, Amy Estersohn, Pat Kaufman

The Board Meeting began at 7:00 pm.

President Maron opened the meeting by noting Crestwood Library was hosting a Board meeting for the first time in many years and asked everyone present to introduce themselves.

MINUTES

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Jannetti and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of September 21, 2023 and the Minutes of the Special Meeting of October 12, 2023.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Director Montero reported that YPL celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month with dozens of events on genealogy and art, book clubs and children's programs. He also announced a new Spanish language library card and the acquisition of a large collection of Spanish language books.

Trustees Sabatino and Edoziem arrived at 7:05 pm.

Director Montero announced two new art exhibitions. *Across Imaginary Boundaries* features art from 18 different artists from the Caribbean diaspora and is on display at the Riverfront Art Gallery through December 14; a retrospective of the works of artist Satish Joshi is on display at Will Library through January and recently hosted an opening reception on October 12.

Mary Robison, Head of the Riverfront Reference and Adult Services department, reported on several local history and archival services and programs, including a well-attended People's History Day program, biweekly genealogy and local history research drop-in sessions, and the progress of archival needs assessments and digitization projects.

Director Montero announced recent grant awards. Con Edison granted YPL \$10,000 to continue funding gardening programs and the Seed Library at Riverfront Library. Riverfront was also the recipient of \$30,000 from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). CDBG is funded by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and administered by the City of Yonkers and provides funds to community organizations that serve low-moderate income census tracts. The grant will fund the Riverfront Welcome Center (Centro de Bienvenidas) project, which will improve the navigation and accessibility of Riverfront Library by hiring a wayfinding consultant and updating signage.

Director Montero reported that YPL will receive the Joseph F. Shubert Award for Library Excellence in recognition of the Summer Reading Buddies program at the upcoming New York Library Association (NYLA) conference in Saratoga Springs. He also announced that Board President Nancy Maron will receive the Velma K. Moore Award for Trustee of the Year at NYLA as well. The Board congratulated President Maron.

President Maron acknowledged the presence of the Friends of the Crestwood Library at the meeting and gave the floor to Cathleen Walsh, President of the Friends. Ms. Walsh discussed the 97 year history of the library and the upcoming centennial celebration and thanked the Board for their support in providing new flooring, furniture and carpeting and asked that consideration of future support include new bookcases and outdoor lighting. President Maron thanked the Friends and the community for their love and commitment to the library and hoped that they would continue to provide updates to the Board.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Representative Neider reported that the labor contract has been officially signed and ratified but that there were disagreements over the interpretation of certain items and the Union would follow up.

PERSONNEL REPORT

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

Andracchi, Margaret; Permanent Librarian II, \$65,109.00/yr, eff. 9/29/2023

Cacace, Laura; Permanent Librarian II, \$65,109.00/yr, eff. 9/29/2023

Williams, Debra; P/T Page, \$15.00/hr, eff. 9/30/2023

Herlihy, Timothy; Permanent Clerk I, \$40,460.00/yr, eff. 10/13/2023

Orosz, Nora-Grayce; P/T Page, \$15.00/hr, eff. 10/14/2023

Acknowledged the following terminations:

Cruz, Aurora; Permanent Librarian IV, \$113,156.00/yr, eff. 9/29/2023 (retired)

Samuel, Shaied; P/T Page, \$15.00/hr, eff. 10/11/2023

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fundraising & Development – Jannetti (chair)

Foundation Update: President Maron reported that the Foundation was looking to hire someone to assist them with donor outreach, programming and fundraising and development.

Policy – Sabatino (chair)

Director Montero explained the Material Selection policy in the Board Report to the Board. He believed the current policy is a good, versatile policy that was informed by library best practices and supported maintaining it as is, but also noted the rise of recent challenges to collections across the country. The Board discussed the policy at length but declared that they were satisfied with the policy as is as well.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Edoziem and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #856.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Nnenna Akoma-Ononaji introduced herself as a community advocate for children with disabilities and discussed her initiative Milestones of Love and her work with YPL on inclusion and literacy among this community.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Montero reported that YPL was applying for a needs assessment of its local history and archival services by the Documentary and Heritage Preservation Services of

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New York (DHPSNY). If YPL's application is successful, DHPSNY would provide a professional archivist to conduct an detailed analysis of the Library's practices and procedures and offer guidance to improve its services and further professionalize its archives. He asked the Board for their support to complete the application and the Board agreed to write a commitment letter.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Maron motioned the Board into Executive Session at 7:57 pm to discuss the employment history and performance of two particular employees and asked Director Montero, Assistant Director Porteus and Business Manager Presedo to join them. The Board exited the session at 9:14 pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE – Thursday, November 16, 2023 at Grinton I. Will Library.

On motion of Trustee Daily, seconded by Trustee Phelan and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the Meeting at 9:14 pm.

Jesse Montero
Library Director & Secretary