

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING
GRINTON I. WILL LIBRARY
FEBRUARY 15, 2024

ATTENDANCE

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| TRUSTEES: | Nancy Maron Joseph Puglia Stephen Jannetti Michael Sabatino Patricia Phelan John A. Daily Jr. |
| LIBRARY DIRECTOR: | Jesse Montero |
| ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR: | Shauna Porteus |
| BUSINESS MANAGER: | Vivian Presedo |
| ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY: | James Hackett |
| WLS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE: | Trustee Phelan |
| UNION REPRESENTATIVE: | Brandon Neider |
| GUESTS: | Dominick Savarese, Jason Eisenberg, Jay Chawla |

The Board Meeting began at 7:01 pm.

MINUTES

Director Montero reported that he received a request from Union Representative Neider that the minutes of the last meeting be amended to remove President Maron's comment about the Board's desire to improve communication with the Union from the Union Report section of the minutes as it was not a part of his report. On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Daily and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of January 18, 2024 with a separation and paragraph break between the Union Report and President Maron's comments.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Director Montero reported on YPL's celebration of Black History Month, including updated branding, online lectures, film series and book clubs and a Motown Concert featuring Emilie Surtees and the Stage Revolution Band that drew over 200 attendees at Riverfront Library last Saturday as well a dance performance featuring the Revelators at Will Library

later in the month. He also discussed several children’s programs and activities scheduled throughout the month.

Director Montero updated the Board on the status of the elevator at Will. The elevator passed inspection on January 30 and was operational for ten days before failing again last week. The elevator remains out of order awaiting service. He expressed his frustration and concern with the maintenance company and reported that the City was withholding payment to the company until further service is received.

Trustee Sabatino arrived at 7:06 pm.

Director Montero announced that YPL was awarded an archival needs assessment from the Documentary Heritage and Preservation Services of New York (DHPSNY). DHPSNY will send a trained archivist to assess the library’s archival needs, operational efficiency and collection management. While no funds were included in the award, he believed it would save the organization tens of thousands of dollars. He also noted that YPL was the only public library in the state and public institution in the county to receive the award.

Assistant Director Porteus reported on Riverfront’s adoption of “Code Adam”, which is a set of instructions to follow in the event of a missing child commonly used in large department stores, grocery stores or amusement parks. The staff were trained on the practices and instructions several times and has already been successfully deployed once. She expects it to be expanded soon to Will and Crestwood Library.

Assistant Director Porteus discussed tax assistance services. She reported that AARP returned to Will on February 6 to provide free tax help for individuals of any age. AARP is now using an online calendar to schedule over 40 appointments per week through March. She also noted that Riverfront has been proposed as a location for VITA tax assistance next year.

Director Montero updated the Board on staff news. He reported that Riverfront Branch Administrator Sandy Amoyaw was reappointed to the Mayor’s African American Advisory Board; Will Branch Administrator Tara Somersall and Will Children’s Department Head Aili Whelan recently completed a Library Journal library management training course; Riverfront Reference and Adult Services Head Mary Robison and Public Humanities Fellow Dr. Benjamin Zender led a discussion on civic engagement and the impact of the Mellon Foundation Grant at Sarah Lawrence College; Will Children’s Librarian Maryann Minozzi retired on January 30 after more than 15 years of service.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT

Representative Neider introduced the delegation of Union members Jay Chawla, Jason Eisenberg and Union President Dominick Savarese. Mr. Neider stated there was no formal report but noted that he may be in touch with management following the conclusion of investigations into certain overtime and flex time practices.

PERSONNEL REPORT

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

Jacob, Hepsibah; Junior Clerk (PT), \$16.00/hour, eff. 1/18/2024

Minozzi, Maryann; Librarian II, \$88,026.00/year, eff. 1/30/2024 (retired)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Maron asked committees to discuss their goals for the new year.

Outreach- Trustee Edoziem (chair)

Trustee Daily reported on behalf of Chair Edoziem that two goals of the Outreach Committee were to gain visibility into the community and assist other non-profit organizations with programming that share interests with the library.

Buildings & Grounds- Trustee Daily (chair)

Chair Daily reported that the Buildings & Grounds Committee intends to complete a customer journey report on how the grounds are used from a patron perspective and report on the patron's digital experience, as compared to other libraries. Director Montero mentioned the library's ongoing inclusive wayfinding project at Riverfront Library with CDBG funds as an area of cooperation.

Chair Daily also discussed the goal of engaging the City on the feasibility of a new library branch. President Maron suggested that Chair Daily join her and Director Montero for their next scheduled monthly meeting with the Deputy Mayor to bring up the topic. The Board and management discussed different sites, funding and shared use possibilities.

Policy- Trustee Sabatino (chair)

Chair Sabatino asked management to highlight different policies that they believe require updating for the committee to address.

Fundraising- Trustee Jannetti (chair)

Foundation Update: President Maron reported that the Foundation had hired Associate Director Laura Sanzel (a part-time, contract position), to support FYPL fundraising and prepare for the annual gala. President Maron asked trustees to assist with fundraising and outreach for the gala, noting that the Foundation was offering "early-bird" tickets of \$150 until two weeks before the event, when tickets will increase to \$175.

Trustee Jannetti asked President Maron if there were any guidelines for posting on social media. She suggested that trustees use the save-the-dates that were already released. She added that a press release would be made next Tuesday and that invitations were being finalized.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Puglia and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #860.

WLS REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Trustee Phelan reported that she attended a WLS Board Meeting on January 30 where they asked for her resume and bio and advised her that they would vote on her appointment next month. She was pleased to make the acquaintance of many of the trustees on the Board and was looking forward to a social event with the Board before it was canceled due to a snow storm. She announced that if she is appointed to the Board she intends to be a strong advocate for YPL.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Maron motioned the Board into Executive Session at 7:31 pm to discuss the employment history and performance of a particular employee and asked the Union delegation of Mr. Neider, Dominick Savarese, Jay Chawla and Jason Eisenberg to join them.

The Union delegation exited the executive session at 7:46 pm and the Board asked Director Montero, Assistant Director Porteus and Business Manager to join the session at 7:51 pm.

The Board exited the Executive Session at 8:45 pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE –Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 7:00pm at Grinton I. Will Library.

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Daily and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the Meeting at 8:46 pm.

Jesse Montero
Library Director & Secretary