

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD MEETING  
GRINTON I. WILL LIBRARY  
OCTOBER 23, 2024

**ATTENDANCE**

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Joseph Puglia Stephen Jannetti Patricia Phelan Ofunne Edoziem
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:	Patricia Ricardo, Guillermo Rodas, Zahra Baird, Tara Somersall

The Board Meeting began at 7:01 pm.

**MINUTES**

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Edoziem and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of September 19, 2024.

**MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Director Montero asked Will Library Branch Administrator Tara Somersall to introduce Guillermo Rodas, the newest clerk in the Will Circulation Department. Mr. Rodas thanked the Board for the welcome and the opportunity to join YPL. He stated that the department has been very accommodating and easy to work with. Director Montero added that he is also the recipient of the Homer Award for exceptional diligence and customer service.

Director Montero announced the recent passing of Lucia Trovato and Joan Bielemeier. Ms. Trovato, who was a long-time part-time clerk at Will Library who also worked in the Mayor's Office, passed away earlier in the week. Ms. Bielemeier retired from the Will Library last year and passed away earlier in the month.

Director Montero reported that the temporary chiller used to cool Will Library during the warm months was recently removed from the parking lot. He was hopeful that a permanent chiller may be ready by next summer following a request for proposals that will be issued shortly. Construction will likely take up to four months, but the library will be prepared to rent a temporary chiller again if it is completed in time.

Assistant Director Porteus discussed several programs over the last month. YC3, the third annual Yonkers comic convention, was hosted by Riverfront Library on October 3 and saw over 4,200 patrons enter the building that day. The convention featured cosplay, panel discussions, vendor tables and a lego tournament. Riverfront Library also hosted a Superhero Dance Party for adults with developmental disabilities the evening before that featured a DJ, dance lesson and costume and dance contest that was very successful. She added that more inclusive programming was being planned, mentioning a holiday karaoke party for adults with developmental disabilities at Riverfront and a “Senior Prom” for senior citizens on February 14, Valentine’s Day, at Will.

Director Montero reported that Will Library hosted a successful back-to-school party on September 25 that featured the popular children’s TV show icon Bluey and a bubble bus. The event drew approximately 600 to the library parking lot and is the product of a growing partnership with the Kiwanis Club of East Yonkers, who supported a similar Summer Reading Kickoff event in June and expects to support a Winter Wonderland program in December.

Director Montero reported that Crestwood Library celebrated its 98th anniversary on October 15. The celebration was supported by the Friends of Crestwood Library and featured a display of hearts that allowed patrons to share notes of appreciation for the library.

Director Montero reported that 137 Yonkers High School International Baccalaureate (IB) students came to Riverfront Library for its annual IB day. Every year staff and faculty from Riverfront Library and Sarah Lawrence College instruct students on various research topics such as historical investigation and searching library catalogs and resources.

Director Montero announced that Yonkers Public Library was officially awarded \$215,000 in New York State Aid for Library Construction on October 1. The aid will support approximately \$142,000 in existing capital funding to renovate Crestwood Library. Yonkers Public Library is working with the City of Yonkers Engineering Department to manage the project and architectural planning firm Fuller D’Angelo to prepare and draw up the bidding documents and contract. Director Montero hopes construction will begin in 2025 and be complete before Crestwood celebrates its 100th anniversary the following year.

Trustee Edoziem asked if the project would make the building ADA-accessible; Director Montero stated that this first phase of the project would fix major infiltration points in the aging building, such as the windows and chimney, to prevent heat loss and flooding. He expects a second phase would make the building ADA-accessible, but would likely require significantly more funding and hoped Crestwood’s 100th anniversary might raise awareness and support for such a plan.

Director Montero also announced that Riverfront Library was awarded a \$27,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). The grant is administered by the City of Yonkers Planning Department and funded by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development for services and facilities in low-to-moderate income Census tracts, such as where Riverfront is located. The grant will fund many of the wayfinding and accessibility improvements identified by wayfinding consultant Steven Winter Associates in a report that was funded by last year's CDBG grant.

Trustee Phelan inquired about the ownership status of the driveway at Crestwood. Director Montero replied that he is currently investigating if the driveway on Chittenden Avenue is owned by the library or its neighbor, who is planning to put their property on the market soon, and intends to review property maps at the Department of Housing and Buildings next week.

### **UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

Union Representative Neider had no report.

### **WLS REPORT**

Trustee Phelan reported there will be a WLS Board Meeting next Tuesday and will report on it next month.

### **PERSONNEL REPORT**

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

Zatkovich, Stephanie; Junior Clerk (P/T), \$16.00/hr, effective 9/28/2024

Rodas, Guillermo; Permanent Clerk I Spanish Speaking, \$46,003.00/yr, effective 10/4/2024

Alin, Mohammed; Junior Clerk (P/T), \$16.00/hr, effective 10/12/2024

Acknowledged the following resignation:

Tapia, Erik; Page (P/T), \$16.00/hr, effective 8/15/2024

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance, Budget & Planning** – Jannetti (chair).

Chair Jannetti stated that he would have a report next month following a trustee education and professional development course he will be attending. President Maron commented that she was looking forward to discussing the next fiscal year's budget in the coming months.

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

Foundation Update: President Maron reported that the Foundation has chosen to honor Wilson Kimball, President of the Municipal Housing Authority of Yonkers, and Eugene Howell, YPL's longest-tenured librarian, at next year's annual gala. She also reported that the Foundation approved a donation of \$35,000 to the library at its last meeting. The money will fund programs such as Born to Read, STEM camps, the virtual author talk series, and National Library Week programming. President Maron also added that the family of Lucia Trovato graciously asked mourners to donate to the Foundation in lieu of flowers and mentioned that the Foundation continues to plan to make its annual appeal in November and discussed new ways to promote it.

**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 #868.

**NEW BUSINESS**

The Board discussed its tradition of closing the library early on Christmas Eve most years to allow staff to be home early for the holiday. On motion of Trustee Phelan, seconded by Trustee Puglia and unanimously carried, the Board voted to close the library at 12:00 pm on Tuesday, December 24, 2024.

Director Montero presented the proposed schedule of holiday closings for 2025. On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Phelan and unanimously carried, the Board approved closing the library according to the proposed holiday schedule.

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

Wednesday, November 20, 2024 at 7:00pm at Riverfront Library

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Phelan and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the Meeting at 7:42 pm.

Jesse Montero  
Library Director & Secretary