

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD MEETING  
RIVERFRONT LIBRARY  
SEPTEMBER 19, 2024

**ATTENDANCE**

TRUSTEES:	Joseph Puglia Stephen Jannetti Patricia Phelan Michael Sabatino John Daily Jr. Ofunne Edoziem
LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Jesse Montero
ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Shauna Porteus
BUSINESS MANAGER:	NONE
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY:	James Hackett
WLS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:	Trustee Phelan
UNION REPRESENTATIVE:	NONE
GUESTS:	Patricia Ricardo, Zahra Baird, Cathleen Walsh, Joe Harbeson, Linda Youngren

The Board Meeting began at 7:09 pm.

**MINUTES**

On motion of Trustee Daily, seconded by Trustee Phelan and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of July 24, 2024.

**MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Director Montero introduced Patricia Ricardo as the new Manager of Public Relations and Marketing. She began in August and has already begun to take initiatives promoting the library, specifically citing changes in the newsletter. Although she is new to libraries, he said she has already brought new energy and ideas to Yonkers Public Library. The Board welcomed Ms. Ricardo. He also introduced Luis Martinez as a new custodial worker to Riverfront Library.

Director Montero discussed the summer at YPL. He reported that Riverfront Library recorded a new high of patron visits over the summer following the installation of new

gate counters in May, leading him to believe that attendance may have been previously undercounted; the new counters recorded over 140,000 visits from June through August, and does not count attendance in the Auditorium. Director Montero also reported that the summer meals program at Riverfront and Will Library, in partnership with Yonkers Public Schools, distributed over 8,000 meals and the Summer Reading Buddies program at Riverfront, in partnership with Family Services Society of Yonkers, saw over 250 participants twice a week and featured visits from elected officials like Mayor Spano, Senator Stewart-Cousins and County Executive Latimer. He believed the success of both programs drove much of the record patron visits and thanked the staff for a fun and busy summer.

Trustee Sabatino arrived at 7:14 pm.

Director Montero reported that YPL kicked off the Born to Read program on September 12 at St. John's Riverside Hospital. The program hopes to raise awareness of the lifelong benefits of reading to infants and young toddlers and provides a care package with a library card and application, bib, bilingual board book and diapers to mothers and their newborn children. Over 400 packages have already been prepared and are funded by the Foundation for Yonkers Public Library. The program was featured on News12 and the library has already received interest in a partnership with Westchester County and the Childcare Council of Westchester. The Board discussed the capacity for expansion.

Director Montero reported that YPL will receive a \$25,000 grant from Con Edison, the largest in the library's history from Con Ed. The grant is intended to support sustainability services and programs and will continue to fund the Seed Library and pollinator garden but also fund new STEM programs designed to raise environmental awareness in young people.

Director Montero also discussed Hispanic Heritage month at YPL. The month will feature music and dance performances, art workshops, culinary programs and film screenings across all three libraries.

## **UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

NONE.

## **WLS REPORT**

Trustee Phelan updated the Board on Westchester Library System's IT services. She reported that IT Director Wilson Arana stated at the last meeting many member libraries were moving away from WLS' managed services and finding their own providers and he was concerned about the impact that could have on cybersecurity. Director Montero discussed YPL's transition from WLS's managed services to their own independent management, but noted it was easier for large systems like YPL than smaller libraries.

## **PERSONNEL REPORT**

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

Arline, Kimberly; Permanent Clerk II, \$54,283.00/yr, effective 8/2/2024  
Nembhard, Ajarni; Custodial Worker (P/T), \$16.00/hr, effective 8/3/2024  
Davila Casiano, Humberto; Custodial Worker (P/T), \$16.00/hr, effective 8/3/2024  
Lawrence, Eleanora; Page (P/T), \$16.00/hr, effective 8/3/2024  
Villanueva, Harrison; Page (P/T), \$16.00/hr, effective 8/10/2024  
Ricardo-Ortiz, Patricia; Permanent Manager of Public Relations and Marketing, \$89,000/yr, effective 8/12/2024  
Donahue, Alleah; Page (P/T), \$16.00/hr, effective 8/17/2024  
Martinez, Luis; Permanent Custodial Worker, \$52,026/yr, effective 8/30/2024

Acknowledged the following resignation:

Barcelo, Luis; Permanent Custodial Worker, \$55,812/yr, effective 9/1/2024

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Buildings & Grounds** - Daily (chair), Puglia.

Chair Daily said he would have an update at the next meeting and would email the Board notes to review.

**Employee Relations** - Puglia (chair), Daily.

Trustee Daily reiterated his interest in examining the viability of a clean slate labor contract. Director Montero noted that Board President Maron had reached out to Union President Savarese on this matter.

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

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Daily and unanimously carried, the Board authorized Business Manager to renew or find the best rates for the following CDs scheduled to expire:

10/10/2024 John Jutkowitz Fund: Sunnyside Federal Savings & Loans Bank, 12 mo. CD, \$11,077.95, 1.50%

10/10/2024 David S. Kogan Memorial Fund: Sunnyside Federal Savings & Loans Bank, 12 mo. CD, \$5,233.16, 1.50%

10/10/2024 Rita G. Murphy Fund: Sunnyside Federal Savings & Loans Bank, 12 mo. CD, \$5,525.36, 1.50%

10/10/2024 Contributions Fund: Sunnyside Federal Savings & Loans Bank, 12 mo. CD, \$64,893.70, 1.50%

10/26/2024 Contributions Fund: Sunnyside Federal Savings & Loan Bank, 12 mo. CD,  
\$54,572.61, 1.50%

**Outreach** - Edoziem (chair), Phelan, Sabatino.

Chair Edoziem reported that she and Director Montero connected with Andrus to discuss the possibility of a partnership. She suggested allowing them table space at the libraries to promote their services for mothers with children up to 5 years of age.

**Policy** - Sabatino (chair).

Chair Sabatino encouraged other trustees to review the library's policies and make suggestions for review. Director Montero thanked the Board for their approval of the Code of Conduct at the last meeting and commented that many staff were pleased with the updated policy.

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

Chair Jannetti reported that he was looking into trustee development and training opportunities. Director Montero and Assistant Director Porteus said that they would share links and ideas with him.

## **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Edoziem and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #866 & #867.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cathleen Walsh of the Friends of Crestwood Library discussed a proposal she shared with the Board to purchase property at 3 Chittenden Avenue, next to Crestwood Library. The owner expects to put the property on the market soon and the Friends believe the property would be a good addition to the library. The Friends asked the Board for their support as they further study the feasibility and explore fundraising options. The Board discussed their proposal at length and thanked them for sharing it with them.

On motion of Trustee Sabatino, seconded by Trustee Jannetti and unanimously carried, the Board went into Executive Session at 7:53 pm to discuss the proposed acquisition of real property. The Board exited the session at 8:02 pm.

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Daily and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the Meeting at 8:04 pm.

Board Meeting – September 19, 2024

Jesse Montero  
Library Director & Secretary