

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING
RIVERFRONT LIBRARY
FEBRUARY 19, 2020

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Stephen Jannetti Joseph Puglia John Saraceno Hon. Michael Sabatino Darryl Mack Sr.
ACTING LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Susan Thaler
BUSINESS MANAGER:	Vivian Presedo
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY:	James Hackett
WLS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:	Tr. Puglia
UNION REPRESENTATIVE:	Brandon Neider, PC Tech. I
GUESTS:	Mary Robison Rose Avilés

The Board Meeting began at 7:00 p.m.

Pres. Maron announced two changes to New Business on the agenda: a discussion of circulation statistics and data would follow the Management Report and the Executive Session and Appointment of a Library Director would follow Unfinished Business.

The Board welcomed two new trustees, Michael Sabatino and Darryl Mack, and spent a few minutes making introductions.

MINUTES

On motion of Tr. Puglia, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of January 16, 2019.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Acting Director Thaler reported on a recent tragedy at the Spring Valley Library where a security guard was killed by a patron. Management and the Board discussed the Library's own security and plans to review its own procedures.

Acting Director Thaler announced a \$25,000 grant from New York State awarded by Assemblyman Nader Sayegh for the purpose of a space assessment at the Will Branch for future interior renovations.

Acting Director Thaler announced a new program, Code Heroes, which will begin at the Riverfront Library in April. Students in grades 6-8 will learn to write code to create video games that discourage cyber-bullying. The program will also run at Will over the summer and return to Riverfront in late summer as well.

Acting Director Thaler reported that the VITA free tax preparation program successfully debuted at Riverfront and is a popular complement to the AARP tax preparation program at Will.

Acting Director Thaler reported on the recent Gallery Hop and reception for former artist-in-residence Shanequa Benitez.

Acting Director Thaler announced that the Library will receive a cultural humanities fellow from Sarah Lawrence College as a part of a grant from the Mellon Foundation that the College recently received. The fellow will work with the Neo Teen Art Club to create a cultural and oral history of the Yonkers Public Library in the community.

Acting Director Thaler shared with the Board some recent staff news. Mary Robison was promoted to Head of Riverfront Adult Services and four other librarians received promotions as well, Victoria Addo-Prempeh, Michael Walsh, Ana Gantzer and Eileen Fusco. Danny Sabol was also recognized by the City Council President's Office for outstanding service. The Board discussed other recent positive patron experiences they had heard of in the community.

Acting Director Thaler invited the Board to the WLA annual breakfast at the Doubletree Hotel in Tarrytown on April 17.

Pres. Maron drew the Board's attention to the new circulation report found in the Board's monthly packet and discussed ways to evaluate the information and statistics.

WLS REPORT

Tr. Puglia followed up on the discussion of circulation data by sharing several member libraries' concerns with the way WLS accumulates and compiles its data, as well as the library directors' overall confidence in the System.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT

Representative Neider reiterated the Union’s ongoing concern regarding the overtime budget. Management stated they were confident they would not run out of funds for overtime and would give the Union notice of any change.

Representative Neider inquired on the state of vacancies as affected by staff transfers from the Will Branch to the Riverfront Library. Management and the Union agreed to follow up on the state of vacancies and transfers.

PERSONNEL REPORT

On motion of Tr. Jannetti, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board ratified the following appointments:

Elizabeth Caruso, Clerk I Data Entry, \$41,768.00/yr, eff. 1/24/2020
Sunday Fascaldo, P/T Page, \$13.00/hr, eff. 1/31/2020
Eileen Fusco, Librarian I, \$56,694.00/yr, eff. 2/7/2020
Mary Robison, Prov. Librarian III, \$75,193.00/yr, eff. 2/7/2020
Victoria Addo-Prempeh, Prov. Librarian II, \$65,109.00/yr, eff. 2/7/2020
Michael Walsh, Prov. Librarian II, \$65,109.00/yr, eff. 2/7/2020

Acknowledged the following resignations:

Bijula Antony, P/T Page, \$13.00/hr, eff. 1/11/2020
Brandon Owusu, P/T Page, \$13.00/hr, eff. 1/3/2020
Theodora Aina, P/T Page, \$13.00/hr, eff. 1/2/2020

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Pres. Maron explained the role and function of each Committee and completed the appointment of Standing Committees for 2020.

Finance, Budget & Planning - Maron, Jannetti, Puglia.

Employee Relations - Maron, Puglia.

Buildings & Grounds - Maron, Saraceno

Policy – Maron, Ilarraza, Sabatino

Fundraising & Development – Maron, Jannetti, Mack

Foundation update: Pres. Maron shared new details on the gala scheduled on June 10 and was hopeful renewed coordination with the Yonkers Public Schools would lead to a full Auditorium for author and special guest Julia Alvarez.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Tr. Jannetti, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #812.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pres. Maron motioned the Board into Executive Session at 8:03 p.m to discuss the appointment of a Library Director. The Meeting resumed at 8:29 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

On motion of Tr. Jannetti, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board appointed Jesse Montero Director of the Yonkers Public Library effective March 30, 2020.

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE – Thursday, March 19, 2020 at the Grinton I. Will Branch.

On motion of Tr. Mack, the Meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Susan Thaler
Acting Library Director & Secretary