

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING
ELECTRONIC MEETING
JUNE 23, 2022

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEES:	Stephen Jannetti Joseph Puglia Hon. Michael Sabatino Patricia Duggan
LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Jesse Montero
ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Shauna Porteus
BUSINESS MANAGER:	Vivian Presedo
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY:	James Hackett
WLS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:	Trustee Puglia
UNION REPRESENTATIVE:	NONE
GUESTS:	Emily Power, Mary Robison, Fifer Charlie Loftus, Eileen Fusco

The Board Meeting was held electronically via ZOOM ®, Conference ID# 863 2454 9079

The Board Meeting began at 7:10 pm.

MINUTES

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of May 19, 2022.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Director Montero announced the recent hiring of new Librarian Trainee Charlie Loftus. Charlie was hired from the Sarah Lawrence College Community Leadership Intern Program (CLIP) to work in the Riverfront Reference Department and is currently enrolled at Rutgers University. The Board welcomed Charlie.

Director Montero reported that the Yonkers City Council adopted the Mayor's proposed Executive Budget, which fully funded both YPL's operating budget request for the fiscal year ending in 2023 and its capital budget request of \$1.4 million to begin renovations at Will Library. The capital budget in particular will allow for an urgently needed replacement of the building's heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC) equipment.

Director Montero went on to discuss the recent multiple failures of the Will Library air conditioning chiller. It failed on May 11 at the Foundation Gala and again on May 22 and several attempts at repair since then were unsuccessful. The last attempt on Tuesday was a firmware upgrade to the 30-year-old chiller's programming and although it restored air conditioning to some parts of the building, the situation remains uncertain. As a result, Yonkers Public Library has requested proposals to rent a chiller temporarily to provide air conditioning this summer while a more permanent solution is found. Director Montero thanked several City departments and agencies for their assistance and cooperation, as well as the entire Will Library team and administration for their patience working in uncomfortable conditions.

Director Montero announced that YPL joined the Library Speakers Consortium, which is an organization that hosts a virtual author talk series featuring several award-winning and best-selling authors every month. Library Speakers Consortium also allows member libraries to customize the service with each libraries' own publicity and branding to promote and present the virtual author talk series. The service would launch for YPL on July 7 with Alka Joshi, author of *The Henna Artist*.

Assistant Director Porteus updated the Board on the progress of the website and branding redesign. She was pleased to note that the adopted budget for the next fiscal year included funding to contract Library Market, a design agency that specializes in branding, marketing and technology solutions for libraries and would lead the process of redesigning the website, calendar and YPL brand. She presented samples of other libraries who are Library Market clients and she hoped the redesign would be complete in four to five months.

Assistant Director Porteus discussed the expansion of several programs with Sarah Lawrence College and credited Dr. Kishauna Soljour, a Mellon Foundation public humanities fellow and professor at the college, with the partnership. Dr. Soljour has connected YPL with several students for internship experiences as part of the CLIP program, including the recently hired librarian trainee Charlie Loftus, as well as several other seniors that assist with local history, art gallery programming and social media and marketing outreach. Assistant Director Porteus also discussed Sarah Lawrence's Childhood Development Institute, which provides programming such as the Community Adventure Play Experience (CAPE) at Riverfront Library, and will begin to provide professional development workshops for library staff and rethink early childhood education strategies.

The Board was impressed with the new partnerships with other local cultural institutions and looked forward to the benefit it would bring to the community.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

NONE

WLS REPORT

NONE

PERSONNEL REPORT

On motion of Trustee Duggan, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board ratified the following appointments:

- Loftus, Fifer Charlie, Librarian Trainee, \$44,588.00/yr, eff. 5/27/2022
- Javier, Sade, P/T Page, \$15.00/hr, eff. 5/27/2022
- Harber, Sophia, P/T Page, \$15.00/hr, eff. 5/27/2022

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance, Budget & Planning- Maron, Jannetti (chair), Sabatino

Chair Jannetti referred the Board to Director Montero’s management report on the budget update. Trustee Sabatino noted that the budget hearings with City Council went well and was pleased that YPL’s budget request was fully funded.

Employee Relations – Maron, Puglia (chair), Duggan

NONE

Buildings & Grounds – Maron, Giuffrida (chair)

NONE

Policy – Maron, Iarraza (chair), Puglia, Sabatino

NONE

Fundraising & Development – Maron (chair), Jannetti

NONE

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #840.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Director Montero suggested a collaborative approach between staff and trustees in the coming months on the policies that were discussed at recent meetings. He would review further with staff and then make recommendations to the Board on the policies of interest to them.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Meeting – June 23, 2022

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the New York State 2021 Annual Report for Public and Association Libraries.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE – Thursday, July 21, 2022 at Will Library

On motion of Trustee Sabatino, the Meeting adjourned at 7:39 pm.

Jesse Montero
Library Director & Secretary