

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD MEETING  
RIVERFRONT LIBRARY  
FEBRUARY 16, 2023

**ATTENDANCE**

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| TRUSTEES:                   | Nancy Maron<br>Joseph Puglia<br>Stephen Jannetti<br>Michael Sabatino      |
| LIBRARY DIRECTOR:           | Jesse Montero   |
| ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR: | Shauna Porteus  |
| BUSINESS MANAGER:           | NONE  |
| ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY:   | James Hackett   |
| WLS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:   | Trustee Puglia  |
| UNION REPRESENTATIVE:       | Brandon Neider  |
| GUESTS:                     | Mary Robison, Erik Malave, Dominick Savarese, John McPartland, Kim Arline |

The Board Meeting began at 7:00 pm.

**MINUTES**

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Jannetti and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of January 19, 2023.

**MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Director Montero introduced Erik Malave, Librarian Trainee. Mr. Malave was hired a week ago and has a background in music and audio technology. He is presently pursuing an MLIS degree and works in the Riverfront Reference department.

Director Montero discussed YPL's celebration of Black History Month. Dozens of programs, book curations, films and exhibits recognized Black excellence and its impact on history and culture.

Director Montero reported that dozens of staff were recently voluntarily trained by Yonkers Public Schools faculty in CPR and AED (automated external defibrillator) use following an incident in December where a patron suffered a cardiac episode at Riverfront. Staff who participated received certification for the next two years.

Director Montero updated the Board on the progress of The Cove at Riverfront. New furniture and play equipment was purchased from Community Playthings at the recommendation of the Sarah Lawrence College Child Development Institute with funds from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) to create a new playspace in the Small People's Place.

## **UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

Representative Neider noted that Yonkers Public Library is still short several positions throughout the system. He also delivered a New York State FOIL request (Freedom of Information Law) to Director Montero.

## **WLS REPORT**

Trustee Puglia discussed a presentation on library outreach services he attended at the last WLS meeting and distributed a handout he received at the presentation.

## **PERSONNEL REPORT**

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

Sullivan, Juan, P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 12/23/2023  
Okang, Samuel, P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 1/20/2023

Acknowledged the following terminations:

Ahmad, Ismail, P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 1/7/2023  
Andrews, Carl, P/T Librarian I, \$21.00/hour, eff. 1/7/2023  
Aponte, Jacob, P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 1/7/2023  
Byrne, Patricia, P/T Librarian I, \$21.00/hour, eff. 1/7/2023  
Caycedo, Isis, P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 1/7/2023  
Ciriello, Kathleen, P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 1/7/2023  
Figura, Jon-Joseph, P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 1/7/2023  
Kiryako, Steven, P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 1/7/2023  
McCants, Mia, P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 1/7/2023  
McFadden, Janesse, P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 1/7/2023  
Mills, Ashley, P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 1/7/2023  
Newman, Linda, P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 1/7/2023  
Olaya, Clara, P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 1/7/2023  
Parris-Hines, Anja, P/T Librarian I, \$15.00/hour, eff. 1/7/2023  
Thompson, Georgette, P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 1/7/2023  
Tomkin, Claire, P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 1/7/2023  
Torres, Melissa, P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 1/7/2023  
Torres-Valencia, Yesceli, P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 1/7/2023  
Turner, Renieka, P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 1/7/2023  
Ward, Natique, P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 1/7/2023  
Wilson, Shannon, P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 1/7/2023  
Harber, Sophia, P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 1/7/2023  
Green-Arias, Mya, P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 1/23/2023  
Griffith, Scott, P/T Librarian I, \$21.00/hour, eff. 1/23/2023

Board Meeting – February 16, 2023

Mejia, Diana, P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 1/23/2023

Touba, Danielle, P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 1/23/2023

Ayedun, Ayomide, P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 1/23/2023

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

President Maron appointed Trustee Sabatino to the Policy Committee as its chair. She asked the committee chairs to discuss briefly the work they are planning for the year.

**Finance, Budget & Planning**- Jannetti (chair), Puglia. Trustee Jannetti reported that the committee would begin to advocate for YPL's budget request with the City Council in the coming months.

**Employee Relations** – Puglia (chair), Phelan. Trustee Puglia reported that the committee recently met with management to discuss communication regarding labor relations.

**Buildings & Grounds** – Daily (chair). Trustee Daily was not present.

**Policy** – Sabatino (chair). Trustee Sabatino reported that he reviewed many of YPL's policies and has a list of policies to review with the Board and management in the months ahead.

**Fundraising & Development** – Jannetti (chair). Trustee Jannetti reported that the committee would be focused on working with the Foundation to plan and publicize its upcoming gala on May 10.

Foundation Update: Trustee Maron distributed save-the-date cards for the gala. She added that she and many trustees would also be attending the Foundation-sponsored event tomorrow featuring author Mary Calvi.

## **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 #848.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Head of Reference at Riverfront Library Mary Robison updated the Board on the Sarah Lawrence College Community Engagement partnership through the Mellon Foundation. She distributed a handout and discussed the value the partnership provides the library in the areas of college internships, local history and archival work. She also detailed the recruitment of new humanities fellow Benjamin Zender following the departure of Kishauna Soljour and they will begin in August.

Director Montero updated the Board on the progress of rebranding Yonkers Public Library. He discussed the plan for deploying the logo and website and hoped it would launch on April 25, just before budget hearings. He also shared a preview of the new strategic plan that would contain the new branding and was excited about the new identity it would present to the public. He and the Board also discussed marketing ideas for the new brand.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

President Maron motioned the Board into Executive Session at 7:41 pm to discuss collective negotiations and asked Director Montero and Assistant Director Porteus to join them. The Board exited Executive Session at 8:01 pm.

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Sabatino and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE** – Annual Meeting on Thursday, March 16, 2023 at 7:00pm at Will Library.

Jesse Montero  
Library Director & Secretary