

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
ANNUAL BOARD MEETING
GRINTON I. WILL LIBRARY
JANUARY 19, 2023

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Joseph Puglia Stephen Jannetti John A. Daily Jr.
LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Jesse Montero
ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Shauna Porteus
BUSINESS MANAGER:	Vivian Presedo
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY:	James Hackett
WLS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:	Trustee Puglia
UNION REPRESENTATIVE:	Brandon Neider
GUESTS:	Patricia Duggan

The Board Meeting began at 7:02 pm. Director Montero presided until the Election of Officers for 2023.

MINUTES

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Maron and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of December 15, 2022.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2023

Nominating committee chair Trustee Puglia presented a slate of candidates to serve as officers for 2023: for President, Nancy Maron; for Vice President, Joseph Puglia; for Treasurer, Stephen Jannetti. With no other nominations or objections from the floor, those nominees were elected by acclamation. The Board congratulated the elected officers. President Maron continued to chair the meeting. The elected officers briefly explained the roles of their office.

Following the election, President Maron welcomed the Board's newest trustee, John A. Daily Jr. Trustee Daily introduced himself as a parent of Yonkers Public Schools students and lifelong Yonkers resident with a professional background in software engineering. He was excited to begin his public service in Yonkers.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Director Montero reported that Yonkers Public Library had recently applied for a Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for public facilities improvement. CDBG is a federally funded program that is available to institutions in low-to-moderate income communities, which Riverfront Library serves. If awarded, funds would be used to finance the Riverfront Welcome Center project (Centro de Bienvenido). The welcome center would be located on the first floor and would feature new paint and lighting, new book displays and bilingual signage. Director Montero hoped the enhancements would improve wayfinding, discovery and accessibility for patrons. He noted this year's request was \$50,000, more than what YPL has traditionally requested in the past.

Director Montero updated the Board on several new audio and visual upgrades to the auditoriums at Riverfront and Will Library. In consultation with Sound Associates, YPL installed new projectors, channel mixers, wireless speakers and sound management system at both auditoriums. He noted that new LED lighting would be installed as well. He expected the upgrades would enhance concerts and other live performances and hoped to renovate fully the Pincus Auditorium at Will in the future.

Director Montero presented a demonstration of the new website. He noted that it was not live yet but hoped that it would be a big improvement on the present website, which featured difficult calendar and meeting room management. Staff is presently in the process of uploading content to the site and is tentatively scheduled to go live on April 18. Director Montero and trustees discussed the functionality of the calendar, room reservations, databases and digital resources, and the catalog.

Assistant Director Porteus announced that Angel Castro was recently hired as the new marketing manager. Mr. Castro comes from the Downtown Waterfront BID and has extensive experience in the community. He is scheduled to begin February 21. Assistant Director Porteus explained the interview process and the evolution of the position and its responsibilities, which previously included herself and Rose Aviles. She added that the new position would be management. The Board was pleased with the growth and professionalization of new positions.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Representative Neider expressed the Union's concern with the transfer of vacancies at Will to other locations at Yonkers Public Library; management disputed this characterization, stating several positions have been filled at Will and the system overall is at a net positive in staffing. President Maron asked that specific Union concerns be communicated to the Board in advance as an agenda item if a matter required their attention.

Representative Neider also expressed the Union's frustration with a lack of respect in communication from management and the addition of a new non-union marketing manager position, which he believed features many responsibilities previously held by union members; management maintained that there were significant differences between the two positions. The Board suggested a report of personnel attrition over time and a discussion on overall staffing strategy at a future meeting; he stated that management does not provide such a report. He left the meeting at 7:46 pm.

WLS REPORT

Trustee Puglia reported that the next WLS meeting would be held on January 31 and that he would serve on the Education Committee of the WLS Board of Trustees. He briefly discussed that his role on this committee would be to educate and prepare new trustees to the Board.

PERSONNEL REPORT

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

Flores, Valentina, P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 12/19/2022

Acocal Garcia, Diana, P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 12/21/2022

Muckelvaney, Hazel, Custodial Worker, \$55,202.00/year, eff. 12/28/2022 (retirement)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Maron described the roles of each of the committees and made the following appointments:

Finance, Budget & Planning- Trustee Jannetti (chair), Trustee Puglia

Employee Relations – Trustee Puglia (chair), Trustee Duggan

Buildings & Grounds – Trustee Daily (chair)

Policy –

Fundraising & Development – Trustee Jannetti (chair).

Foundation Update: President Maron reported that the Foundation recently concluded its annual fundraising campaign and was pleased to announce that it raised nearly \$18,000 and resulted in many new donors. The Board also discussed membership strategies.

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 #847.

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board voted to designate Trustee Puglia to certify claims for payment in the absence of the Treasurer and the President.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

Annual Board Meeting – January 19, 2023

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE – Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 7:00pm at Riverfront Library.

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Puglia and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Jesse Montero
Library Director & Secretary