

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD MEETING  
GRINTON I. WILL LIBRARY  
MAY 18, 2023

**ATTENDANCE**

|                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| TRUSTEES:                   | Nancy Maron<br>Stephen Jannetti<br>Patricia Phelan<br>John A. Daily Jr. |
| LIBRARY DIRECTOR:           | Jesse Montero   |
| ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR: | Shauna Porteus  |
| BUSINESS MANAGER:           | Vivian Presedo  |
| ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY:   | James Hackett   |
| WLS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:   | NONE  |
| UNION REPRESENTATIVE:       | Brandon Neider  |
| GUESTS:                     | Mary Robison, Linda Youngren, Patricia Manning, Dominick Savarese       |

The Board Meeting began at 7:14 pm.

**MINUTES**

On motion of Trustee Daily, seconded by Trustee Jannetti and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of April 20, 2023.

**MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Director Montero reported on the successful introduction of several innovations and services as part of National Library Week. YPL formally revealed its new logo on April 24. Staff wore t-shirts with the new logo and banners were displayed in front of all three libraries to celebrate the new brand. Several new products such as tablecloths, signs and library cards were also released.

Director Montero also reported that the new website was launched later in the evening of the same day as the new logo reveal. The new website is designed by LibraryMarket and features a more dynamic and attractive interface for the public, as well as a new calendar and content management system. While there has been a learning curve among some

staff as they grow more accustomed to it, he believed the transition has been smooth considering the drastic change.

Director Montero reported that the new Sensory Room at Riverfront Library was also opened later that week on April 27. The Sensory Room features soft lighting, comfortable furniture and sensory-friendly equipment to help those with sensory processing challenges and autism to feel more comfortable and less overstimulated when they visit the library and is available for public reservation through the new website and calendar.

Director Montero announced that the new long-term strategic plan was released the following week on May 2 and distributed printed copies to the Board. The plan and its vision is the result of several surveys, focus groups, interviews and committees and lists several key objectives and actions that can be taken to achieve them.

Assistant Director Porteus updated the Board on staffing news. She introduced Zaivy Luke-Aleman to the Board earlier in the evening. Ms. Luke-Aleman was recently hired as a full-time clerk in the circulation department at Will Library after previously serving as a part-time page; she also possesses a Master's degree in publishing and has extensive experience in customer service. Assistant Director Porteus also reported that Silvia Merlo-Rosales, clerk at the Will Library circulation department, was named to the Mayor's Hispanic Advisory Board and Diane Mignault, librarian trainee at Riverfront Reference, was named to the Yonkers Pride Board.

## **UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

Union President Dominick Savarese reported that he received multiple complaints from members earlier in the day about a staff meeting at Riverfront Library where it was discussed that staff would be required to provide library services offsite to migrants who recently arrived in Yonkers earlier in the week and expressed the Union's safety and security concerns with such a plan.

Director Montero and Assistant Director Porteus replied that the meeting was a preliminary discussion after the City of Yonkers asked YPL to be on standby to provide support and no plans had been set yet, however no staff who were uncomfortable with providing services offsite would be required to do so and any service offsite would not be mandatory.

## **PERSONNEL REPORT**

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

Guida, Raphael; Provisional Librarian II, \$67,211.00/year, eff. 4/28/2023

Coto-Chang, Oswaldo; Provisional Librarian II, \$67,211.00/year, eff. 4/28/2023

Mignault, Diane; Permanent Librarian I, \$58,449.00/year, eff. 5/12/2023

Primitivo, Cristian; P/T Page, \$15.00/hour, eff. 5/12/2023

Board Meeting – May 18, 2023

Luke-Aleman, Zaivy; Permanent Clerk I, \$43,075.00/year, eff. 5/15/2023

Acknowledged the following terminations:

Broughton, Vivienne; Clerk II Typist, \$57,799.00/year, eff. 4/28/2023 (retired)

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

President Maron reminded trustees to submit committee reports in advance, so their reports may be added to the agenda.

### **Fundraising & Development** – Jannetti (chair).

Foundation Update: President Maron reported that approximately 130 attended the Foundation gala last week and over 150 tickets were sold. She felt good about the success of the event and was pleased with the representation of city officials and leaders in the arts and non-profit communities, but hoped for more staff representation next year. She estimated that the gala raised over \$50,000 and believed that, after accounting for expenses, \$20,000 would be donated to Yonkers Public Library. She also informed the Board that the next Foundation event would be Make Music Day and she expected programming at Riverfront and Crestwood libraries, as well as offsite at Untermeyer Gardens.

## **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Phelan and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #851.

President Maron welcomed the presence of Linda Youngren and Patricia Manning of the Friends of Crestwood Library. The Board and administration briefly discussed and complimented the Friends' new website and programming.

On motion of Trustee Daily, seconded by Trustee Phelan and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE** – Thursday, June 15, 2023 at 7:00pm at Riverfront Library.

Jesse Montero  
Library Director & Secretary