

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD MEETING  
GRINTON I. WILL LIBRARY  
NOVEMBER 16, 2023

**ATTENDANCE**

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Joseph Puglia Stephen Jannetti Patricia Phelan John A. Daily Jr. Michael Sabatino
LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Jesse Montero
ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Shauna Porteus
BUSINESS MANAGER:	Vivian Presedo
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY:	NONE
WLS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:	Trustee Puglia
UNION REPRESENTATIVE:	Jay Chawla
GUESTS:	Dominick Savarese, Carlos Figueroa, Mary Robison, Cathleen Walsh, Eileen Fusco, Timothy Herlihy, Jessica Neto

The Board Meeting began at 7:00 pm.

President Maron opened the meeting by announcing a small change to the agenda: new staff introductions followed by approval of the minutes and then public comment. Director Montero announced Jessica Neto as a new librarian in the Will Library Children's Department and Timothy Herlihy as a new clerk in the Will Library Circulation Department. Both briefly introduced themselves and the Board welcomed them to YPL.

**MINUTES**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Director Montero read a complaint he received from Tom Rossi, a patron of Crestwood Library, via the City of Yonkers Constituent Services. The complaint expressed Mr. Rossi's concern over space usage at Crestwood and his disappointment that he was asked to

move from a reading table to accommodate programming. Director Montero reported that he later spoke to Mr. Rossi to discuss his experience at Crestwood and he believed Mr. Rossi was satisfied following the conversation.

Cathleen Walsh of the Friends of Crestwood Library thanked the Board for replacing the front sign at Crestwood and also reported that the Friends received a donation of \$2,000 from a patron, which she credited as gratitude for the sign. Ms. Walsh gave the donation to YPL; Director Montero and Business Manager Presedo thanked her.

## **MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Director Montero reported that YPL was honored on November 3 at the New York Library Association (NYLA) Annual Conference with two awards: the Joseph F. Shubert Library Excellence Award in recognition of the Summer Reading Buddies program and Board President Maron received the Velma K. Moore Award from the New York Library Trustees Association. He believed this was the first time YPL has received these awards and they were preparing press releases announcing them.

Director Montero reported that YPL released its limited edition library cards celebrating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Hip-Hop on October 26. The cards were inspired by similar releases from New York Public Library, Brooklyn Public Library, Queens Public Library and the Philadelphia Free Library. The cards, titled “The Sound of Light”, were designed by local street muralist Daniel Hopkins, aka “Maxx Moses”. The cards were released at the “Lost City of Hip-Hop”, an event celebrating Yonkers’ role in hip-hop culture.

Director Montero updated the Board on YPL’s partnership agreement with Newspapers.com. YPL’s local newspaper microfilm archives were digitized three years ago and made available to patrons using local library computers or wifi only; now all public domain local newspapers have been made available to the public anywhere by visiting the YPL website.

Technical Support Manager Carlos Figueroa reported on the pursuit of new E-Rate funding independent of Westchester Library System. E-Rate is a program administered by the FCC designed to make telecommunication equipment and broadband more affordable for schools and libraries by reimbursing up to 90% of costs. Previous funding is being used to replace switches and access points to better deliver 1GBps internet service to the public and new funding will be used for new data lines that will extend the reach of its wifi networks and improve space use. YPL is presently meeting with vendors for the project and expects to review bids in January.

## **UNION REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT**

Representative Chawla reported that a mutual understanding was reached on the interpretation of sick leave use in the new labor contract and that discussions about the employee sick bank are ongoing. He also communicated the membership’s hopes that contractual raises would be received within the next pay period. Representative Chawla

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also introduced himself as the new shop steward of Riverfront Library and looked forward to working together.

Director Montero expressed his desire for the raises as soon as possible as well but noted that implementation was in the hands of the City payroll department and Business Manager Presedo reported that raises would likely not be in the next paycheck.

## **PERSONNEL REPORT**

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

Ortiz, Anthony; P/T Custodial Worker, \$15.00/hour, eff. 10/28/2023

Acknowledged the following terminations:

Gmitter, Andrew; P/T Custodial Worker, \$15.00/hour, eff. 10/21/2023

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Foundation Update: President Maron reported that the Foundation has set April 25, 2024 as the date of its annual gala and the venue will likely be Riverfront Library. She also reported that the family of a frequent patron approached the Foundation about a naming opportunity. She could not share many details as discussions were still fluid, but she reported a section of the collection would be named in acknowledgement of a donation to the Foundation.

## **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Daily and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #857.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The 2024 Holiday Schedule was presented to the Board. Assistant Director Porteus noted that although the Library was closed last year in recognition of Juneteenth, it has since been added to the new labor contract among the list of closings. On motion of Trustee Sabatino, seconded by Trustee Daily and unanimously carried, the Board approved the 2024 Holiday Schedule.

President Maron informed the Board that Trustee Puglia would be stepping down as a Westchester Library System trustee. In his capacity as WLS trustee he also served as YPL representative to the WLS Board of Trustees and his resignation vacates this representation. President Maron asked the Board to consider recommendations for his replacement. The Board discussed the qualifications and responsibilities of WLS representative and the importance of representing YPL's interests to the WLS Board.

President Maron reminded the Board of the need for them to attend two hours of trustee education annually and discussed opportunities with them to fulfill this requirement.

President Maron asked for trustees to serve on a Nominating Committee to choose a slate of nominees for the Election of Officers at the annual meeting in January. Trustee Daily volunteered to serve.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

President Maron motioned the Board into Executive Session at 7:39 pm to discuss the employment history and performance of two particular employees and asked Director Montero, Assistant Director Porteus and Business Manager Presedo to join them. Assistant Director Porteus and Business Manager Presedo left the session at 7:55 pm. The Board exited the session at 8:54 pm.

On motion of Trustee Daily, seconded by Trustee Phelan and unanimously carried, the Board voted to increase Director Montero's salary in alignment with other City of Yonkers unrepresented employee contractual raises.

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Puglia and unanimously carried, the Board voted to ratify the stipulation of settlement between Yonkers Public Library and employee #729308 dated October 30, 2023.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE** – Thursday, December 21, 2023 at Riverfront Library.

On motion of Trustee Sabatino, seconded by Trustee Phelan and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the Meeting at 8:56 pm.

Jesse Montero  
Library Director & Secretary