

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
ANNUAL MEETING
GRINTON I. WILL LIBRARY
JANUARY 18, 2024

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Joseph Puglia Stephen Jannetti Michael Sabatino Patricia Phelan John A. Daily Jr. Ofunne Edoziem
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:	Pat Manning, Joe Harbeson

The Board Meeting began at 7:00 pm.

Director Montero announced he would chair the meeting until the election of officers. He opened the meeting by acknowledging that the terms of Trustees Puglia and Jannetti expired at the end of 2023, however the appointing authority, the Yonkers Board of Education, had informed him that their terms would be held over until new trustee terms were confirmed.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2024

Nominating Committee Chair Daily presented the following slate of nominees to serve as officers for 2024: Nancy Maron for President; Joseph Puglia for Vice President; Stephen Jannetti for Treasurer. With no other nominations or objections from the floor, those nominees were elected by acclamation. The Board congratulated the elected officers.

MINUTES

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Daily and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of December 21, 2023.

Trustee Sabatino arrived at 7:02 pm.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Director Montero reported that Riverfront Library hosted Mayor Mike Spano's inauguration on New Years Day. He said that the event was successful and that YPL staff were thanked and praised for their professionalism.

Director Montero reported that YPL had contracted with Steven Winter Associates Inc. (SWA), an inclusive wayfinding consultant, to improve accessibility and discovery of the first floor of Riverfront Library as part of phase one of its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) project. He noted the design of Riverfront was not particularly intuitive and had bad sightlines; SWA would conduct a one day audit and produce a report with recommendations that would inform phase two of the CDBG project next year. He also discussed other changes made to improve the first floor of Riverfront, including the relocation of self-service technology such as copiers, scanners and fax machines to the computer room.

Director Montero updated the Board on the elevator at Will Library. He was disappointed that the project remains behind schedule as they await a final inspection and acknowledged the hardships the delay has caused for the public and staff. He noted that the problem was not budgetary but rather questions about fire code requirements.

Director Montero reported that YPL had opened a request for proposals (RFP) for a temporary chiller at Will Library for the upcoming cooling season of April 15 to October 15. United Rentals produced the lowest responsive and responsible proposal and was awarded the contract. This temporary solution has been funded in part by allocation in the FY24 budget and the rest would be requested in the FY25 budget.

Director Montero was pleased to announce that the City of Yonkers had notified him that YPL would receive \$2 million in previously authorized capital funding for a permanent replacement of a chiller at Will. Director Montero was confident that this combined with previously awarded \$587,000 in New York State construction grant funds should adequately fund the project. While the capital funding is not available just yet, YPL is in touch with architectural consultants KG+D to propose a design for the project and the available grant funding has already been earmarked for necessary electrical work.

Director Montero reported that the Library Trustees Association of the New York Library Association (NYLA) presented Board President Maron with the Velma K. Moore Award for exemplary contributions in library service on January 4 at Riverfront Library. The reception was attended by Mayor Spano, WLS Director Terry Kirchner, several trustees and family and friends of President Maron. The Board congratulated her on the honor.

President Maron suggested that the Buildings and Grounds Committee could support and participate in the Will chiller capital project. Director Montero agreed that their advocacy could help build excitement and public demand for more library building improvements, as well as raising awareness and any technical advice they could offer.

Trustee Puglia expressed frustration with the slow pace of repair of the elevator at Will. Director Montero agreed that it has been a problem at Will and acknowledged everyone's frustration with it. Trustee Sabatino offered his assistance coordinating with the different City agencies; Director Montero welcomed the support and said he would express the Board's displeasure with the lack of progress.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Representative Neider had no report.

President Maron stated that there was some interest among trustees to build more positive communication between the Board and the Union and hoped it might make future contract negotiations more amicable.

PERSONNEL REPORT

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

Clarke, Tyrek; Page (PT), \$16.00/hour, eff. 12/16/2023
Molina, Glenda; Clerk I Spanish Speaking, \$50,191.00/year, eff. 12/21/2023

Acknowledged the following terminations:

Murshed, Ahmed; Page (PT), \$16.00/hour, eff. 12/31/2023
Amoyaw, Alfred; Junior Clerk (PT), \$16.00/hour, eff. 12/31/2023
Cadiz, Valerie; Page (PT), \$16.00/hour, eff. 12/31/2023
Grant, Madison; Junior Clerk (PT), \$16.00/hour, eff. 12/31/2023
Marji, Ronjon; Page (PT), \$16.00/hour, eff. 12/31/2023
Osborne, Robin; Librarian II (PT), \$25.35/hour, eff. 12/31/2023
Robalo, Moises; Page (PT), \$16.00/hour, eff. 12/31/2023
Thomas, Bree; Page (PT), \$16.00/hour, eff. 12/31/2023
Tolentino, Kristin; Page (PT), \$16.00/hour, eff. 12/31/2023
Williams, Josiah; Junior Clerk (PT), \$16.00/hour, eff. 12/31/2023
Zagha, Samar; Page (PT), \$16.00/hour, eff. 12/31/2023
Bermeo, Carlos; Page (PT), \$16.00/hour, eff. 12/31/2023
Bush-Bloom, Sherri; Librarian I (PT), \$21.00/hour, eff. 12/31/2023
McCluskey-Nightengale, Ella Mbali; Junior Clerk (PT), \$16.00/hour, eff. 12/31/2023
Ramos, Gabriela; Page (PT), \$16.00/hour, eff. 12/31/2023
Schneer, Valerie; Librarian II (PT), \$25.35/hour, eff. 12/31/2023

COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Maron and Trustee Daily discussed the roles and responsibilities of the committees. She stated that in addition to the standing Finance, Budget and Planning Committee, Employee Relations Committee and Policy Committee, the special Buildings & Grounds and Fundraising

committees would return for the new year, and a new Outreach Committee would be appointed as well. President Maron appointed the following trustees to these committees and reminded the Board that she would serve *ex officio* on all committees as President:

Finance, Budget & Planning- Trustee Jannetti (chair)

Policy- Trustee Sabatino (chair)

Employee Relations- Trustee Puglia (chair), Trustee Daily

Fundraising- Trustee Jannetti (chair)

Buildings & Grounds- Trustee Daily (chair), Trustee Puglia

Outreach- Trustee Edoziem (chair), Trustee Phelan, Trustee Sabatino

Trustee Phelan announced that she would take over Trustee Puglia's resigned term as WLS Representative through the end of the year.

Foundation Update: President Maron reported that save-the-dates for the annual gala on April 25 had been released and a committee will be empaneled to plan for the event. She also announced that the Foundation had hired a part-time paid employee beginning in February to assist with fundraising, outreach and gala planning.

President Maron acknowledged the Friends of Crestwood Library and gave the floor to Joe Harbeson. Mr. Harbeson reported that the Friends received a \$1,000 donation in appreciation of the new sign at Crestwood Library and gave it to Director Montero; the Friends and Director Montero were pleasantly surprised by the donation and appreciative of the gift. Mr. Harbeson went on to discuss the role of the Friends of Crestwood Library in supplemental funding, programming and fundraising for Crestwood. He also went into more detail on their current and future programming, including the upcoming centennial celebration next year and the launch of their website.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Edoziem and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #859.

On motion of Trustee Maron, seconded by Trustee Puglia 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

Director Montero updated the Board on the status of YPL's budget request for the fiscal year ending in 2025. He reported that they had submitted their formal operating budget request on January 8 and they will submit their request for capital funding by February

12. He echoed his comments earlier in the meeting on the promise of \$2 million in capital funding for the chiller at Will Library and as a result they will not need to make that request again. However, he did expect that they would request funding to improve the auditorium at Will and has asked KG+D to draft a proposal. He added that this proposal was met positively by new Deputy Mayor Sue Gerry and she would assist with their request, as well as tour the library buildings on February 1. Director Montero and trustees discussed the details of the auditorium improvements.

NEW BUSINESS

Director Montero informed the Board of an upcoming trustee institute seminar on library relationships with municipalities and governments and recommended they attend if available.

Director Montero discussed recent talks with the Union on the administration of the employee sick bank. On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Phelan and unanimously carried, the Board ratified a Memorandum of Agreement regarding changes to the administration of the employee sick bank with SEIU 704B.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Maron motioned the Board into Executive Session at 7:58 pm to discuss the employment history and performance of a particular employee and asked Director Montero and Business Manager Presedo to join them.

The Board exited the Executive Session at 8:22 pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE –Thursday, February 15, 2024 at 7:00pm at Riverfront Library.

On motion of Trustee Edoziem, seconded by Trustee Puglia and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the Meeting at 8:23 pm.

Jesse Montero
Library Director & Secretary