

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING
RIVERFRONT LIBRARY
NOVEMBER 20, 2024

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Joseph Puglia Michael Sabatino John Daily Jr.
LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Jesse Montero
ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	NONE
BUSINESS MANAGER:	Vivian Presedo
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY:	James Hackett
WLS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:	NONE
UNION REPRESENTATIVE:	Brandon Neider
GUESTS:	Patricia Ricardo, Mary Robison

The Board Meeting began at 7:00 pm.

MINUTES

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Sabatino and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of October 23, 2024.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Director Montero reported that early voting successfully concluded at Riverfront and Will libraries. While official totals are not available, he estimated that approximately 10,000 people voted at Will and 6,000 voted at Riverfront from October 26 through November 3. He was proud that YPL could be host to two of the three locations in Yonkers and thanked the staff at both libraries for a smooth operation.

Director Montero discussed changes in several staff spaces at Will Library. He reported that, because the Children's Room has hosted most juvenile programming for the last several years, the Story Room was repurposed as the new office for the Fine Arts department. In turn, the old Fine Arts office was repurposed as an additional office for the

circulation department. In total the changes created over 400 square feet of office space for as many as five employees.

Director Montero updated the Board on several ongoing facilities projects. He reported that the City of Yonkers' architectural consultant, Fuller D'Angelo, was in the process of preparing construction specifications and bidding documents for building renovations at Crestwood Library; the project is funded by the library's capital budget and New York State aid for library construction and will feature new windows, fire alarm system and lighting. Director Montero also reported that KG+D, the architectural firm managing the Will Library chiller replacement project, has completed its construction specifications and bidding documents and delivered them to the City of Yonkers Purchasing Department to manage the bidding process. He expects construction to take up to four months after the contract is awarded, but will prepare to rent a temporary chiller again in case the project is not completed by the summer. Director Montero also announced that Senator Shelley Mayer recommended YPL for a \$200,000 Local Community Assistance Program (LOCAP) grant to fund a new parking lot at the Will Library and the City of Yonkers has committed to cover any additional costs beyond what the grant will fund. The New York State Senate is currently reviewing the application.

Director Montero presented the new Yonkers Public Library merchandise store. The online store features the library's new logo on a variety of products, including clothing, coffee mugs, tote bags and more. The company Bonfire manages the website as well as production and shipping at no cost to the library and the library receives a portion of the sales. He believed the merchandise would be good advertising for YPL and raise its profile and thanked Assistant Director Porteus for managing the project. The store will launch the day after Thanksgiving on Black Friday in time for the holidays.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

No report.

WLS REPORT

No report.

PERSONNEL REPORT

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

Scuderi, Laurie; Permanent Clerk II, \$61,883/yr, effective 10/25/2024

Merlo-Rosales, Silvia; Permanent Clerk II Spanish Speaking, \$54,283/yr, effective 10/25/2024

Sullo, Frank; Permanent Clerk II, \$54,283/yr, effective 10/25/2024

Acknowledged the following resignation:

Miller, Alecia; Junior Clerk (P/T), \$16.00/hr, effective 11/2/2024

Javier, Sade; Junior Clerk (P/T), \$16.00/hr, effective 11/11/2024

Trustee Sabatino took a moment to observe the passing of long-time part-time library employee and friend of the library Lucia Trovato. Director Montero noted that over \$2,000 was donated to the Foundation in honor of Ms. Trovato.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance, Budget & Planning – Jannetti (chair).

President Maron discussed requesting a capital budget to fund renovations to the interior of Will Library, especially the Auditorium. She urged the Board to advocate for and support administration when they make their formal request for the next fiscal year and asked the Committee and other trustees to join her on a call to discuss the request in more detail later in the month.

Fundraising & Development - Jannetti (chair)

Foundation Update: President Maron reported that the annual appeal is now primarily an online campaign, largely eschewing the traditional mail appeal. She displayed samples of the appeal spotlighting the Born to Read program and noted that the parents and children featured in the publicity were actually library employees and their children. President Maron thanked Manager of Marketing and Public Relations Patricia Ricardo for working with the Foundation to produce the promotional materials, who added that while Born to Read was the headline, many materials and posters were customized to feature different programs and services at strategic locations and communications. The Board discussed the timeline and promotion of the appeal in detail.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Daily Jr. and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #869.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board discussed professional development opportunities to attend before the end of the year. Trustee Sabatino discussed a financial planning workshop he attended with President Maron last week at WLS that focused on creative fundraising ideas, such as planned and legacy giving, estate donations and life insurance. President Maron commented that while it was conducted by Apple Bank she found the workshop to be very library focused and particularly useful for the Foundation. The Board discussed the ideas and research from the workshop at greater length.

Director Montero announced that Art Gallery Curator Haifa Bint-Kadi recently completed a mosaic which illustrates the creation story of the Lenape tribe, who once inhabited the local area, and invited the trustees to view it on the first floor as they left the building.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 7:00pm at Crestwood Library

On motion of Trustee Sabatino, seconded by Trustee Puglia and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the Meeting at 7:35 pm.

Jesse Montero
Library Director & Secretary