

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
MONTHLY MEETING
RIVERFRONT LIBRARY
APRIL 17, 2025

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron John Daily Jr. Joseph Puglia Stephen Jannetti Patricia Phelan
LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	NONE
ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Shauna Porteus
BUSINESS MANAGER:	Vivian Presedo
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY:	NONE
WLS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:	Patricia Phelan
UNION REPRESENTATIVE:	NONE
GUESTS:	Christine Bitetti, Carlos Figueroa, Tara Somersall, Z. Baird, Connie Cullin

The Board Meeting began at 7:02 pm.

MINUTES

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Jannetti and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of March 20, 2025.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Assistant Director Porteus reported that Riverfront Library once again hosted Mayor's Spano's State of the City again. The event went smoothly and some highlights included the library's Born to Read partnership with St. John's Riverside Hospital and the Mayor's commitment to adding a fourth library branch, revealing the Lincoln Park Jewish Center in the southeast section of the city as a potential location. Assistant Director Porteus appreciated the praise from the Mayor, believing that it underscores the value of library service and the strong relationship between the library and the City of Yonkers.

Assistant Director Porteus updated the Board on the status of the Will Library HVAC and chiller replacement project. Work inside in the mechanical room recently completed and

moved outdoors, where they began trenching a pipeline from the building to where the new chiller equipment will be installed. Unfortunately this has impacted the number of parking spaces and traffic flow in the parking lot, but the disruption is expected to be temporary and YPL is working closely with all stakeholders to ensure safety and compliance with noise ordinances as well address any unforeseen conditions and issues that will arise from construction work.

Assistant Director Porteus reported that YPL recently completed its 2025 tax help season. The program was by appointment only for the second year in a row and over 500 people registered for appointments from February 4 through April 15, with far fewer no-shows than last year.

Assistant Director Porteus reported that Crestwood Library librarian Jackie Leone presented "Fixed at the Library: How to Host a Repair Café and Foster Sustainability" at the 2025 STEM Info Professionals Mini Conference NYC on March 21. Her talk highlighted Crestwood Library's innovative program, which brought together skilled "repair coaches" to teach patrons how to fix everyday items—helping extend their lifespan and reduce waste, rather than discarding them. Crestwood Library will be hosting another Repair Cafe in May 2025.

Assistant Director Porteus reported that YPL hosted a karaoke program for adults with developmental disabilities, St. Paddy's Day Karaoke Sing-Along, on March 17. The program follows the success of the Superhero Dance Party in October. More than 85 attended and YPL received commendation and thanks from the NYS Office of People with Developmental Disabilities.

Assistant Director Porteus discussed National Library Week, which was April 6-12. The annual celebration, sponsored by the American Library Association, reflects libraries and library workers' role in strengthening communities. All week long, staff celebrated each day with different themes as a form of community engagement. On April 10, the Foundation for the Yonkers Public Library sponsored a staff-wide luncheon as a thank you to the staff for their great work in serving Yonkers residents.

GUEST SPEAKER

Christine Bitetti, Technology Instruction Supervisor, presented Tech Central's STEM programs, highlighting programs and services for adults and youth since 2016. Adult programs include technology training, like the Women Advancing Through Technology (WATT) program, and workshops on computer basics and accessibility; youth engage in STEM workshops funded by Con Edison, focusing on sustainability, and gaming sessions. Other STEM workshops cover coding, music production, and digital media, while STEM Saturdays involve hands-on sustainability projects. Ms. Bitetti also discussed the use of ClassVR headsets for immersive education in schools. Participation has grown at Tech Central, with visitors increasing from 4,100 in 2023 to 6,200 in 2024, demonstrating a high demand for more STEM programs. The Board was very receptive to Ms. Bitetti's presentation, expressing an interest in ClassVR and agreeing that STEM programming should continue and expand.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

NONE

PERSONNEL REPORT

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

Loftus, Fifer Charlie; Permanent Librarian I, \$62,281/year, eff. 3/28/2025

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Assistant Director Porteus and Business Manager Presedo provided an overview of the Mayor's recently released executive budget proposal with the Board. The only notable exceptions from the library's request was the denial of increased funding for books and the removal of Sunday service during the summer, otherwise the library's request was largely met. President Maron and Vice President Daily suggested trustees meet with the City Council before they vote and advocate to maintain the proposed budget and highlight the library's accomplishments and efficiency.

Buildings & Grounds - Vice President Daily (chair), Trustees Sabatino and Jannetti

Vice President Daily asked if there was an update on the status of the proposed fourth branch. Assistant Director Porteus said the City was looking further into acquiring the property and the Engineering Department was performing due diligence.

Fundraising & Development - Vice President Daily (chair)

Foundation Update: President Maron reminded everyone that the Foundation gala is next week and will be held in the Atrium of the Riverfront Library, which is a change from last year's fourth floor location. The event will feature a new band and emcee, as well as a cause auction to support specific library initiatives. President Maron expected attendance to be high and to do well in fundraising.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Trustee Daily, seconded by Trustee Puglia and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #874.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Trustee Puglia introduced the idea of beginning meetings with the Pledge of Allegiance, similar to other agencies in Yonkers like the City Council and the Planning Board. The

Board discussed the proposal, expressing mixed feelings on the subject. President Maron suggested tabling the discussion to consult with other trustees not present and continue it at a later date.

WLS REPORT

Trustee Phelan announced that the due date for the metros digitization project grants is May 16. She also mentioned the Velma K. Moore Award, which is a \$1,500 award for a volunteer who has significantly contributed to library services in New York State and an award President Maron previously received, with nominations due June 30. Additionally, Trustee Phelan informed the Board about a WLS fun run on July 10 and encouraged them to join the WLS Speed Readers team. Lastly, she announced that the Battle of the Books will be held on October 25 at Ann M. Dorner Middle School in Ossining.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Crestwood Library Administrator Z. Baird took a moment to acknowledge National Volunteer Week next week and recognized the impact of volunteers like Connie Cullin. Ms. Baird emphasized that volunteers enhance the library experience in ways that staff cannot and expressed gratitude to Ms. Cullin and all volunteers across Yonkers Public Library. The Board applauded and thanked Ms. Cullin and all volunteers who serve at YPL.

NEXT MEETING DATE

Thursday, May 15, 2025 at 7:00 pm at Grinton I. Will Library

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Puglia and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the Meeting at 7:52 pm.

Jesse Montero
Library Director & Secretary