

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
MONTHLY MEETING  
RIVERFRONT LIBRARY  
JUNE 16, 2025

**ATTENDANCE**

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron John Daily Jr. Joseph Puglia Michael Sabatino Patricia Phelan Ofunne Edoziem
LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Jesse Montero
ASSISTANT LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Shauna Porteus
BUSINESS MANAGER:	Vivian Presedo
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY:	James Hackett
WLS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:	Patricia Phelan
UNION REPRESENTATIVE:	Brandon Neider
GUESTS:	Tanisha Clark, Patricia Ricardo-Ortiz

The Board Meeting began at 7:00 pm.

**MINUTES**

On motion of Trustee Daily, seconded by Trustee Puglia and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of May 15, 2025.

**MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Director Montero began the report by introducing Tanisha Clark, the newest clerk in the Will Circulation department. She began June 6 and has a background in medical and clerical work, having worked in a pediatrician's office in Tuckahoe and the Department of Motor Vehicles in Yonkers. She said it's been a pleasure working with the department so far and has learned a lot, particularly the many resources available to the public. Director Montero noted that her design skills and initiative have already been recognized and she has joined the marketing and merchandising team.

Director Montero reported that YPL's Summer Reading 2025 program launched on June 1 and will run through September 15. The program adopted a "team of teams" planning

model inspired by an ALA conference workshop attended by Assistant Director Porteus and features distinct working groups for marketing, outreach, training, and programming. This year's theme, *Color Our World*, has generated high-quality materials, including an activity/coloring book showcasing Yonkers landmarks. A kick-off event on May 28 at Will Library featured a bubble bus and Bluey entertainer; several other major events have also taken place, including a reading event on June 5 featuring the therapy dog Cooper with Mayor Spano and Superintendent Soler, which Director Montero believed illustrates the library's deeper partnerships with the City of Yonkers and Yonkers Public Schools. YPL set an ambitious goal of 25,000 read books, with over 1,300 already logged.

Trustee Edoziem arrived at 7:07 pm.

Director Montero updated the Board on staff news. Erik Malave, librarian trainee at Riverfront, has earned his MLIS degree from Queens College and will transition to librarian after he receives his public librarian's certification. Director Montero also highlighted six staff members who will present at this year's New York Library Association (NYLA) conference, a record for YPL. Presenters will cover a variety of topics, from sensory spaces to high school engagement.

Director Montero reported that YPL participated in Yonkers Arts Weekend, hosting 20 programs and exhibits at Riverfront and Will libraries. Stop & Shop also recognized the Riverfront Library for its Feeding Westchester food pantry and donated \$2,000 in gift cards, which should help its inventory.

Assistant Director Porteus reported on the successful completion of the Mary J. Blige x Pepsi "Strength of a Woman" grant. Five high school students completed a 35 hour commercial kitchen internship, passed food safety certifications and received stipends. One student was hired by restaurant partner Off the Hook and another was hired by the library as a page.

President Maron and Trustee Puglia praised the increased coordination with the school system and professional quality of materials. Trustees also discussed potential strategies to measure literacy outcomes in partnership with schools.

## **UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

NONE

## **PERSONNEL REPORT**

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

Woodruff, Hanora; Junior Clerk (P/T), \$16.50/hr, eff. 6/2/2025  
Clark, Tanisha; Permanent Clerk I, \$48,008.00, eff. 6/6/2025  
Smith, Theresa; Junior Clerk (P/T), \$16.50/hr, eff. 6/9/2025

Acknowledge the following terminations:

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Policy** - Trustees Sabatino (chair), Jannetti, Edoziem

Director Montero reported continued work on the Workplace Violence Prevention Policy as required under state law. A draft was completed but requires further programmatic adjustments and a finalized checklist. A revised version is expected for approval at the July meeting.

### **Employee Relations** - Vice President Daily (chair), Trustee Sabatino

President Maron suggested the committee consider what departments they would like to spotlight and learn more about. Director Montero reported that Riverfront Head of Adult Services Mary Robison is scheduled to present updates on digitization and local history initiatives in July.

### **Outreach** - Trustees Edoziem (chair), Jannetti

Trustee Edoziem reported that she continued to explore reestablishing the Bookmobile with some guidance from librarian Eugene Howell. She anticipates more updates in July.

### **Fundraising & Development** - Vice President Daily (chair)

Foundation Update: President Maron reported that the Foundation has scheduled a follow-up meeting to finalize fundraising totals from the gala and to begin planning for next year's event.

## **WLS REPORT**

Trustee Phelan summarized a detailed written report from WLS executive director Terry Kirchener. She shared information about the Disconnect 2 Reconnect campaign, NYS Public Library Construction Aid, the possibility of New York State Library budget cuts of up to 10%, advocacy for the Freedom to Read Act and Open Shelves Act, and news about a legal challenge to Mount Vernon Public Library over a bond resolution. Director Montero commented that YPL has joined the Disconnect 2 Reconnect campaign and intends to submit applications for public library construction aid to support capital projects at Will and Crestwood libraries.

## **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

On motion of Trustee Edoziem, seconded by Trustee Daily and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #876.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Trustees took a moment to note the success of the Midsummer Garden Party on June 12 at Will Library. The event received praise for its decor, attendance and positive reception. They also discussed the importance of the library serving as early voting locations. Trustee Sabatino encouraged trustees to visit the *Out, In* exhibit by Elizabeth de Bethune in the Riverfront Art Gallery.

President Maron recognized Make Music Day on June 21. Although programming is more limited than in previous years due to logistical challenges presented by the presence of early voting, there are smaller programs scheduled at Will and Crestwood and she encouraged staff and trustees to participate whenever possible and expected the Foundation to be more active next year.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

President Maron motioned the Board into executive session at 7:38 pm to discuss the employment history of an employee and asked Director Montero to join them. The session ended at 8:07 pm.

On motion of Trustee Daily, seconded by Trustee Puglia and unanimously carried, the Board authorized Director Montero to increase the salary of Assistant Director Porteus \$5,724 to \$141,255 to fully reflect a 9.5% increase from her 2021 starting salary.

## **NEXT MEETING DATE**

Thursday, July 17, 2025 at 7:00pm at Grinton I. Will Library

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Phelan and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the Meeting at 8:09 pm.

Jesse Montero  
Library Director & Secretary