

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
MONTHLY MEETING  
GRINTON I. WILL LIBRARY  
MARCH 20, 2025

**ATTENDANCE**

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Joseph Puglia Stephen Jannetti Patricia Phelan Michael Sabatino 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:	Aili Whelan, Tara Somersall, Patricia Ricardo, Mary Robison, Z. Baird, Linda Youngren, Mary Ann Penzero

The Board Meeting began at 7:02 pm.

**MINUTES**

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Sabatino and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of February 27, 2025.

**MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Director Montero took a moment to acknowledge Trustee Sabatino's retirement from the City of Yonkers as Director of Community and Government Affairs in the Office of Constituent Services. The Board thanked Trustee Sabatino for his service to the city and wished him well in his retirement. Trustee Sabatino noted that he intends to continue to serve as trustee with Yonkers Public Library.

Director Montero updated the Board on staffing news. Custodial Workers Andrew Tardella and Jose Mordan were hired at the Will and Riverfront libraries respectively, while Charlie Loftus was promoted to Librarian I at Riverfront Reference following his graduation from

Rutgers University and Elizabeth Caruso at Crestwood was transferred to a Librarian Trainee as she continues her studies at Queens College.

Trustee Edoziem arrived at 7:06 pm

Director Montero reported that Head of Riverfront Reference and Adult Services Mary Robison and Board President Nancy Maron presented at Connecticut Digital Humanities Conference at Central Connecticut State University. The presentation, “More than Memories: How YPL is Building a Community Archive”, was very successful and has resulted in continuing interest from conference attendees.

Director Montero shared photos of the new welcome lobby in honor of Lucia Trovato in the foyer of the Central Avenue entrance of Will Library. He reported that he remains in touch with the family of Ms. Trovato and the Mayor’s Office to schedule a ribbon cutting event and will be sure to update them as soon as a date is set.

Assistant Director Porteus updated the Board on YPL’s partnership with the Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Riverfront Library hosted a health literacy fair conducted by medical students from the college on March 6 in the Atrium. The event was attended by over 100 patrons and featured diabetes screening, blood pressure readings, fitness instruction, and other healthy exercises. They hope to conduct another fair at Will Library over the summer and return to Riverfront next winter.

Assistant Director Porteus announced the conclusion of the Winter Reading Challenge. She reported that the program was extremely successful, with over 13,000 books read by more than 1,100 registrants between January 1 and March 15. She thanked the staff who worked to keep readers engaged and to meet and exceed the reading goals.

## **GUEST SPEAKER**

Director Montero invited Aili Whelan, Head of Will Children’s Department, to give a presentation on her department. Ms. Whelan introduced herself and a staff of five. She discussed the children’s room at Will Library and its programming and services. She highlighted the accessibility and usefulness of the room, citing new modular furniture that enables them to regularly hold programs of more than 100 attendees. Recent programming was especially successful: in addition to regular storytimes in the morning and afterschool activities in the afternoon, the department also held 18 programs that drew approximately 1,400 attendees in the span of 5 days during the most recent winter break. Overall, 24,000 people attended children’s programming in the last year. Ms. Whelan also discussed in detail the community partnerships her department maintains and the schools they visit, as well as ideas for future programming. The Board was impressed with Ms. Whelan’s presentation and congratulated her on the success of the department.

## **UNION REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT**

Representative Neider had no report.

## **WLS REPORT**

Trustee Phelan had no report.

## **PERSONNEL REPORT**

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

Revellese, Catherine; Librarian I (P/T), \$21.00/hr, eff. 2/22/2025  
Tardella, Andrew; Permanent Custodial Worker, \$50,674/yr, eff. 2/28/2025  
Daglawi, Manal; Junior Clerk (P/T), \$16.50/hr, effective 3/1/2025  
Mordan, Jose; Permanent Custodial Worker, \$52,026/yr, eff. 3/14/2025  
Caruso, Elizabeth; Librarian Trainee, \$52,842/yr, eff. 3/14/2025  
Pittman, Durrell; Custodial Worker (P/T), \$16.50/hr, eff. 3/17/2025

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Trustee Edoziem reported that she joined the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. The organization is a network of writers and illustrators that try to partner with libraries. Trustee Edoziem said she would be happy to be a liaison and connect administration with them.

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

Foundation Update: President Maron reported that the Foundation continues to plan for its annual gala on April 24 and shared more material and invitations with trustees.

## **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Sabatino and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #873.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

Director Montero discussed the recent executive order signed by President Trump cutting much of the funding the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) receives; IMLS is the main source of federal funding for museums and libraries, including New York State Library (NYSL). While YPL is not a current direct recipient of IMLS grants or funding, he expected there to be many indirect repercussions from the funding cuts, particularly to the various services and databases that NYSL provides to libraries across the state. He said he was waiting on more information and guidance from Westchester Library System

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(WLS) and would share it with the Board as soon as it is received. The Board discussed at length the potential impact of the funding cuts to the profession and library service, as well the impact of other federal funding cuts to the City of Yonkers at large.

Trustee Puglia proposed adding the pledge of allegiance to the order of meetings, observing that the City Council, Planning Board and many other public bodies make the pledge before every meeting. After some discussion, the Board agreed to add it to the next meeting's agenda for further discussion.

President Maron congratulated Trustee Sabatino again on his retirement and invited trustees and guests to stay after the conclusion of the meeting to celebrate his service and enjoy refreshments.

### **NEXT MEETING DATE**

Thursday, April 17, 2025 at 7:00 pm at Riverfront Library

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

Jesse Montero  
Library Director & Secretary