

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
MONTHLY MEETING  
RIVERFRONT LIBRARY  
SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

**ATTENDANCE**

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron John Daily Jr. Joseph Puglia Stephen Jannetti Michael Sabatino
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:	Mary Robison, Patricia Ricardo-Ortiz

The Board Meeting began at 6:58 pm.

**MINUTES**

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Daily and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of July 17, 2025.

**MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Director Montero reported on the successful conclusion of the Summer Reading Buddies program. The program, run by Family Services Society of Yonkers (FSSY), registered 416 children to read with 117 adult mentors and also featured valuable workshops, tools and resources for parents and caregivers who attended with the children. Director Montero added that surveys conducted by FSSY reported that more than 95% of students reported an improvement in their reading confidence and comprehension. Director Montero thanked the Riverfront Children's Department, Custodial Department and Administration for a very smooth summer.

Trustee Sabatino arrived at 7:03 pm

Director Montero was pleased to announce that Westchester Library System (WLS) recommended YPL for its full request of New York State Aid for Library Construction. YPL requested \$232,932 in aid for the Crestwood Library Accessibility Improvement Project, which will supplement the \$1 million capital budget already authorized by the City to add a wheelchair lift and renovate a bathroom, as well as \$663,384 in aid for the Will Library Auditorium Renovations Project, which will supplement the \$3.629 million capital budget for improvements at Will. This is the first time YPL has applied for aid at two locations in one cycle and represents nearly half of WLS's allocation of approximately \$2.1 million from New York. He noted that while this does not mean the aid has been awarded, and it will be at least a year until aid is announced, the recommendation is very promising and usually results in an award.

Director Montero updated the Board on the status of the chiller and switchgear project at Will. He reported that the parking lot has been repaved following the completion of the trenching and excavation and removal of old piping and pumps. New chilled water pipes and electrical panels and systems have been installed as well as the chillers themselves and housekeeping pad. All three new chillers have yet to be completely commissioned, however testing on one of them was successful and appears to be running smoothly and quietly. The electrical switchgear that serves the building also remains to be installed and he hopes that will be completed in November.

Director Montero reported new art programs at Riverfront. The library's artist-in-residence Ridikkuluz hosted a series of painting workshops in August entitled Keys to Painting. Under his guidance, twelve young adults experimented with color, explored new techniques and discovered the power of art. The program is funded by a grant from the Baldwin Institute and is the first time the organization has funded work outside of New York City.

Director Montero reported the successful conclusion of the summer lunch program at Riverfront and Will. YPL partnered with Yonkers Public Schools (YPS) to distribute 12,349 breakfasts and lunches to children and families experiencing food insecurity. He also reported that the head of the Children's Department at Riverfront Oswaldo Coto-Chang was trained in Feeding Westchester's retail recovery program and now Riverfront's food pantry will be eligible to accept and distribute hygiene products, toys and other materials from participating retailers such as Stop and Shop and Shoprite.

Assistant Director Porteus discussed the conclusion of the summer reading challenge program. YPL logged more than 27,000 books read, surpassing its goal of 25,000, and engaged more than 3,000 participants of all ages. She credited the success of the program to improved marketing and engagement with organizations and agencies such as YPS and the Mayor's Office, as well as a new collaborative planning model focusing on marketing, programming and outreach. She also elaborated on the summer reading finale program, which featured crafts, live music and the presentation of certificates to the top readers at each library.

Director Montero went on to highlight the relationship with YPS. The strengthening relationship not only resulted in increased engagement for summer reading, but also expanded library card signups and improved access to digital resources for students. He

added that the joint literacy campaign has also continued to gain visibility, with reading challenges and school visits being integrated into classroom curriculums.

The Board was impressed with the success and data from the summer reading. They also went on to discuss circulation trends.

## **UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

NONE

## **PERSONNEL REPORT**

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

Gonzalez, Kayla; Junior Clerk (P/T), \$16.50/hour, eff. 7/5/2025  
Montiel, Michelle; Junior Clerk (P/T), \$16.50/hour, eff. 7/18/2025  
Friloux, River; Junior Clerk (P/T), \$20.00/hour, eff. 7/26/2025  
Kay, Madison; Page (P/T), \$16.50/hour, eff. 8/2/2025  
Bermeo, Daisy; Page (P/T), \$16.50/hour, eff. 8/2/2025  
Wissman, Nancy; Provisional Librarian II (P/T), \$25.35/hour, eff. 8/15/2025  
Sydnor, Aaliyah; Page (P/T), \$16.50/hour, eff. 9/5/2025  
Goncalves, Zoe; Junior Clerk (P/T), \$16.50/hour, eff. 9/6/2025

Acknowledged the following terminations:

Siegel, Pamela; Junior Clerk (P/T), \$16.50/hour, eff. 7/15/2025  
Moudud, Aliya; Junior Clerk (P/T), \$20.00/hr, eff. 7/25/2025  
Guzman, Randy; Page (P/T), \$16.50/hr, eff. 7/25/2025  
Marte, Saredys; Page (P/T), \$16.50/hr, eff. 9/13/2025

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

Foundation Update: President Maron reported that the Foundation discussed dates for its next gala at its last meeting but have not confirmed a date. She was also pleased to announce that the Foundation approved a block grant of \$60,000 to the library. The grant will fund library initiatives and programs such as homework help, 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, the Born To Read program and an annual luncheon to recognize library staff. President Maron also reported that the Foundation is seeking three new trustees for its board and encouraged those present to share suggestions on good fits.

Vice President Daily stated that as the year comes to a close he would be in touch with the committees to follow up on their progress and plan for the next year. Trustee Sabatino of the policy committee asked if there were any policies up for review; Director Montero welcomed the committee's input and noted that there may be a discussion of

policies regarding collection development, management and acquisitions following recommendations from the Department of Historical Preservation for the State of New York (DHPSNY), but nothing yet.

## **PAYMENT OF BILLS**

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Sabatino and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedules #878 and #879.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

President Maron directed the Board's attention to a request from the Friends of Crestwood Library to serve alcohol at an author talk on October 15 at Crestwood. Director Montero explained that the event features author Jamie Brenner, who is presenting a book on travel and wine and believed the service of wine at the event would enhance the experience. He noted that the request assures the library that the event is scheduled after the library closes and the alcohol is not self-service and will not be served to minors. He expressed his support for the event and encouraged the Board to approve the request.

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded by Trustee Sabatino and unanimously carried, the Board approved the service of alcohol at Crestwood Library on October 15 for the author talk with Jamie Brenner.

Director Montero discussed the State Aid for Library Construction request that he brought up in his management report further and added that the Board's assurances and authentication is required to complete its applications for the Crestwood Library Accessibility Improvement Project (#0386-26-1745) and Will Library Auditorium Renovations Project (#0386-26-1784) according to Education Law § 273-a and Commissioner's Regulation § 90.12. On motion of Trustee Daily, seconded by Trustee Jannetti and unanimously carried, the Board gave its assurances and authentication of the two projects.

## **NEXT MEETING DATE**

Thursday, October 16, 2025 at 7:00pm at Will Library

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded by Trustee Sabatino and unanimously carried, the Board adjourned the Meeting at 7:34 pm.

Jesse Montero  
Library Director & Secretary