

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING
ELECTRONIC MEETING
APRIL 16, 2020

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Josephine Ilarraza Stephen Jannetti Joseph Puglia John Saraceno Hon. Michael Sabatino
LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Jesse Montero
DEPUTY DIRECTOR:	Susan Thaler
BUSINESS MANAGER:	Vivian Presedo
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY:	James Hackett
WLS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:	Tr. Puglia
UNION REPRESENTATIVE:	Brandon Neider, PC Tech. I
GUESTS:	Arnaldo Torres, Rose Aviles, Getty Giordana, Carmela McManus, Ed Walsh, Sumie Hernandez-Moss, Phil Poggiali, Mary Nowak, Kay Donahue, Mary Robison, Edward Amato, Mary Ann Penzero, Jennifer Clarke

The Board Meeting was held electronically via ZOOM ®, Conference ID# 930 604 987

The Board Meeting began at 7:04 p.m.

MINUTES

On motion of Tr. Puglia, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of March 30, 2020.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Director Montero announced that Governor Cuomo had extended the New York State PAUSE Act through at least May 15 and as a result the Library has extended its closure through May 15 as well.

Director Montero reported that virtual programming has expanded considerably since closing. As many as ten programs are available to the public on any day and are as diverse as they were before closing. Director Montero also shared with the Board patron and staff testimonials highlighting the success of some of these virtual programs.

Director Montero also reported that public service has continued over the phone. More than 120 library cards have been processed since closing, many of which have been children, and librarians from all three branches remain available Monday-Friday, 10:00 am-4:00 pm, for public service. Director Montero also reported that the phone system has been used to support "Dial-A-Story", a successful new program wherein a family can call for a recorded or live story spoken by a staff member.

Director Montero announced that the Library's community service has also continued since closing. The Library has donated all of its 3D printers to local Yonkers hospitals to help keep up with demand for personal protective equipment for healthcare workers as well as other technology to City of Yonkers and Yonkers Public Schools staff to help adjust and coordinate their response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Library also stuffed over 20 large bags of books to be distributed to families of homebound students at various "Grab n Go" sites throughout the city.

Director Montero shared with the Board the Library's website updated with a blog, new YouTube content of various "How-to" videos for popular electronic resources and story time on demand, as well as new styling that will enhance the appearance of the Library's presence on the web as the public remains homebound during the pandemic.

Director Montero thanked the staff for their creative solutions and enthusiasm as the Library has shifted to a different service model.

Administration and the Board discussed ideas to more aggressively promote the availability of Library services while the buildings remain closed and what role libraries will play in the recovery of society at large.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Representative Neider expressed the Union's disappointment with the termination of former Librarian I Daniel Sabol. Rep. Neider also stated that he had received numerous complaints alleging misconduct by the former Administrator of the Will Branch. Pres. Maron asked Rep. Neider to maintain a

level of civility and to raise allegations of misconduct in writing via channels already previously discussed.

WLS REPORT

Tr. Puglia announced that the next WLS Board of Trustees was scheduled for May 5 and would have a report of it at the next meeting.

PERSONNEL REPORT

NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance, Budget & Planning - Maron, Jannetti, Puglia.

Employee Relations - Maron, Puglia.

Buildings & Grounds - Maron, Saraceno

Policy – Maron, Ilarraza, Sabatino

Fundraising & Development – Maron, Jannetti, Mack

Foundation update: Pres. Maron had no update.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Tr. Jannetti, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #814.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Director Montero announced that the Mayor had just released his proposed Executive Budget for the fiscal year ending 2021. The Library requested \$10,240,000 and received approximately \$1 million less than requested. The difference was largely a result of the City waiving its building rental fees and the denial of a request for additional positions. Director Montero was reasonably

pleased with the proposed budget considering the expected economic impact of COVID-19. The Board also discussed strategies to engage the City Council as they review the proposed Executive Budget.

Management discussed with the Board ideas for a plan to reopen its buildings whenever appropriate. Director Montero and Pres. Maron asked the Board to be prepared to review and adjust various Library policies and procedures in the upcoming month to better meet social distancing and public health guidelines. Director Montero invited the Board to join him at a virtual town hall event in the following week and to share his weekly updates within their personal networks.

Pres. Maron noted the passing of Pat Sheerin, mother of Chris Sheerin and wife of Dr. Bill Sheerin. Chris is a clerk at the Crestwood Branch and Dr. Sheerin served as President of the YPL Board of Trustees for over 20 years.

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE – Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at a location to be determined.

On motion of Tr. Sabatino, the Meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Jesse Montero
Library Director & Secretary