

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING
ELECTRONIC MEETING
JULY 16, 2020

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Steve 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:	Trustee Puglia
UNION REPRESENTATIVE:	Brandon Neider
GUESTS:	County Legislator Ruth Walter, Dominick Savarese, Arnaldo Torres, Carlos Figueroa, Sumie Hernandez-Moss, Carmela McManus, Phil Poggiali, Liz Caruso, Tyisha Baker, Mary Ann Penzero, Chris Sheerin, Justine Osterman, Sally Pinto, Zahra Baird, Eileen Fusco, Frank Iwuchukwu, Emily Power, Tara Somersall, Johanna Portillo, Phyllis Cole

The Board Meeting was held electronically via ZOOM®, Conference ID# 960 0054 4127.

The Board Meeting began at 7:01 pm.

MINUTES

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of June 18, 2020.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Director Montero updated the Board on Yonkers Public Library's reopening process. YPL opened its doors to the public on July 13 and early reports were positive; staff and patrons were pleased to reconnect after a long closure. The reopening has been restricted, as computer access, seating and meeting rooms remain closed and the buildings maintain reduced schedules and occupancy limits to encourage short stays, especially at Crestwood Library where contact-free pickup is still offered as an alternative to in-building service when its doors are not open. Safety precautions continued to be enhanced as unexpected needs are discovered, such as the addition of more plexiglass shields at key public service points. YPL also received positive news coverage as well, which better informed the public of the changes in service and access.

Director Montero reported early circulation figures from contact-free pickup services in June. YPL circulated a total of 5,250 items in the two weeks of service in June. Although severely reduced from a typical June, it was an encouraging result considering reduced schedules, limited collection access and borrowing limits.

Director Montero announced security changes at Grinton I. Will and Crestwood libraries. YPL ended its contract with Dreamland Security at Will and signed a new contract with Katta Protective Services, who had been providing security at Riverfront Library for many years via a contract with the City of Yonkers. Security is a temporary presence at Crestwood but is necessary to enforce the updated code of conduct and changes in service.

Director Montero reported on YPL's support of the 2020 Census. Riverfront is hosting the US Census Bureau in its Community Room as they train enumerators, distribute devices and coordinate their outreach. Riverfront is a key location for the Census as it is centrally located and Riverfront's Event Space is also a Yonkers Public Schools' "Grab 'n Go" site for needy families. Deputy Director Thaler announced that several families have already reported to the Census via Grab 'n Go. YPL also applied for a grant from the US Census Equity Fund with the Westchester Community Foundation to help fund outdoor public events in the community.

Director Montero introduced the Board to Newspapers.com, a subsidiary company of Ancestry.com which he hoped could digitize YPL's extensive local newspaper microfilm collection into a searchable web-based database. Trustee Saraceno inquired about any fees charged to patrons or YPL. Director Montero replied the digitization process was free to YPL and no fees would be charged to patrons for access, however Newspapers.com would own a copy of the digital collection to make available to their subscribers.

The Board remarked on the clean appearance of the buildings and the process of reopening and thanked the YPL staff for their hard work while closed and commitment to safely reopening.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

President Savarese and Representative Neider reported that the Union has continued discussions with Director Montero regarding safety and security in the buildings during the reopening process.

WLS REPORT

Trustee Puglia discussed an 85 page report released by WLS detailing operational difficulties experienced by member libraries while accessing information technology services.

PERSONNEL REPORT

NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

On motion of Trustee Sabatino, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board authorized Business Manager Presedo to renew or find accounts with the most favorable rates for the following certificates:

8/7/20 Contributions Fund, Sunnyside Federal Savings & Loans Bank, 12 mo. CD, \$63,591.80, 2.05%

8/29/20 David S. Kogan Memorial Fund, Sunnyside Federal Savings & Loans Bank, 12 mo. CD, \$5,109.57, 2.05%

Employee Relations - Maron, Puglia.

Buildings & Grounds - Maron, Saraceno

Policy – Maron, Ilarraza, Sabatino.

Director Montero proposed to the Policy Committee three amendments to the updated Code of Conduct approved at the last meeting that address the acceptable ages for supervision, size of group visits and size and/or quantity of personal belongings while in library buildings.

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved amending the Code of Conduct's acceptable age of supervised children to 13 and under and the size of acceptable group visits to 4 or fewer. The Board agreed to discuss amending the acceptable size and/or quantity of personal belongings when the full Committee was present.

Fundraising & Development – Maron, Jannetti, Mack.

Foundation update: President Maron announced that the Foundation reviewed the events with author Julia Alvarez in June and was in the process of fulfilling orders placed for signed copies of her books. President Maron announced that funds raised from the events would be donated to YPL for the purpose of books to the homebound. President Maron also announced that the Foundation is applying for a grant with the assistance of County Legislator Ruth Walter to fund online programming at YPL and thanked Hon. Walter for her generous support.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #817.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board authorized Director Montero to enter into a contract with Newspapers.com to digitize YPL’s local newspaper microfilm collection as discussed earlier.

On motion of Trustee Saraceno, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the New York State 2019 Annual Report for Public and Association Libraries.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

President Maron motioned the Board into Executive Session at 7:53 pm to discuss a personnel matter. The session ended at 8:15 pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE – Thursday, September 17, 2020

On motion of Trustee Sabatino the Meeting adjourned at 8:16 pm.

Jesse Montero
Library Director & Secretary