

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING
ELECTRONIC MEETING
MAY 21, 2020

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Josephine Ibarraza Stephen Jannetti Joseph Puglia 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:	Dominick Savarese, President, SEIU 704B
GUESTS:	Carlos Figueroa, Rose Aviles, Brandon Neider, Arnaldo Torres, Emily Power, Elyse Schreiber, Carmela McManus, Zahra Baird, Alice DeWaters, Phyllis Cole, Phillip Poggiali, Rose Bannister, Eileen Fusco, Mary Robison, Sumie Hernandez-Moss, Justine Osterman, Biagio Capirchio, Tyisha Baker, Elizabeth Caruso, Christopher Sheerin, Gabriella Monaco, Matthew Hernandez, Betty Giordana, Odalys Aguilar, Christine Bittetti, Mary Ann Penzero, Jim Roberts

The Board Meeting was held electronically via ZOOM ®, Conference ID# 973 0058 1279.

The Board Meeting began at 7:07 pm.

MINUTES

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of April 16, 2020.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Director Montero announced that Yonkers Public Library has remained closed since the last meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic and a reopening date has not been set. There is uncertainty of what “phase” of reopening libraries fall in, however Empire State Development recently declared that libraries and archives may perform some restricted services such as contact-less, or curb-side, deliveries and pickups. Director Montero said that plans were being made to provide some of these permitted services.

Director Montero reported that personal protective equipment (PPE) and supplies continue to be ordered and stocked in anticipation of a reopening. The Library will have an ample supply of masks, gloves, hand sanitizer and other supplies to follow appropriate public health and social distancing guidelines.

Director Montero shared with the Board an updated code of conduct he believed will be required for a safe reopening, with new policies such as a mask and glove requirement for patrons, capped building occupancies and time limits for computer use.

Director Montero announced that some staff have volunteered to return to the buildings in limited shifts to prepare for an eventual reopening. These preparations include cleaning, de-cluttering, rearranging of furniture and equipment and the installation of PPE like plexiglass shields.

Director Montero updated the Board on YPL virtual programming and electronic resources. Over 200 programs have been offered since the closure with total attendance near 4,000, covering a wide variety of interests and as many as 10 in one day. Programming was also enhanced by the launch of a new scheduling product, Signup by Demco. Electronic resources like OverDrive and Gale also remained very popular, consistently setting new monthly highs in checkouts and enrollments.

Director Montero presented to the Board a new style guide. The guide is an effort to standardize the brand and appearance of YPL social media, flyers and signs and make them easily identifiable. The style provides rules for everything from fonts and colors to recommended vocabulary and language.

Director Montero updated the Board on the status of the Mayor’s proposed executive budget for FY2021 and the recent City Council hearing. The proposed YPL budget is a reduction from \$9,873,000 to \$9,249,000, however this reduction is offset by the elimination of rental fees YPL pays for the Riverfront Library at One Larkin Center. The net gain is an effective 1.4% budget increase. Management was hopeful following a budget hearing earlier in the week, however Director Montero acknowledged there could be further cuts due to expected shortfalls at the state and local level.

Director Montero and the Board thanked the public for the hundreds of letters and comments received by the City Council in support of YPL.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT

Union President Dominick Savarese reported that he and union representatives recently met with Management to discuss security concerns related to reopening, especially at the

Grinton I. Will Library and Crestwood Library. The Union and Director Montero agreed to meet again and plan addressing those concerns as soon as possible.

WLS REPORT

Trustee Puglia reported that the topic of next month's meeting of the WLS Board of Trustees will be budgets and reopening protocols and if there would be a homogenous or individual strategy among member libraries as they reopen.

PERSONNEL REPORT

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board ratified the following appointment:

Luis Barcelo, Perm. Custodial Worker, \$43,259.00/yr, eff. 5/15/2020

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

President Maron reported that the Committee and other trustees met with both caucuses of the City Council in advance of its budget hearing and thanked Trustee Sabatino for arranging it.

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

6/04/2020 Contributions Fund, Sterling National Bank, 14 mo. CD, \$27,440.62, 2.75%
6/04/2020 Saunders Book Fund, Sterling National Bank, 15 mo. CD, \$75,074.78, 2.75%
6/26/2020 Rita G. Murphy Memorial Fund, Sunnyside Federal Bank, 15 mo. CD, \$5,507.13, 2.75%

Employee Relations - Maron, Puglia.

Buildings & Grounds - Maron, Saraceno

Policy – Maron, Ilarraza, Sabatino

Fundraising & Development – Maron, Jannetti, Mack

Foundation update: President Maron reported that after receiving short notice of the hearing schedule, the Foundation quickly built a campaign for support at the hearings and thanked the public for the outpouring the City Council received on behalf of YPL. President Maron also reported that the Foundation met with YPS and YPL staff to begin the production of its Annual Gala scheduled on June 10 with special guest Julia Alvarez. Students will meet with Ms. Alvarez for a live-streamed Q&A in the afternoon and later she will join the Foundation for its Gala in the evening.

Trustee Jannetti arrived at 7:39 pm.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #815.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Director Montero discussed the updated code of conduct. He acknowledged some of these policies will be a radical departure from the traditional model of service, but is necessary to follow public health guidelines and asked the Board to adopt it as a formal policy. The Board agreed to review the code of conduct and would vote on its approval at the meeting in June.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE – Thursday, June 18, 2020 at 7:00 pm.

On motion of Trustee Puglia, the Meeting adjourned at 7:49 pm.

Jesse Montero
Library Director & Secretary