

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING
ELECTRONIC MEETING
NOVEMBER 19, 2020

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Josephine Ilarraza 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:	Trustee Puglia
UNION REPRESENTATIVE:	Brandon Neider
GUESTS:	Dominick Savarese, Arnaldo Torres, Carlos Figueroa, Elizabeth Caruso, Mary Robison, Zahra Baird, Rose Aviles, Phyllis Cole, Tyisha Baker, Emily Power, Odalys Aguilar, Phillip Poggiali, Mary Ann Penzero, Russell Martinez, Eileen Fusco, Sumie Hernandez-Moss, Tara Somersall, Melinda Lance

The Board Meeting was held electronically via ZOOM ®, Conference ID# 919 3407 6492.

The Board Meeting began at 7:03 pm.

MINUTES

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of October 15, 2020.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Director Montero announced that a staff member at the Grinton I. Will Library tested positive for the COVID-19 coronavirus. As a result of the positive test, the building was closed and staff were encouraged to test themselves. This produced a second positive test among the staff and the building remained closed for the week of November 9. After a thorough cleaning

and a review of workflows, staff rooms and common areas, the building was reopened November 16. Director Montero also noted that two staff members at the Riverfront Library reported being in close contact with someone positive for COVID-19, however their tests were negative. Riverfront was not closed. Director Montero acknowledged that as cases rise in Yonkers it will be challenging to mitigate the risk of exposure and has prepared updated policies and procedures.

Director Montero reported that, after some initial difficulty with long and dense queues, the mail voting and early voting hosted at Riverfront and Will was a success. Director Montero estimated nearly 20,000 cast their votes at the libraries and was proud Yonkers Public Library was one of only two library districts in the county to be part of early voting.

Director Montero announced the creation of a new library card profile for Yonkers educators who may not live in Yonkers. This new card will enable them to better access services normally available only to Yonkers residents, such as Gale Courses and Mango Languages, and integrate it into their lessons.

Director Montero updated the Board on the concluded Yonkers Counts 2020 Census effort. Mayor Mike Spano recognized YPL for its outreach campaign in a ceremony attended by Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Union President Savarese expressed the Union's health and safety concerns and stated that he continues to be in touch with Director Montero about changing policies.

WLS REPORT

NONE

PERSONNEL REPORT

The Board acknowledged the following termination:
Sumie Hernandez-Moss, P/T Page, \$13.00/hr, eff. 10/12/2020

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

The Committee did not meet to discuss the budget request for fiscal year 2022 but stated they intend to before the December Board Meeting.

Employee Relations - Maron, Puglia.

Buildings & Grounds - Maron, Saraceno

Policy – Maron, Ilarraza, Sabatino.

Fundraising & Development – Maron, Jannetti, Mack.

Foundation update: Board President Maron reported that the Foundation met the night before and was pleased to announce that the grant secured by Legislator Ruth Walter from Westchester County cleared and should be available to YPL for online programming shortly. President Maron also reported that the Foundation’s annual appeal would not include events or mailings this year, but would be exclusively online and would be open through the end of the year. She asked the other trustees to help promote it through their own networks.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #821.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Director Montero would meet with the Finance, Budget and Planning Committee to discuss the budget request for fiscal year 2022 before the next Board Meeting. Business Manager Presedo added that there has been no update from the City of Yonkers since the last meeting.

Director Montero announced that he met with the equity and inclusion committee of staff members to discuss ideas on staff training, programming, collection development and patron and staff interactions to help raise awareness and sensitivity. The committee will meet regularly for a long-term basis.

NEW BUSINESS

The Board discussed the various closings and disruptions throughout the region in the past month as a result of the pandemic, including the closing of New York City schools and the designation of several local ZIP codes as a “yellow zone” with additional public restrictions.

Director Montero discussed YPL’s accomplishments since the outbreak of the pandemic and the ongoing challenges to staff safety and public service. He presented the Board with updated policies and schedules to better control the spread of the disease among staff and patrons, including a reduction of public service hours and the elimination of Saturday service, the return to a hybrid staff schedule where staff would be assigned to isolated “teams” and alternate working from home and in-building, and the restriction of many in-building services. Board President Maron expressed concerns of new outbreaks following the Thanksgiving holiday and suggested a temporary return to contact-free pickup services, where the public would not enter the buildings but could pick up reserved materials and maintain adequate social distancing. Director Montero agreed to discuss contact-free pickup with his team and would be prepared to launch the service after the holiday if necessary. Union President Savarese also asked that security be present for any modified contact-free pickup service to ensure patrons be appropriately masked and distanced.

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Trustee Puglia discussed long-term safety concerns for the winter months and how the library may be utilized differently after a return to in-building service, especially by patrons with insecure housing. Union President Savarese suggested that existing building capacities be enforced by asking those without masks or those not using library services to leave. Director Montero agreed and added that masks would be provided to those who do not have them. Trustee Ilarraza thanked everyone for making sure Yonkers Public Library remains a safe place for the public and equitable for all of its patrons.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NONE

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE – Thursday, December 17, 2020

On motion of Trustee Puglia, the Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Jesse Montero
Library Director & Secretary