

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING
ELECTRONIC MEETING
APRIL 15, 2021

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Josephine Ilarraza Stephen Jannetti Joseph Puglia John Saraceno Hon. Michael Sabatino
LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Jesse Montero
BUSINESS MANAGER:	Vivian Presedo
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY:	James Hackett
WLS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:	Trustee Puglia
UNION REPRESENTATIVE:	Brandon Neider
GUESTS:	Carlos Figueroa, Phil Poggiali, Mary Robison, Liz Caruso, Sumie Hernandez-Moss, Phyllis Cole, Rose Bannister, Arnaldo Torres, Zahra Baird, Rose Avilés, Mary Ann Penzero

The Board Meeting was held electronically via ZOOM®, Conference ID# 923 6539 0812

The Board Meeting began at 7:00 pm.

MINUTES

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of March 18, 2021.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Director Montero reported that there have been no new cases of COVID-19 among staff since the last meeting. He also added that library staff are now eligible to receive vaccines and that cases overall are down in Yonkers since a peak in mid-January.

Director Montero reported that YPL will or has already restored several public services, including seating, computers and an expansion of in-person service hours to 50 per week at Riverfront Library and Grinton I. Will Library and 37 hours per week at Crestwood Library. All

staff will return to work full-time beginning May 3 but continue to maintain safety measures including mask-wearing, social distancing and deep cleaning procedures.

Director Montero announced that YPL and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) began a partnership where Riverfront Library staff would directly schedule up to 25 vaccination appointments per day through April at the FEMA-administered National Guard Armory in Yonkers. This will allow Riverfront staff to more easily schedule appointments than navigating the state registration website and allow FEMA to more easily reach the community Riverfront serves.

Director Montero recognized Technology Instruction Coordinator Christine Bittetti for receiving an Educator Award from the National Center for Women & Information Technology and thanked her for her service to Yonkers Public Library and the people of Yonkers.

Director Montero updated the Board on virtual programming YPL offers. March was the fourth consecutive month of record-break attendance at virtual programs. He announced that YPL would host several Earth Day events later in the month, including a lecture by Sarah Lawrence College Professor Linwood Lewis, sponsored also by Groundwork Hudson Valley and the Center for Urban Studies at Beczak. YPL was also investigating grant opportunities with Sustainable Westchester and Groundwork Hudson Valley.

Director Montero was pleased to announce that earlier in the day the Mayor released his proposed executive budget for the fiscal year ending in 2022. It restored cuts that were in place following the pandemic, included funding a full-time art gallery curator and a young adult librarian, and added book funding that is usually included in capital budgets. He thanked the Mayor for the value he places on library service and looked forward to continuing to enrich the lives of the people of Yonkers.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Representative Neider reported that the Union remains in discussion with administration about the planned return of staff to full-time in-building service beginning May 3.

WLS REPORT

Trustee Puglia reported that he shared with the Board and administration Westchester Library System's billing proposal for planned IT services, including maintenance, network management, device support and wireless service. Director Montero replied that he would review the proposal and follow up shortly. Trustee Puglia added that the proposed bill was contingent upon YPL and other member libraries not leaving WLS.

Trustee Puglia also reported that he attended several meetings in the past month discussing a proposed code of ethics and it was decided that service on both the boards of member libraries and WLS did not constitute a conflict of interest. Board President Maron suggested a conference call to discuss a Board statement on the determination.

Trustee Puglia reported that WLS drafted a state-mandated operational health emergency plan to deal with a public emergency involving communicable diseases. Board President Maron stated that the Policy Committee and Director Montero would review the plan.

PERSONNEL REPORT

NONE

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance, Budget & Planning – Maron, Jannetti, Saraceno. Board President Maron reported that budget meetings with City Council would be scheduled soon.

Employee Relations – Maron, Puglia

Buildings & Grounds – Maron, Puglia

Policy – Maron, Ilarraza, Sabatino

Fundraising & Development – Maron, Jannetti

Foundation update: Trustee Maron reported that the Foundation received a compliment on the appearance of public communications and thanked Rose Aviles. The Foundation also met to discuss plans for its annual gala and it was decided that it would be postponed to the fall.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #826.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Director Montero updated the Board on the progress of the staff Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee. The Committee prepared a survey for the staff with questions recommended by the Society for Human Resource Management (SHRM) on the topics of equity, workplace safety and opportunity. He added that staff training sessions would be prepared and a public statement would be written and posted on the website and asked the Board for their input. The Board discussed the survey and asked if the results could be shared with them. Director Montero replied that he could not share individual responses due to the promise of anonymity for respondents, but would share its conclusions when it is prepared.

NEW BUSINESS

Board Meeting – April 15, 2021

Trustee Puglia led a discussion on the manner of future Board meetings when they are held in person again. Topics included how trustee attendance should be reported in the minutes, parking availability at Riverfront and appropriate identification of trustees present at meetings. Director Montero added that YPL was investigating solutions for hosting events in-person that can also be streamed live to virtual participants and was hopeful Board meetings could be one of those uses.

Trustee Sabatino inquired about the status of Dr. Giuffrida as a Trustee. Board President Maron replied that Dr. Giuffrida was unable to attend this meeting and would take his oath of office before the next meeting.

Board President Maron reminded the Board of a poll she distributed among the trustees and was looking forward to their responses.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NONE

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE – Thursday, May 20, 2021

On motion of Trustee Sabatino the Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm.

Jesse Montero
Library Director & Secretary