

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD MEETING  
ELECTRONIC MEETING  
FEBRUARY 18, 2021

**ATTENDANCE**

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Josephine Ilarraza Stephen Jannetti Joseph Puglia 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:	Dominick Savarese, Carlos Figueroa, Laura Cacace, Mary Robison, Arnaldo Torres, Meave Gallagher, Dalyz Aguilar, Sumie Hernandez-Moss, Rose Banniser, Liz Caruso, Mary Ann Penzero, Zahra Baird

The Board Meeting was held electronically via ZOOM ®, Conference ID# 939 3304 9994

The Board Meeting began at 7:02 pm.

**MINUTES**

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of January 21, 2021.

**MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Director Montero updated the Board on the status of COVID infections among staff. After being free of infection for eight weeks as of the last meeting, five staff members tested positive for the virus since. Most of these cases resulted in no disruption because the staff never returned to work in building following their exposure, however one staff member returned following their exposure but before testing positive. All who had contact with this staff member was informed and encouraged to test and all returned to work healthy following a quarantine and negative test. Director Montero acknowledged that these cases have been difficult and he thanked the staff for their cooperation and diligence in reporting illnesses and taking leave

when necessary. He also noted that cases in Yonkers have declined 37% and was hopeful that trend would continue.

Director Montero announced that, although staff will continue to work in isolated teams and computer access to the public will remain restricted, Yonkers Public Library will restore limited Saturday service beginning March 6 at the Grinton I. Will and Riverfront libraries. The Will Library will be open the first and third Saturday of every month and the Riverfront Library will be open the second and fourth Saturday. Crestwood Library will remain closed to the public, however it will continue to offer contact-free pickup service.

Director Montero reported that YPL will begin to provide an employee assistance program (EAP) with TotalCare EAP beginning in March. This program will provide staff access to 24 hour counseling services, healthcare referrals and professional development opportunities. He noted that the pandemic has resulted in a lot of added stress and trauma for people and he hoped staff in need would take advantage after being introduced to it.

Director Montero updated the Board on the FY21 capital budget request. Funding for capital improvement projects was just bonded by the City of Yonkers and he was pleased to report that YPL's \$900,000 request was fully funded for 2021 after usually receiving half of their request in previous years. He thanked Mayor Spano and the City Council for valuing library service and looked forward to using the funds to expand their collection and purchase a new truck to assist with snow removal. He added that the FY22 capital request would include funds for continued collection maintenance, elevator refurbishments at Will and roof and window repairs at Crestwood.

Director Montero reported that several building improvement projects at Will were already almost underway, including custom blinds for the windows to reduce glare, new automatic doors, needed replacement parts for the air handlers and a renovation of the Senator Flynn Room.

Director Montero announced several new partnerships that YPL had entered into, including with Sarah Lawrence College, the Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NNORC), Yonkers Arts and YoFi Film Festival. These partnerships will bring over a dozen programs to celebrate Black History Month, improve health during the pandemic as well as several art projects at Will and Riverfront Libraries.

Union President Dominick Savarese inquired about the availability and insurance requirements of the TotalCare EAP. Business Manager Presedo replied that there are no co-pay requirements and employees who require service after three sessions would be referred to their insurance providers.

Guest Sumie Hernandez-Moss inquired about the truck requested for snow removal in the capital budget and if it was environmentally-friendly. Director Montero replied that the vehicle had not yet been purchased but noted the cost of electric vehicles may prohibit them from purchasing one.

## **UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

Union President Savarese communicated the membership's concerns regarding the rise of positive cases among the staff and their belief that case disclosures lacked certain details, but he understood the need for privacy as well. Director Montero acknowledged the staff's concerns and referred to a memo he distributed on disclosure protocol and the information they can share.

Union President Savarese acknowledged receipt of a copy of Management's recent COVID-19 contingency plan and would follow up with suggestions and constructive criticism.

## **WLS REPORT**

Trustee Puglia referred to the ongoing discussion of the appropriate role of trustees who occupy seats on the boards of WLS and individual member libraries and believes there is a growing consensus that trustees should not serve in both roles because of the risk of a conflict of interest, however he noted trustees have not yet been asked to resign one of their seats.

## **PERSONNEL REPORT**

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board acknowledged the following terminations:

Garabito, Chelsea, P/T Page, \$14.00/hr, eff. 1/23/21  
Miklyukova, Alexandra, P/T Page, \$14.00/hr, eff. 1/23/21  
Pena, Alexander P/T Page, \$14.00/hr, eff. 1/23/21  
Zapata, Vivian, P/T Page, \$14.00/hr, eff. 1/23/21  
Carson, Unique, P/T Page, \$14.00/hr, eff. 1/23/21  
DeLeon, Radhalin, P/T Page, \$14.00/hr, eff. 1/23/21  
Bowman, Indirah, P/T Page, \$14.00/hr, eff. 1/23/21  
Farooqui, Hamza, P/T Page, \$14.00/hr, eff. 1/23/21  
Giordano, Elizabeth, P/T Page, \$14.00/hr, eff. 1/23/21  
Barbieri, Dante, P/T Page, \$14.00/hr, eff. 1/23/21  
Ishak, Christine, P/T Page, \$14.00/hr, eff. 1/23/21  
Pichardo, Christian, P/T Page, \$14.00/hr, eff. 1/23/21

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Board President Maron appointed Trustee Sabatino to the standing Policy Committee for the year 2021. She also welcomed committee chairs to join her on a weekly call with Director Montero every Friday morning to discuss any issues that may come up.

**Finance, Budget & Planning** – Maron, Jannetti, Saraceno

**Employee Relations** – Maron, Puglia

**Buildings & Grounds** – Maron, Puglia

**Policy** – Maron, Ilarraza, Sabatino

**Fundraising & Development – Maron, Jannetti**

Foundation update: Board President Maron announced that the Foundation subsidized part of the YoFi digital art display projected on to the fourth floor windows of the Riverfront Library and invited trustees to visit. She also reported the Foundation was looking to expand and diversify its Board of Directors as well as authors for an event in June and encouraged suggestions.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #824.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

NONE

**NEW BUSINESS**

NONE

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Board President Maron motioned the Board into Executive Session to discuss a personnel matter at 7:37 pm. The session ended at 7:42 pm.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE – Thursday, March 18, 2021**

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

Jesse Montero  
Library Director & Secretary