

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
ANNUAL BOARD MEETING
ELECTRONIC MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2021

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Josephine Ilarraza Stephen Jannetti Joseph Puglia John Saraceno
LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Jesse Montero
BUSINESS MANAGER:	Vivian Presedo
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY:	James Hackett
WLS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:	Trustee Puglia
UNION REPRESENTATIVE:	Brandon Neider
GUESTS:	Carlos Figueroa, James Buckley, Michael Oberholtzer, Elizabeth Caruso, Mary Robison, Odalys Aguilar, Rose Bannister, Phillip Poggiali, Mary Ann Penzero, Sumie Hernandez-Moss, Zahra Baird, Arnaldo Torres, Eileen Fusco, Mary Nowak, Christopher Sheerin

The Board Meeting was held electronically via ZOOM ®, Conference ID# 958 3833 8222.

The Board Meeting began at 7:01 pm. Director Montero presided until the Election of Officers for 2021.

MINUTES

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of December 17, 2021.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 2021

Trustee Puglia of the Nominating Committee announced a slate of nominees. With no other nominations or objections made from the floor, the following Officers were elected by acclamation: Nancy Maron, President; Josephine Ilarraza, Vice-President; Stephen Jannetti, Treasurer.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Director Montero reported that Riverfront and Grinton I. Will libraries reopened to the public on January 11 following a brief return to contact-free pickup service over the holidays and that there have been no positive cases of coronavirus among the staff since December 4. Crestwood Library remains closed. Director Montero noted that attendance in the buildings has been low since the reopen.

Director Montero updated the Board on the status of new funding. He was pleased to announce that \$7,000 in funding secured by County Legislator Ruth Walter from the Westchester County Board of Legislators was renewed for 2021. This assistance funded more than 100 health and wellness virtual programs which was attended by over 2,800 patrons in 2020.

Director Montero announced a new \$18,000 outdoor sustainability project at the Will Library in partnership with Groundwork Hudson Valley. This project will improve outdoor spaces with new gardens, pollinator pathways and expanded grass areas to mitigate flooding. Locations are being identified and he hoped to have a plan in place soon.

Director Montero also announced that the success of the Foundation for Yonkers Public Library's annual appeal resulted in over \$20,000 of funding for special projects and programs for 2021 and would continue to update the Board on the progress and success of those programs throughout the year.

Director Montero highlighted several recent virtual programs, specifically a community town hall meeting with Councilwoman Shanae Williams, a program on the old Carnegie Yonkers Library and a Back-to-School Night where Yonkers Public School students and parents were introduced to library services. He also announced two information sessions with Sustainable Westchester about the Westchester Power Program, a webinar with St. John's Riverside Hospital about the new coronavirus vaccines and a Winter Reading Challenge to encourage patrons to read more in the new year. YPL is also assessing how it can assist in vaccine distribution and is in regular contact with the City of Yonkers about the availability of its buildings and staff or services.

Director Montero updated the Board on the status of the YPL budget request for fiscal year 2022. He requested a full restoration of the 2021 budget prior to the City of Yonkers' cutbacks following New York State's withholding of additional funding, as well as art gallery curator and young adult librarian positions and additional for Yonkers Public School summer reading requirements and custodial supplies.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

Union Representative Torres had no report.

WLS REPORT

Trustee Puglia discussed the progress of several IT services provided by WLS, including the launch of a new IT help desk that he hopes will better organize work orders and manage

inventory, the installation of new hardware infrastructure and network equipment, the replacement of old public PCs and a new wireless system.

Board President Maron also shared a call she received from the Board President of the Mount Vernon Public Library regarding their difficulties with WLS services. Trustee Puglia replied he believes the lack of support may be a result of human error, not negligence on the part of WLS. However, while he has noticed more movement within WLS IT services, he also noted that several member libraries are unhappy with WLS IT services and have left the organization as a result.

Trustee Puglia also recalled a discussion from the last WLS meeting about the role of trustees at WLS and member libraries and potential conflicts of interest. Board President Maron expressed her concern that any change in the role of trustees at WLS and at member libraries could result in a change of advocacy and representation at the organization.

PERSONNEL REPORT

On motion of Trustee Ilarraza, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board acknowledged the following retirement:

Susan Thaler, Assistant Library Director, \$144,250/yr, eff. 1/4/21

APPOINTMENT OF STANDING COMMITTEES FOR YEAR 2021

Board President Maron appointed trustees to the following standing committees for the year, with additional appointments to follow:

Finance, Budget & Planning – Maron, Jannetti, Saraceno

Employee Relations – Maron, Puglia

Buildings & Grounds – Maron, Puglia

Policy – Maron, Ilarraza

Fundraising & Development – Maron, Jannetti

Foundation update: Board President Maron announced that the Foundation held a successful annual appeal which resulted in twice as many donations as the previous year. She thanked all of the donors for their support and looked forward to planning an event in the spring.

Union Representative Neider arrived and was recognized by the Board. Representative Neider reported that the Union had reviewed and accepted Director Montero's proposed schedule to restore Saturday service whenever appropriate. Representative Neider also inquired about the status of two vacant positions at the circulation department of the Will Library. Director Montero acknowledged that all vacant positions remain unfilled as a result of the City's budget cut for the present fiscal year but hopes to fill them with the new budget.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #823.

On motion of Trustee Saraceno, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board voted to designate Trustee Puglia to certify claims for payment in the absence of the Treasurer and the President.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Board President Maron announced that the Board would complete an annual report to highlight their accomplishments from the past year and asked other trustees for their input. Trustees Jannetti and Ilarraza agreed to meet and discuss the report at another time.

Board President Maron shared with the Board a letter she received from retired Deputy Director Thaler thanking them for honoring her at the last meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NONE

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE – Thursday, February 18, 2021

On motion of Trustee Saraceno, the Meeting adjourned at 7:46 pm.

Jesse Montero
Library Director & Secretary