

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING
ELECTRONIC MEETING
JULY 13, 2021

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Josephine Ilarraza Joseph Puglia Hon. Michael Sabatino Dr. Stephan Giuffrida
LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Jesse Montero
BUSINESS MANAGER:	Vivian Presedo
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY:	James Hackett
WLS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:	Trustee Puglia
UNION REPRESENTATIVE:	Brandon Neider
GUESTS:	Dominick Savarese, Emily Power, Anne Campbell, Nina Colavolpe-Leone, Philip Poggiali, Elizabeth Caruso, Rose Bannister, Michelle Halpern, Wale Noor, Odalys Aguilar, Ed Walsh, Cathleen Walsh, Sumie Hernandez-Moss, Eileen Fusco, Mary Robison, Chris Sheerin

The Board Meeting was held electronically via ZOOM®, Conference ID# 917 4693 0314

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 June 17, 2021.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Director Montero reported that there were no new cases of COVID-19 among staff since the last meeting. In light of changing guidance from state and local government since the end of the Governor's state of emergency declaration and its mask and social distancing requirements, he reported that YPL had terminated its mask mandate among vaccinated staff in non-public areas of library buildings on July 6. He noted that he would discuss the status of other safety policies later in the meeting.

Director Montero reported on the success of Make Music Day on June 21, which is a public celebration of music around the world and held annually on the longest day of the year. Several performances were featured at all three buildings and was very well-attended. He looked forward to participating again in 2022.

Director Montero updated the Board on the new garden at Will Library. Groundwork Hudson Valley's "Green Team" removed poison ivy and other invasive plants from the proposed location and planted flowers and other pollinating species for birds and bees. Benches and other outdoor furniture will also be added and the project will culminate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The garden was funded by a grant courtesy of County Legislator Ruth Walter.

Director Montero announced the hiring of Haifa Bint-Kadi as full-time Art Gallery Curator on July 1. Haifa will continue to expand YPL's arts programming and its presence in the arts community of Yonkers.

Director Montero updated the Board on the status of grants YPL has recently received from New York-Presbyterian Lawrence Hospital and ArtsWestchester. These grants will fund programming in subjects like health, STEM education for children and digital music for teens over the summer.

Director Montero noted a rise in patron traffic in the buildings as a result of several ongoing summer programs, including the "Grab 'n' Go" summer meal distribution for children and a limited Summer Reading Buddies series.

Director Montero reported that YPL experienced a number of building difficulties in the past month. Riverfront Library experienced a power outage that resulted in a building closure on July 2, Crestwood Library sustained flood damage from heavy rains and Will Library suffered periodic air conditioning disruptions as the aging HVAC systems struggled to keep up with the summer heat.

Guest Ed Walsh remarked how impressed he was with the variety of virtual programming YPL offers and noted that he personally knew of several out-of-state friends who frequently attend YPL programs because they find them more compelling than their own local libraries. He also added that he enjoyed Make Music Day.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

President Savarese reported that he remains engaged with Director Montero about the termination of the mask mandate and the status of other safety policies. He also stated that some staff had reported to him a lack of compliance with the YPL's mask policy and the difficulty enforcing it among some patrons and guests at Will Library.

WLS REPORT

Trustee Puglia reported that there are no WLS meetings in July and August, however he would meet with its nominating and trustee development committee to develop procedures for the recruitment of trustees. Its recent focus has been to build relationships between the trustees of WLS and the trustees of member libraries.

PERSONNEL REPORT

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

Davis, Kiyah, P/T Page, \$14.00/hour, eff. 6/18/21
Bint-Kadi, Haifa, Provisional Art Gallery Curator, \$67,053.00/year, eff. 7/1/21
Cardona, Diana, P/T Page, \$14.00/hour, eff. 7/2/21
Ortega, Alessandra, P/T Page, \$14.00/hour, eff. 7/9/21
Varker, Natalie, P/T Page, \$14.00/hour, eff. 7/6/21

The Board acknowledged the following termination:
Martinez-Guzman, Britney, P/T Page, \$14.00/hour, eff. 7/2/21

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance, Budget & Planning – Maron, Jannetti, Saraceno. Board President Maron reminded the Board that YPL's five year strategic plan expires this year and discussed funding options for the development of a new one.

Employee Relations – Maron, Puglia

Buildings & Grounds – Maron, Puglia, Giuffrida

Policy – Maron, Ilarraza, Sabatino

Fundraising & Development – Maron, Jannetti

Foundation update: Trustee Maron reported that the Foundation discussed different fundraising opportunities at the new pollinator garden at Will Library, specifically naming benches in honor of private donors.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #829.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Following the announcement of the termination of YPL's mask mandate among vaccinated staff in non-public areas of libraries earlier in the meeting, Director Montero led a discussion

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with the Board and members of the staff and public about YPL’s remaining public safety policies and when it would be appropriate to end other aspects of it. The Board suggested Director Montero wait a little longer and continue to monitor the situation. Director Montero and the Policy Committee agreed to meet before the next meeting to further discuss YPL’s safety policies. He thanked the members of the staff and public for joining the meeting and participating in the discussion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board President Maron motioned the Board into Executive Session at 7:57 pm to discuss Director Montero’s annual evaluation. The session ended at 8:56 pm.

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE – Thursday, September 16, 2021 at a location to be determined.

On motion of Trustee Ilarraza the Meeting adjourned at 8:57 pm.

Jesse Montero
Library Director & Secretary