

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING
ELECTRONIC MEETING
JUNE 17, 2021

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Josephine Ilarraza Steven Jannetti Joseph Puglia John Saraceno 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:	Carlos Figueroa, Elizabeth Caruso, Zahra Baird, Tyisha Baker, Rose Bannister, Arnaldo Torres, Philip Poggiali, Phyllis Cole, Eileen Fusco, Rose Avilés, Mary Robison

The Board Meeting was held electronically via ZOOM®, Conference ID# 940 5003 1218

The Board Meeting began at 7:03 pm

MINUTES

On motion of Trustee Ilarraza, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of May 20, 2021.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Director Montero reported that there had been no new cases of COVID-19 among the staff and that YPL's policies remain unchanged.

Director Montero reported that the Mayor's proposed executive budget for the fiscal year ending in 2022 had been passed by the City Council on May 27. Director Montero was pleased with the process and thanked the Mayor and the City Council for a healthy budget that values library service, as well as the staff whose outstanding service he believed was

appreciated by the Mayor and Council. The budget represents an effective 4% increase which restored funding that was cut during the last year, includes funding for a new teen services librarian and art gallery curator and increases collection development funding. Director Montero also reported that Will Library will receive an additional \$200,000 in capital funding for elevator repair and refurbishment; Crestwood Library will receive \$169,000 in capital funding for new roofing, windows and exterior restoration.

Director Montero was pleased to announce that early voting had returned to Riverfront and Grinton I. Will. He does not expect turnout for this year's primary election to be as great as last year's presidential election, however he looked forward to the opportunity for YPL to be a part of the democratic process.

Director Montero updated the Board on the "Roots and Branches" partnership with Municipal Housing Authority for City of Yonkers (MHACY). Material has been loaned to the offsite collection at many of the housing facilities and MHACY coordinators are beginning to plan field trips for residents to Riverfront Library.

Director Montero discussed many of YPL's planned summer reading activities, including the summer reading program "Tales and Tails", the refreshed summer reading list for students and the Grab 'n' Go summer meal program. Director Montero thanked librarians Z Baird and Eileen Fusco for their leadership of many of the summer reading activities.

Director Montero announced that Yonkers Public Library will celebrate Make Music Day for the first time on June 21. Make Music Day is a worldwide celebration of music in over 1,000 cities and 120 countries on the longest day of the year. Several events are scheduled at all three buildings as well as Van Der Donck Park.

Director Montero was pleased to announce that Shauna Porteus will be hired as Deputy Director following a national search for a candidate. She has over a decade of experience in marketing, planning and grant writing at several public libraries and returns to YPL to fill the position vacated by Susan Thaler's retirement after two years managing two branches of the San Jose Public Library. Director Montero received a lot of positive staff feedback on Shauna's selection and looks forward to her returning to Yonkers Public Library sometime in September.

Trustee Sabatino inquired further about the status of capital funding for the elevator repair at Will Library. Director Montero clarified that the \$200,000 expected to be received in the capital budget was in addition to remaining funds allocated in previous budgets that were insufficient to complete the project at the time; he now believes the present expected funding levels to be adequate to meet bids for service.

Trustee Saraceno asked what repairs were necessary for the elevator project and how much has already been completed; Director Montero replied that shop drawings from an engineer were commissioned and Business Manager Presedo added that a shaft fan, gears and mechanics original to the building needed to be replaced, as well as the interior of the cab. Trustee Saraceno also asked which elevator company might receive the contract; Director Montero replied that a request for bids must be made first and he added that all previous bids were over budget and as a result the project never got underway.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE’S REPORT

President Savarese discussed staff vacancies, especially at Will Library where staff have communicated to him the need for help. Director Montero stated that civil service lists have been received and the interviewing process has begun.

WLS REPORT

Trustee Puglia reported that efforts will be made by WLS in the fall to invite more trustees of member libraries to participate in their meetings. Trustee Puglia specifically noted the reason for this effort is to increase transparency and involvement.

PERSONNEL REPORT

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

- Marji, Ronjon, P/T Page, \$14.00/hour, eff. 6/7/21
- Chavis, Armani, P/T Page, \$14.00/hour, eff. 6/7/21

The Board acknowledged the following termination:
DeWaters, Alice, Librarian II, \$77,190.00/year, eff. 6/15/21 (retired)
Ocansey, James, P/T Page, \$14.00/hour, eff. 6/7/21

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance, Budget & Planning – Maron, Jannetti, Saraceno

Employee Relations – Maron, Puglia

Buildings & Grounds – Maron, Puglia, Giuffrida

Policy – Maron, Ilarraza, Sabatino

Fundraising & Development – Maron, Jannetti

Foundation update: Trustee Maron shared her enthusiasm for Make Music Day and discussed the featured events. She invited the Board to attend and spread the word through their networks.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

On motion of Trustee Jannetti, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #827.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

Board President Maron reminded the Board of the notice made at the last meeting to amend the by-laws to allow for electronic meetings to continue after Governor Cuomo’s executive order modifying open meetings law expires. After an extended discussion on the manner and conduct of meetings in the future, the Board, on motion of Trustee Saraceno, seconded and unanimously carried, added the following to Article III, Section 1 of the by-laws:

In the event of exceptional circumstances, the Secretary and Board President, together, may call for a regularly scheduled meeting to be held by videoconference or electronic means if such means are open to the public, have been identified as such in the public notice of the meeting, and all trustees are able to see and hear each other clearly at the same time.

The Board reviewed and discussed the New York State 2020 Annual Report for Public Association Libraries. Trustees Jannetti and Ilarraza asked that their contact information be updated. On motion of Trustee Sabatino, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the above mentioned report.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Board President Maron motioned the Board into Executive Session at 7:56 pm to discuss the annual evaluation of Director Montero. The session ended at 8:23 pm. Board President Maron announced the Board was pleased with Director Montero’s service and would discuss the evaluation further at another time.

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE – Thursday, July 15, 2021

On motion of Trustee Ilarraza the Meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Jesse Montero
Library Director & Secretary