

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD MEETING
ELECTRONIC MEETING
MAY 20, 2021

ATTENDANCE

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Josephine Ilarraza 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, Arnaldo Torres, Liz Caruso, Mary Robison, Phyllis Cole, Sumie Hernandez-Moss, Zahra Baird

The Board Meeting was held electronically via ZOOM®, Conference ID# 976 2168 3659

The Board Meeting began at 7:02 pm.

Board President Maron opened the meeting by noting recent updates to the Centers for Disease Control's (CDC) public health recommendations and asked the Board to be prepared to amend its bylaws at the next meeting to allow for future virtual or electronic meetings following the change or expiration of any more public health guidelines or executive orders. Governor Cuomo's Executive Order 202.1 restricting public gatherings modified New York State Open Meetings Law to allow public bodies to meet electronically.

MINUTES

On motion of Trustee Puglia, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Meeting of April 15, 2021.

MANAGEMENT REPORT

Director Montero reported that there had been no new cases of COVID-19 among the staff since last meeting. YPL is reviewing further guidance from New York State and City of

Yonkers following the announcement from the CDC, but YPL will maintain its policies on mask-wearing and social distancing for the immediate future.

Director Montero reported that staff returned to library buildings full-time on May 3. This allowed YPL to restore many services and expand its hours of operation, including the limited reopening of Crestwood Library to the public and Saturday service at all three buildings. YPL has also begun to plan outdoor programming over the summer as well as limited indoor programming in the large meeting spaces of Riverfront and Will libraries.

Director Montero announced a new partnership with the Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers (MHACY). YPL will provide offsite collections of material at several MHACY buildings for its residents who may not be able to access the libraries in person. The collections will be maintained by Riverfront staff and special library cards will be issued to MHACY and its residents to enable modified borrowing privileges. Director Montero was hopeful this partnership will reach new Yonkers residents and enhance the circulation of Riverfront.

Director Montero updated the Board on the progress of meeting room renovations. New flat-screen TVs were installed at the Will and Riverfront libraries and the renovation of the Senator Flynn Room at Will was nearly complete. New furniture has also been ordered and was in the process of being installed. Director Montero believed this would help patrons more easily access virtual services that are no longer available in-person and hold meetings that YPL cannot hold in person yet due to the pandemic.

Director Montero updated the Board on the status of the Will Library Building Conditions Survey. YPL entered into a contract with the architecture firm KG+D to conduct the survey and produce a five year plan. The survey and plan was nearing completion following three recent listening sessions with community stakeholders and many tours of the building. Director Montero was excited about the improvements the plan would recommend and the road map it would establish for the 60-year-old building.

Director Montero updated the Board on the status of the budget for the fiscal year ending in 2022. The Mayor's executive budget was released the same day as the last Board meeting and restored cuts that were made over the last year due to the pandemic, added two full-time positions and an additional security guard at Will, and added funding for collection development to the operating budget. Library management met with the City Council and received mostly positive feedback. Director Montero expressed optimism that the Mayor's executive budget would be preserved by the Council. Director Montero and the Board thanked the Mayor and the Council for the healthy budget and discussed a thank you campaign following the passage of the budget. Trustee Sabatino believed the Council was appreciative of YPL's performance and accessibility during the pandemic.

UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT

President Savarese noted the CDC's updated guidance on mask-wearing and social distancing and was also pleased with the proposed budget and the vacant positions it would fill and the departments it would properly staff. Director Montero agreed and looked forward to filling the vacancies as soon as possible.

WLS REPORT

Trustee Puglia discussed the bill for IT services from WLS and noted that he had been in touch with Director Montero about it. Director Montero stated he expected many fees to rise this year and understood that it was necessary for WLS to enhance and maintain the catalog. WLS is in the process of building a consensus among member libraries but Trustee Puglia believed most member libraries found it to be fair.

PERSONNEL REPORT

The Board acknowledged the following termination:
Rabadi, Raed, P/T Page, \$14/hr, eff. 4/22/21

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Board President Maron appointed Trustee Giuffrida to the Buildings & Grounds Committee.

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 announced that the Foundation for Yonkers Public Library appointed a new director to its Board and was in the process of securing a guest for the fall event.

Director Montero announced that he attended the Friends of Crestwood Library annual meeting the evening before and noted that it was well-attended by County Executive George Latimer and County Legislator Ruth Walter. The Friends were pleased to hear that many requests in the capital budget would go to making many needed building improvements.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NONE

Board Meeting – May 20, 2021

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NONE

NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE – Thursday, June 17, 2021

On motion of Trustee Ilarraza the Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Jesse Montero
Library Director & Secretary