

YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY  
BOARD MEETING  
GRINTON I. WILL BRANCH  
NOVEMBER 21, 2019

**ATTENDANCE**

TRUSTEES:	Nancy Maron Stephen Jannetti Anietra Guzmán-Santana Derrick Touba Josephine Ilarraza John Saraceno Joseph Puglia
LIBRARY DIRECTOR:	Ed Falcone
DEPUTY DIRECTOR:	Susan Thaler
BUSINESS MANAGER:	Vivian Presedo
ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY:	James Hackett
WLS BOARD REPRESENTATIVE:	Tr. Puglia
UNION REPRESENTATIVE:	Brandon Neider, PC Tech I
GUESTS:	Dominick Savarese, President, SEIU 704B

The Board Meeting began at 7:03 p.m.

**MINUTES**

On motion of Tr. Jannetti, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the Minutes of the Board Meeting of October 17, 2019.

At 7:04 p.m., Pres. Maron motioned the Board into Executive Session. The session ended at 7:09 p.m.

**MANAGEMENT REPORT**

Director Falcone updated the Board on the progress of the façade project at Will. The exterior is complete and the contractor is going through its punch list. The contractor and the tile supplier settled their dispute.

Director Falcone updated the Board on the status of several grants. Deputy Director Thaler received notification that the Library has been awarded its \$30,000 request from the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). This will be used to fund the development of a plan to renovate or relocate the Teen Room at Riverfront. The Verizon Classroom VR grant has been renewed and a new school will be chosen to partner with. Con Edison has awarded the Library \$7,500 to fund the Artist-in-Residence program at the Riverfront Gallery.

Director Falcone updated the Board on the Will elevator project. Official bids for the project were scheduled to be opened December 6.

Director Falcone reminded the Board that Staff Development Day was scheduled for the following day, November 22 and invited Trustees to attend.

Deputy Director Thaler informed the Board of a smoking cessation program scheduled to begin at the Riverfront Library. The program, Freedom from Smoking, is a collaborative effort with Montefiore and is the result of a community health survey taken as part of the case manager program. An information session is scheduled December 10 and the seven week program is scheduled to begin in early January.

Deputy Director Thaler informed the Board of the Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NNORC), a grant received by the City of Yonkers and Westchester Jewish Community Services to provide support to senior citizens living in their homes on the east side of Yonkers. Plans are being made to expand senior programs and services at the Will and Crestwood Branches.

Tr. Guzmán-Santana called in at 7:15 p.m.

Director Falcone reported that he, Deputy Director Thaler and five other YPL staff attended the annual New York Library Association conference. Director Falcone congratulated Branch Administrator Christian Zabriskie for receiving the Outstanding Service to Libraries Award as part of his work with Urban Libraries Unite. Pres. Maron led a brief discussion about conferences available to Trustees.

Director Falcone also announced that Christian Zabriskie will resign at the end of the year. Administrator Zabriskie has accepted a position as director of the Onondaga Library System. A replacement search has begun.

Tr. Toubia inquired about the upcoming staff holiday party on December 13. Director Falcone stated that the party has been well-received by the staff and over 60 are expected to attend.

### **UNION REPRESENTATIVE'S REPORT**

Representative Neider reiterated the Union's complaint about staff performing out-of-title work and shared with the Board a list of instances.

Rep. Neider reported frequently understaffed public service desks and asked that all desks be staffed by at least two librarians.

Rep. Neider noted that several staff have asked to attend Board of Trustees Meetings and specifically inquired about working with the Employee Relations Committee.

Rep. Neider expressed the Union's concern of the Library's overtime budget and its unsustainability.

### **WLS REPORT**

Tr. Puglia reported that the topic at the last WLS meeting was Library servers, its capacity to meet public demand and frequent shutdowns. WLS has received a number of complaints from member library staff that have not been returned. Director Falcone noted he has heard similar complaints and that WLS is reorganizing its IT department to better address these complaints.

Tr. Puglia also announced that his four year term as WLS Trustee was renewed at the last meeting.

### **PERSONNEL REPORT**

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

De'Andre Brown, P/T Page, \$12.00/hr, eff. 10/25/19

Matthew Kenny, P/T Page, \$12.00/hr, eff. 10/25/19

Gabrielle Lawyerr, P/T Page, \$12.00/hr, eff. 11/1/19

Acknowledged the following terminations:

Michelle Blanyar, P/T Page, \$12.00/hr, eff. 11/12/19

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance, Budget & Planning-** Guzmán-Santana, Maron, Jannetti

**Employee Relations** - Guzmán-Santana, Touba, Puglia

Pres. Maron expressed her interest in Union Rep. Neider's report that staff would like to work with the Employee Relations Committee and looked forward to seeing the Committee's progress on that.

**Buildings & Grounds** - Guzmán-Santana, Saraceno**Policy** - Guzmán-Santana, Ilarraza**Fundraising & Development** – Guzmán-Santana, Maron, Jannetti

Foundation update: Tr. Guzmán-Santana told the Board that the Foundation's annual appeal has been completed and responses were expected shortly. Pres. Maron also formally announced that the Foundation's annual gala will be held June 10, 2020 and their special guest will be Julia Alvarez, author of the upcoming novel *The Afterlife*. Ms. Alvarez will also showcase a new illustrated children's book, scheduled to be released a week after the gala, to Yonkers Public Schools students in grades K-6 the morning of the gala. Pres. Maron also noted that the Foundation has received proposals from Library management and looked forward to working with them on it.

**PAYMENT OF BILLS**

On motion of Tr. Jannetti, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved payment of bills as listed on Schedule #809.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Director Falcone continued his discussion of the Library's FY21 budget request. Director Falcone shared an itemized list with updated dollar figures. In addition to the new positions already requested, a full-time position of Gallery Curator has been added to the request. Director Falcone also noted that due to staff turnover and reduced salary levels, the Library's request will not be as high as expected. The updated total request is approximately \$320,000.

After a review of the list, Rep. Neider noted that the request for funding of Sunday service during the summer was subject to a side letter of agreement with the Union and advised the Board that the Union was not presently inclined to make such an agreement. The Board and Management expressed their disappointment at the announcement. Pres. Savarese added that last year's agreement was not necessarily an indication that such an agreement could be reached every year and was unhappy with last year's negotiation. Pres. Maron stated the Board would take the Union's position into account and discuss it

further at another time but asked that everyone attending public meetings maintain a degree of civility.

The Board concluded its review and was pleased with the request. Director Falcone asked the Board for authority to make a formal budget request to the City. On motion of Tr. Jannetti, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board authorized Director Falcone to make a formal budget request and present it to the City.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Pres. Maron noted that she received a complaint from a patron regarding difficulty reaching the Reference desk at the Will Branch from his unlisted phone number. Pres. Maron thanked Director Falcone and the IT department for a swift resolution to this patron's problem.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** – Pres. Maron motioned to move into Executive Session to discuss the progress of its search for a Director at 7:49 p.m. The session ended at 9:27 p.m.

On motion of Tr. Jannetti, seconded and unanimously carried, the Board approved the following resolution:

The Board of Trustees of the Yonkers Public Library designates Deputy Director Susan Thaler as acting Library Director in the event there is no new Director appointed at the time of Director Falcone's retirement and until said position is filled.

On motion of Tr. Saraceno, seconded and unanimously carried, the Meeting was adjourned at 9:29 pm.

**NEXT BOARD MEETING DATE** – Thursday, December 19, 2019 at the Riverfront Library

Edward Falcone  
Library Director & Secretary