

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

April 17, 2018

The Meeting of the Village Improvement Association was called to order by President Ted Brown at 6:40 p.m. on April 17, 2018 in the Connie Sacco Room of the Main Library.

Present were Gert Beckwith, Ted Brown, Patricia Donnelly, John Galvin, Charles Gunning, William Heffernan, Curtis Hodgkins, Alan Olenick, Susan Walker, Director Colleen Bailee and Assistant Director Catherine Bushman. Absent were Michelle Bernardi, Pamela Gardner, William Lang, John Lewis, and Mary Malenda. Also present were staff members Aisha Banks, Christine Maisano, Kym Powe, Tanarha Smith and Maria Zervos

Minutes Motion to accept the minutes of March 20, 2018 as printed was made by W. Heffernan, seconded by A. Olenick and carried.

Director's Report: C. Bailee: libraries were closed for two days for expected snow. Travis Feder has given his notice, last day will be May 11th (Salary). One part time employee has also given notice but will come in when necessary for a while. Colleen is thinking of hiring temporary summer help. New Alliance summer program: 8 certified teachers will teach the program. Another quote is coming for Main parking lot repair. OM check from insurance company expected soon minus the \$5,000 deductible. Bookmobile window was broken. On March 29th there was a fender bender accident in Main parking lot. Rotary will fund program "One thousand books before kindergarten". Thinking of another fine forgiveness program in summer to benefit WHEAT. City is looking at OM as a voting polling place.

Assistant Director's Report C. Bushman We will not have a children's free lunch program this summer because of poor turnout last year. Sacco room can now be used for programs.

Staff Reports:

Aisha Banks: Traffic is slow and there no big uptick of patrons coming. More TEAM students coming in this week and program may begin again in the fall. Summer read and ready for the grade in the works. ESUM-Forest School collaboration did not go forward this year because of closing of branch but she is looking for it in the next school year. Preschool students are coming in April 19th and again in May. They are trying to get more children into the library and are weeding juvenile fiction.

C., Maisano: Checking account balance \$119,005; special account \$155,618. \$53,000 bill for OM construction paid; there is a \$5,000 deductible for pipe leak. Looking into insurance costs for policy due in July. Sacco scholarships (3) information has been posted, no applications as yet. Budget: she is talking with departments heads to remind them to stay within their budgets. Waiting for final budget number.

K. Powe: One thousand books before kindergarten program will get underway soon. Summer reading planning doing OK. She is keeping track of teen volunteer minutes; they

April 17, 2018

will be invited to Escape Room only if they participate in summer program. She has list of books for summer reading from West Haven High School. Story time is being restructured, now it includes Music and Movement. More space is being created for more seating; tech programs going well.

T. Smith: trying to increase adult circulation; new program April Reading Brings May Prizes. Adult summer challenger 100 items check out between June and September. More museum passes: Roger Williams Zoo and Peabody Museum. Big shift: working on switching non-fiction into fiction area. Animal Embassy coming in June.

M. Zervos: Doing major weeding; area looks better and it is easier to find what you are looking for. Increase in checkouts over last year. Circulation is up this month. Display of student art from Haley and Pages Schools brought people in to see the display. West Haven Council on Art: View from my window” will have a reception on Thursday 4/19. At the request of Pagels School 4th grade teacher 72 books on WWII were located for class project. Downstairs room is being used by non-profits from West Haven. Friends are sponsoring annual ice cream social with hula-hoop . No leaks from repairs.

Treasurer’s report: C. Gunning: 75% of funds from City are in and we have spent 74.2% so we are a little under budget. Motion to approve report made by B. Heffernan, seconded by A. Olenick, and carried.

Committees: no reports

Friends of Library: P. Donnelly: Book sale netted \$677; it was small with no non-fiction. This about matches the profit from the Elm City Girls Choir concert fund raiser. Pat will ask Travis to send out a notice high lighting the museum passes the Friends have purchased. Staff/volunteer appreciation lunch was held today, pizza, salad, dessert and conversation. Book sale will be in early September.

Old Business:

Budget FY19: Director appeared before City Council to ask for more funding. She has talked with Mayor Rossi and asked City Council for a meeting but has not yet received a response.

New Business

None

Board went into Executive Session at 7:38 p.m. and returned to open session at 7:40 p.m, Motion by W. Heffernan, seconded by A. Olenick to send a letter to Chair of WH City Council Ron Quagliani to request that Louise Martone recuse herself from voting on any library business because of close personal family relationships. Motion was defeated. In response to request of Clerk of Council Michael DiMassa, a letter will be sent informing Council the money for staff bonuses was not taken from City funds and is considered a personnel issue.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Minutes taken by Gert Beckwith

NEXT MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY, MAY 16, 2018 AT 6:30 P.M.