

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

The Meeting of the Village Improvement Association was called to order by President Alan Olenick at 6:35 p.m. on January 28, 2014 in the Connie Sacco Room of the Main Library. Alan welcomed new member Rich DiChiara.

Present were Gert Beckwith, Michelle Bernardi, Richard DiChiara, Joseph Fortino, John Galvin, Charles Gunning, Curtis Hodgkins, William Lang, Alan Olenick, Gretchen Schaal and Director Kathy Giotsas. Absent were Ted Brown, Nancy Ciarleglio, Patricia Donnelly, Pamela Gardner, Mary Malenda and Harry Peschell. Also present were staff members Claudia Volano, Colleen Baillie, Elaine Braithwaite, Bernadette Neidermier, and Elizabeth Ryan.

Minutes of December 19, 2013 meeting were approved as printed by motion of C. Gunning, seconded by G. Schaal, and carried.

Treasurer's report: C. Gunning: we are in good shape.

Director/Staff Reports: K. Giotsas discussed her report; budget is on target and many items have been paid up front. Next year's budget will include projected revenue. After budget is submitted, she will meet with the Finance Committee at City Hall and plead our case, asking again for capital funding and an increase of 3.5%. Credit card machine and fax machine are in process of being installed. Fax line will be in Reference Room and credit card machine at Circulation Desk. New Alliance grant will be used in March involving the school system. March VIA meeting will be changed to last Tuesday of the month – the 25th. Book drop at Piantino has been installed; discussion on how to get some publicity about this.

Staff reports:

C. Volano: Winter brochures were distributed; new program coming in February "Friday Night Out" – a movie on Friday evenings. In February she will show "The Butler". Brochures are now in Spanish, thanks to three library clerks. Love and Chocolate is coming Feb. 8th.

E. Ryan: tax forms are in and she plans to have a tax preparation presentation in February. INDEED and Job Now will also have a presentation.

C. Bailee: things are going slow and steady; she will update computers beginning next month.

B. Neidermeir: working on Summer Reading Program; children from West Haven Child Development are coming to library monthly.

E. Braithwaite: as a result of the survey she was given a donation of \$100 from a resident which will be used to put language lessons on CDs. She has a new volunteer who comes 10 hours per week every other week.

At this time the staff left the meeting.

Committee Reports:

Building and Maintenance: W. Lang: Ora Mason. There have been two meetings with Carl Tonucci and his associate (on January 7th and 28th). He has brought in contractors to tour the building. Asbestos is almost certainly in the garage and would

have to be removed and perhaps in ceiling of downstairs room also. Control for heat register should be changed; electrical controls would be more reliable. All controls should be the same. A. Olenick: we must take the ceiling down and, if asbestos is there, it must be removed. Looking at electrical upgrades and energy efficient lighting; UI could be asked for energy audit. Director will look for a grant. B. Lang asked for quote to have electricity to the front yard to have a lighted sign. Sewer pipe has an obstruction; probably from tree roots.

Finance: C. Gunning: endowment is up to \$318,000 for the year.

Technology: A. Olenick: Nothing is pressing at this time. Spot licensing for Wi-Fi; we will look into raising the number of people on at same time.

Friends of Library: G. Beckwith: Programs: Jan. 25th DVD “Chasing Ice” on global warming, reduction of glaciers. Feb. 8th “Love and Chocolate”: author talk and chocolate refreshments. Company who picked up leftover books last year after book sale has gone out of business.

Old Business:

Conference room furniture: Director distributed brochures on suggested type of furniture. Motion by C. Gunning, seconded by C. Hodgkins, and carried to proceed to buy new furniture for Connie Sacco room and to take cost from multimedia account, purchase not to exceed \$6,600.

New Business:

Budget for fiscal year 2014-15 will be submitted to City on Feb. 8th; and emailed to Board in PDF form prior to that date.

Board went into Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. and came back to Open Session at 8:15 p.m.

Meeting date for March is changed from March 18th to March 25. Meeting date for June was changed from June 17 to June 24th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Minutes taken by Gert Beckwith