

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

The Meeting of the Village Improvement Association was called to order by President Alan Olenick at 6:38 p.m. on September 17, 2013 in the Connie Sacco Room of the Main Library. Alan welcomed new members Patricia Donnelly and John Galvin.

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

Minutes of September 17, 2013 meeting were approved as printed by motion of W. Lang, seconded by G. Schaal and carried.

Director/Staff Reports: K. Giotsas: All is going fine. Finances: Kathy Maher investigating pretax deductions which means extra money in staff checks. Motion to approve needed.

Reference Room is making room for the six new computers. Elizabeth is weeding out the collection to make room.

Outreach: She and C. Volano attended the Fun & Wellness Fair on Oct. 6th.

Property management:

L.P. book drop box has been ordered at a price of around \$5,000. The old box will be removed and no construction is needed.

O.M. lighting issue – will be addressed after meeting on Oct. 17th. Boiler has a loose valve.

Main: fence damage has been fixed going through insurance of person who damaged it; not our insurance.

C. Volano has arranged for an author to Skype with young adult patrons. Attendance has been low at book discussions and hours for event were changed. P. Gardner suggested a book discussion kickoff would gather some publicity for the event. Check with school librarians to see what children are reading in school and perhaps have a movie about the same book or topic.

E. Ryan: Speaker on health care enrollments will be using the Sacco Room. Sewing lessons may attract people. Connecticut collection will be moved to get more room for computers. She and Colleen are moving books into the back area.

Discussion on having computer area more like a “coffee house”.

Question on having patrons give gift subscriptions to magazines; this is too hard to track as far as renewal times and getting payment for next years is concerned.

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

Nominating Committee: W. Lang welcomed again Patricia Donnelly and John Galvin. There is one more opening on the Board and he nominated Richard DiChiara, President and CEO of Greater West Haven Credit Union. Motion was seconded by P. Gardner and carried.

Committee Reports:

Building and Maintenance: W. Lang: nothing new to report

Finance: C. Gunning: meetings were held attended by Director, Auditor, M. Bernardi and C. Gunning with Brian Elliott of Morgan Stanley and Sharon Cappetta of Community Foundation. If it is decided to do extensive repairs at Ora Mason, a five year plan would be developed to secure funds. There is now a plan in place to consolidate and use the small accounts held in Morgan Stanley.

Technology: A. Olenick: waiting to have space available for 6 new computers in Reference Room; probably by January or February.

Friends of Library: G. Beckwith: Dynamic speaker came on Sept. 18th. Friends will review and put away the donated books.

Old Business:

Professional Development Day will be Oct. 31st and all libraries will be closed. There will be speakers from the VA Hospital to advise staff how to deal with patrons with mental health problems and also customer service training to improve service to patrons; staff will review the Three Year Strategic Plan.

Savin Report will be discussed on Thursday Oct. 17th 6:30 at Ora Mason

Library Survey: Director has called several firms and found costs would be between \$12,000 and \$17,000. She cannot justify this cost. Survey should be under \$5,000 or we can do it internally by targeting marketing to West Haven homes, sending out an e mail blast, etc.

Board went into Executive Session at 7:27 p.m. and returned to Open Session at 8:05 p.m.

New Business:

Motion by C. Gunning, seconded by M. Bernardi to add the position of Assistant Director to the existing health care plan covering employees as long as the Assistant Director works at least 20 hours per week. Motion carried with two abstentions.

Motion by M. Bernardi, seconded by G. Schaal and carried to adjust employee payroll deductions to pretax status, subject to Union consultation.

Announcements: P. Gardner: West Haven High School is having a Trick Or Trunk event at the high school on Oct. 26th following the two performances of children's theatre events.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Minutes taken by Gert Beckwith

NEXT MEETING WILL BE NOVEMBER 19, 2013