

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 16, 2014 in the Connie Sacco Room of the Main Library.

Present were Gert Beckwith, Michelle Bernardi, Ted Brown, Nancy Ciarleglio, Patricia Donnelly, Joseph Fortino, John Galvin, Pamela Gardner, Charles Gunning, Curtis Hodgkins, William Lang, Mary Malenda, Alan Olenick, and Director Kathy Giotsas. Absent were: Richard DiChiara, Harry Peschell, and Gretchen Schaal. Also present were staff members Claudia Volano, Colleen Bailie, Catherine Bushman, Kathy Maher, Bernadette Niedermeier, and Elizabeth Ryan and guest Roberta Price, Field Representative, Council 4 AFSCME.

Minutes of July 29, 2014 meeting were approved as printed by motion of B. Lang, seconded by C. Hodgkins, and carried.

Treasurer's report: C. Gunning: deficit of \$32,900 is accounted for because quarterly payments were paid, auditor was paid for the year and insurance was paid for two months. The account for Library Centennial will be closed after new chairs have been purchased.

Director/Staff Reports: K. Giotsas: Interviews are being held for bookmobile driver position; position will not be filled until a decision has been reached on the bookmobile. Library had a table at the Apple Festival Saturday Sept. 13th; patrons had concerns about Ora Mason branch. Campfire Nights: Fire Dept Supervisor will have to charge \$200 for each of these events; discussion on whether to continue the campfire nights; perhaps we could partner with Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts this year. Question on remote access for Director, Assistant Director, Kathy Maher and Colleen Bailie. We have received an offer of \$12,500 from State of Connecticut to purchase the bookmobile. Air quality was tested at Ora Mason branch and report came back good. Grant application date for handicapped access has passed; she will try again for next summer.

Staff reports: (other than those in written reports)

It's Our Birthday –October. 25th (reports from various staff members) (CoB) Authors and two food trucks are coming. K. Giotsas is contacting West Haven Police Dept regarding any permits needed for food trucks. (BN) E mails will be sent to children and young adults regarding authors coming for birthday celebration. (CaB) Unable to get musical group from WHHS and looking at another group. (ER) Hoping for a playwright to come.

C. Volano: Ad was put in West Haven Voice regarding couponing program and author talk, both on Sept. 28th.

K. Maher: will meet with the auditor this month. Accountant suggests an Audit Committee be set up by the Board.

C. Bailie: introduced union representative Roberta Price.

C. Bushman: increase in adult circulation; they are dealing with overflow of patrons due to closing of Ora Mason branch and bookmobile not in service. She will act as designee for homebound patrons who will receive books from bookmobile driver.

E. Ryan: Goodwin College career department coming for a program in February about interview “does” and “don’ts”. In January there will be a trivia program. A film professor has been invited to come. Wait time for computers is increasing because of closing of Ora Mason. Computer used in bookmobile can go up to Graham room.

B. Niedermeier: Summer reading program ended with more books read than before. Authors coming: Robin Cannon Oct. 4th and Jason Edwards Dec 6th for winter holiday party with an interactive story. Fifth graders from Carrigan will visit Graham Room on Tuesdays and Thursdays in October & November – all 5th graders in public schools will be here.

P. Gardner questioned if students could use library to study during midterm exam week (week of M.L. King Day); perhaps teachers from high school could be here at specific times for specific subjects.

Committee Reports:

Ora Mason: Board has to approve \$33,050 payment to Cordone & Tonucci. Lower level was supposed to be a storage area; not for meetings. Ventilation has to be changed with installation of fire dampers so a fire will not travel between floors. State and local fire marshals have approved this work. (See New Business)

Old Business:

Friends of Library: P. Donnelly: no upcoming programs have been planned; Friends will pay for refreshments for program on Sept. 27 author talk on “A Violet Season”.

Bookmobile: Director gave presentation on bookmobile and ways to meet the budget which included six proposals regarding the bookmobile and five options on meeting the budget needs. (See New Business)

New Business:

Ora Mason Branch: Motion by B. Lang, seconded by N. Ciarleglio and carried with one opposing vote that, because of unanticipated discovery of air return holes in Ora Mason Branch, Cordone & Tonucci will have to do additional work amounting to \$33,050 so basement area can be coded as a meeting room rather than a storage area.

Resolution authorizing the expenditure of up to \$128,000 for the renovations of the Ora Mason Branch Library from the New Haven Community Foundation Endowment Fund.

WHEREAS, on September 16th the Village Improvement Association (DBA West Haven Public Library) approved special endowment fund for the renovation of the Ora Mason Branch Library of the West Haven Library System, and

WHEREAS, the Library Board approved the withdrawal of \$128,000 for renovation as detailed in Attachment A and desires to have it paid from the New Haven Community Foundation Endowment fund, and

NOW, THEREFORE, THE VILAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

1. To approve the use of up to \$128,000 from the Endowment fund for the renovation. See Attachment A.

2. This resolution is effective upon passage.

Sept. 14, 2014 ADOPTED by the Village Improvement Association at a regular meeting thereof this 16th day of September, 2014 Kathy Giotsas, Executive Director of the West Haven Public Library System Gertrude Beckwith, VIA Board Secretary Summary of Votes with 10 voting Yes with one opposed.

Sale of bookmobile: Motion by P. Gardner, seconded by B. Lang and carried to sell the bookmobile for \$12,500 to the State of Connecticut.

Purchase of van: Motion by P. Gardner, seconded by M. Malenda, and carried with one vote in opposition to purchase a one ton van with lift and shelves for the price of \$32,037.80.

Reduction of branch hours: Motion by P. Gardner, seconded by J. Galvin and carried to reduce library branch hours by four hours per week.

Items carried over until next meeting: Accountant's recommendation of terms for Board members and an Audit Committee be formed and an update on addition additional computer to the Reference Room.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m. Minutes taken by Gert Beckwith

NEXT MEETING WILL BE OCTOBER 21, 2014