

VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

January 16, 2018

The Meeting of the Village Improvement Association was called to order by Vice President John Galvin at 6:40 p.m. on December 19, 2017 in the Connie Sacco Room of the Main Library. There was not a quorum present so no votes were taken.

Present were Gert Beckwith, Patricia Donnelly, John Galvin, William Heffernan, Curtis Hodgkins, Mary Malenda, Alan Olenick and Assistant Director Catherine Bushman. Absent were Michelle Bernardi, Ted Brown, Joe Fortino, Pamela Gardner, Charles Gunning, William Lang, John Lewis, and Susan Walker. Also present were staff members Aisha Banks, Julia Dandio, Travis Feder, Sara White and Maria Zervos.

Minutes no action taken on December 19, 2017 minutes

Director's Report: given by C. Bushman. Heater pipe burst Jan 2nd at Ora Mason, She has met with City inspector. Damage will be less than our deductible. System was closed on Jan. 3rd for snow day. New children's librarian Kym Powe will begin Jan. 22nd. Accountant's position: two were interviewed and a new accountant will begin on Jan. 29th. Our auditor talked with this applicant and approved her. Conn. Pest is still monitoring the building. Book was selected for NEA grant. Parking lot enlargement is on hold: the lowest bidder owes the City back taxes and they will not approve this company.

Assistant Director's Report C. Bushman no additional report.

Staff Reports:

Aisha Banks: back in business at L. Piantino but it is slow because patrons have to be informed the branch is now open. Elevator not yet working, no date when it will be fixed. New yoga program.

Julia Dandio: program for ESUM on 12/20 had 54 students and 3 teachers to learn about data bases and how to access resources. Students were "into it" and had great questions. Life size CandyLand game was a hit with little kids and teens. Lots of programs are coming up.

Travis Feder: (see Signage below)

Sara White: Reference Room is very busy, she is doing tech help daily.

Maria Zervos: leak on main level at Ora Mason on Jan. 2nd. It has been cleaned up very well and they are back to normal although the repair people are still working on the heater pipe which burst. December circulation is up. Holiday programs went well and many attended the open house. They are using the new downstairs area for programs. Patrons had great comments about the new area and elevator.

After all staff had reported, Sara gave us an update on Hot Spots and usage. 17 patrons are currently on hold to use the device (one has been waiting since September) We have 3 at Main, one at LP and one at OM, and one in Bookmobile. Patrons can borrow items for 2 weeks; only 4 are now in use. One was stolen during a house burglary and one patron moved out of state with one; device is turned off when it is overdue. They are in high demand and adding more would be beneficial for the library. When device is borrowed, the patron signs a borrower's agreement giving the terms and the cost if overdue or lost. A replacement costs \$80. She believes branches should have 2 each. A.

Olenick suggested asking Chamber of Commerce members to “sponsor” a device with sponsor’s logo on the back or case. Could we do this? The cost for month is \$22 – approximately \$250 per year. Alan will explore this and report back at next meeting.

Treasurer’s report: no report

Committees: no report

Friends of Library: P. Donnelly: Elm City Girls Choir coming to sing Feb. 7th at First Congregational Church at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$12 at door, \$10 in advance and \$8 for seniors/students. They are planning to have raffle baskets and advertise using social media with an ad in West Haven Voice. Fund Raising/Planning meeting will be on Tuesday, Jan. 23rd

Old Business:

Signage: Travis Feder: new signs are up in Graham Room and Reference Room sign is coming. He distributed info on signs for Main. After discussion this will be brought up at February meeting for a vote.

New Business none

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m..

Minutes taken by Gert Beckwith

NEXT MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2018 AT 6:30 P.M.