VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

February 19, 2019

The Meeting of the Village Improvement Association was called to order at 6:35 p.m. on

February 19, 2019 in the Connie Sacco Room of the Main Library by President Ted Brown.

Present were Gert Beckwith, Patricia Donnelly, Joseph Fortino, Charles Gunning, William Heffernan, Curtis Hodgkins, William Lang, Susan Walker, Director Colleen Bailie and Assistant Director Catherine Bushman. Absent were Michelle Bernardi, John Galvin, Alan Olenick, and Mary Malenda Also present were staff members Kym Power, Amanda Welsh and Maria Zervos.

Minutes of January 15, 2019 meeting were approved as printed, by motion of

W. Lang, seconded by W. Heffernan, and carried.

Director’s Report: C. Bailie: Staff: Angela Invernale has started in a part time position. Tyrelle has given notice, his last day will be March 1st. She has hired a plow company to do sidewalks and is looking at temporarily hiring a cleaning company. She met with Mayor Rossi and City Council members on January 3rd to present the strategic plan and budget. Budget went to City on February 6th. She also included the last two budgets with past practices and letters from State Librarian. Budget: seems to be over $100,000 at present and she assumes we will end the fiscal year $80,000 over. Fines money is below what came in last year. Fund raiser: mini golf 6 holes are already purchased and she has one $1,000 title sponsor from our labor lawyer. Security button: we will use the same system that the City uses which is cheaper. Ready for the Grade: New Alliance grant is smaller than before; we have a new anonymous donor and she expects program will teach between 35 and 40 children.

There will be a program in June for rising 8th graders. VIA flyers are in the mail, we have received two donations and a quilt has been donated for the raffle at fundraiser.

Assistant Director’s Report C. Bushman working on READ posters, four are done.

She attended Mayor Rossi’s Town Meeting and there was one mention made of library, most of the meeting was about the high taxes. March-April bulletin will be out shortly. She helped train new staff. She and Kym will have a table on March 4th for Cops & Kids.

Staff Reports:

Kym Pow: Summer planning is in works. They are working through school superintendent with all media specialists to get 15 minutes to tell the kids about summer program during May and June. Launchpads have been in circulation since January 2nd. (all have come back), including the adult one to learn English and teens to help with SATs. They are getting invited to more events; she is going to Community House next week.

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Amanda Welsh: Attendance is up in the Graham Room. New Year’s reading challenge went well. 9 Reading Buddies are there every Thursday afternoon working with younger children. 7 outreach programs were held between pre-school and elementary school. Washington School students will visit this month and next.

Maria Zervos: January was a good month and circulation was up over last year. Attendance is up on both adults and kids’ programs. She is working with Aisha and Kym on summer reading program. Patrons are understanding about why library branches are closed on Friday; it is not the libraries’ fault but due to City funding. Building: Heat pump is finally done.

Treasurer’s report: C. Gunning, we are not in good shape and we will look again to see what can be cut before end of fiscal year. Cost for electricity is way up; Accountant is looking to find less expensive carrier. Fien numbers are down but our investments are looking better. Cleaning company - instead of janitor - will be a savings until July. Motion to accept report as presented was made by W. Heffernan, seconded by C. Hodgkins and carried.

Friends of Library: P. Donnelly: group met at OM in February and will be back at Main for most of the year. Military Whist on hold. Trivia night will be in May. Staff volunteer lunch in April and mini book sale on April 27th. March 23 FOCL meeting will focus on fund raising.

Committees:

Fundraising: Mini-golf event: 6 holes have sponsors. VIA Board will sponsor a hole - those present paid $12 each for this.

Old Business:

Security will cost $1,100 to install and $35 per month to monitor per building. There will be 6 buttons in Main and 1 at OM. When button is pressed, call goes to security and to WHPD, the same as system in City Hall.

New Business.

Shelving for bookmobile van will cost $500 without cost of installation. Director will look into installation cost.

Space issues: Director will look into hiring a consultant to look at space before we can apply for a grant to cover this expense.

Board went into Executive Session at 7:30 and came out at 7:55.

Labor Committee: the following will be on the committee: Bill Lang, Alan Olenick, John Galvin, Mary Malenda, Joe Fortino and Ted Brown, ex officio.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m. by motion of W. Heffernan, second by W. Lang, and carried.

Minutes taken by Gert Beckwith

NEXT MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2019.