Village Improvement Association

Feb. 16, 2021

Minutes

Attendance: Galvin, Heffernan, Lang, Olenick, Adams, Curtis, Malenda, Bernanrdo, Donnelly, Khu, Walker.

Colleen O’Connor, City Council Representative

Collen Bailie and Catherine Bushman, Director and Asst. Director

Minutes – Motion to accept – Lang; Second – Heffernan

Director’s Report – Bailie

 Colleen is working on the budget. Received $25,000 in State Aid. 2 part timers will take on tasks of 2 full timers who retired. Keep libraries open 39 hours a week. We will see savings in healthcare. Cohort maybe used for staff so they minimize contact. Full timers work 3 days at library/2 at home. Part timers 12-15 hours a week. Awning and glass barriers bought but not installed yet. City check to VIA late again this month. Assessment said WH Library system is understaffed and under funded.

Assistant Director’s report – Bushman

 Annual appeal resulted in 33 checks ($2105) with $300 from Paypal. New software paid for half and half by Friends and library. Homework Helper and Veteran’s database. $3200 total. Catherine is working on a banner for National Library Week. She is new board member for Ward Heitman.

Alan is working with Staples to produce a banner for library week

Treasurer’s Report – Bernardi

 We should save $100,000 in staffing.

Friends – Donnelly – Paint night fundraiser on March 7th

Old Business

 Assessment – Bailie – Results - Library collection suffers from budget cuts. Community library in Allingtown important. No space for large centrally located library. Assessment though we were program heavy – not enough attendance at adult events. The library should get more involved in the community. O’Connor – city does not have the money. City has a surplus, they should make the library a priority. We have a good relationship with the school system. Children’s programs are well attended.

Piantino – Olenick – Alan sent out an email updating us on the sites we are thinking about for new Allingtown library. Owners of 10 Fenwick St are being contacted about a possible sale. Don’t know how bad the condition of the building is. 634 Boston Post Road – vacant land – might be big enough to build library with parking lot – downside, could be contaminated. Atwood Place – land at Quigley Stadium- no cost for land but isolated. Not enough parking. Bottle Redemption Center – (163 Boston Post Rd) – Motivated owner to rebuilt, 10,000 sq ft, on bus line, Lease of $7.95 per sq ft. Downside – we would not own but lease, not available now, don’t know cost of renovation. Alan and Colleen will look at it on Thursday Feb 18th. Lease on Bottle Redemption Center would be $80,000 a year.

New Business

Bookmobile – temporary solution to no Allingtown library. Catherine researched this. 26 ft long, could house 1500 books, desks for computers, handicapped accessible, awning for outside business. Have printer, wifi, tv, seating. Catherine found 3 different types – costs vary from $153,000 to $180,000. Extra cost for extras we want to add on. Alan – Catherine should research which company could get us one the quickest.

Meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Walker, Recording Secretary