VIA Minutes

March 16, 2021

Attendance: Khu, Donnelly, Galvin, Gunning, Heffernan, Lang, Olenick, Adams, Hodgkins, Fortino, Malenda, Walker

Colleen Bailie, Catherine Bushman

Motion to accept the minutes – Heffernan – approved

Director’s Report – Bailie

She is working on personnel reviews. Projected over budget but retirees should make up the difference. John and Colleen called the mayor’s office – they are waiting for her to get back to them. 277 people have signed the online petition. State guidelines for COVID have eased but most of the staff has not been vaccinated. Ora Mason will open 3 days a week. The West Haven Pollinators Group want to plant outside the main library again. We are expanding outside WiFi services.

Assistant Director – Bushman

Scholarships available – in the name of Connie Sacco, Pam Gardner, Gert Beckwith. 5 scholarships for $500 each. She is working on selection materials document. She is working on art for the bookmobile. Catherine attended a zoom meeting of the Ward Heitmann house, she is now on the Board. Alan suggested that the criteria for the scholarship in name of Gert Beckwith go to a student involved in community service.

Treasurer’s Report – Gunning

$164.000 over budget.

Friends of the Library – Donnelly

Paint Night – March 12th – was sold out. All figures are not in yet. Alan reminded that April 7th is national give to your library day. Budget goes to City Council for public hearing March 31 & April 1.

Old Business

1. Piantino library – 668 Post Rd – property needs clean up – had been gas station. City has to condemn property first for unpaid property tax. Celantano property next door would give us enough land. Do we want 668 if we can’t get Celantano? If we get it than we can have the city clean it up when they clean up 668. Send letter to Lee Tiernan to find out progress of claiming 668.
2. Motion VIA asks Colleen Bailie to send letter to the Corporation Council to express strong interest in acquiring 668 Post Rd. The city would foreclose on the property and work with DEEP on clean up. They would sell it to the VIA for $1. We would give the city the right of first refusal if we decide to sell the property. Friendly amendment by Len, seconded by Bill H. “to construct a library on the property”. Motion made by Alan, seconded by Mary. Unanimously approved
3. Bookmobile – Catherine and John negotiated the bookmobile in NJ. Advice from Bruneau garage – suitable, but engine may have issues. Spotless interior. Price down from $94,000 to$49,999. Once we purchase property, Bookmobile would sit there. Mary was concerned about spending money on the Bookmobile – politicians may see it as the replacement for library.
4. Motion – That the VIA purchase the bookmobile for $49,999 and $10,000 for maintenance and upgrades. Vote – 1 No (Malenda)

New Business – none

Motion to adjourn – 6:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Walker, Recording Secretary