VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

May 21, 2019

The Meeting of the Village Improvement Association was called to order at 6:37 p.m. on

May 21, 2019 in the Connie Sacco Room of the Main Library by President Ted Brown.

Present were Leonard Adams, Gert Beckwith, Michelle Bernardi, Ted Brown, Patricia Donnelly, Joe Fortino, John Galvin, William Heffernan, Curtis Hodgkins, Elaine Khu, Mary Malenda, and Alan Olenick and Director Colleen Bailie and Assistant Director Catherine Bushman. Absent were Charles Gunning, William Lang, and Susan Walker. Also present were staff members Aisha Banks, Taylor LaBarbera and Maria Zervos.

Minutes of April 16, 2019 meeting were approved as printed by motion of W. Heffernan, seconded by A. Olenick, and carried.

Director’s Report: C. Bailie: Staff: Lauren Johnson’s last day was May 17. Position will not be filled until next fiscal year. Other staff members will fill in. Conn Digital program will be on hold. She forecast $35,000 budget overage at present. Staff is holding back on orders until next fiscal year. She attended City Council meeting on Monday May 13. Two grants have been received $1,500 from Dollar General for Summer Reading and Ready for the Grade and $6,500 from anonymous donor to be able to hire more teachers for Ready for the Grade program. She has been invited to New England Library Leadership retreat this summer. She has been asked to be Vice President of West Haven Rotary Club and, after discussion with Board, will accept the position. Taylor has investigated Trinity Solar Company. Friends of WH Library will get $100 if a person wants the program and will speak to company about it and another $100 if the person signs up. There will be no cost to us. Shelving has been put in Bookmobile. Fine forgiveness for teens will be instituted for the Summer. She will be on vacation May 28-June 8th, Catherine Bushman will be in charge.

Assistant Director’s Report C. Bushman helped Colleen with reports, has completed first draft of summer schedule, did orientation of new custodian Michael Artor and has completed seven READ posters.

Staff Reports:

Aisha Banks: Construction has begun on building in front and patrons cannot use the front parking lot. People don’t know we are open so we are in an adjustment period. Programs are going well; tech help is the busiest. USAlliance has sponsored programs on retirement, etc. May is Older American Month. Summer reading is planned. Construction company has an office upstairs in the building.

T. LaBarbera: from T. Smith: Animal Embassy Over the Moon Animal Adventure will be Sat. June 21. Zumba class Say May 25 12:30-1:30. 100th anniversary of the death of Andrew Carnegie will be observed with movie night to help others in need (as did Mr. Carnegie) with a raffle and prizes.

M. Zervos: April went well and circulation is stable. Adult programs are going well. She is working on school visits with Kym, Carrie and Amanda. Summer playground camp

will have bookmobile visits. She attended Conn. Library Conference. Hot topic at Ora Mason: people are concerned about possibility of library closing and are supportive of budget problems.

Treasurer’s report: M. Bernardi. Projected $75,000 deficit is going down and now $40,000 deficit is projected. Motion to accept report made by W. Heffernan, seconded by M. Malenda and carried.

Friends of Library: P. Donnelly: Trivia Night has been postponed. At June 8 FOCL Annual Meeting Gert Beckwith will be among those honored. All are invited. Good meeting at LP branch with new people. Book sale will be weekend after Labor Day.

Commitees: none

Old Business:

Fiscal Year 2020 C. Baillie: City restored the $25,000; she submitted a budget totaling $1,700,000 and City gave us $1,521,000 which she expected will leave us $36,000 in hole. Health insurance is expected to go up 8%. A staff raise of 1% will total $13,000. If minimum wage is increased by the State, 8 people will get raises. We need to have goodwill info about the library in the media every month.

We will definitely close Saturdays at Main during July and August - (branches are not open on Saturdays.

New Business.

Motion by A. Olenick, seconded by W. Heffernan to close the Main Library on Saturdays during July and August (July 6th - August 31) as a cost cutting measure. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m. by motion of A. Olenick.

Minutes taken by Gert Beckwith

NEXT MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2019.