VIA Meeting

June 20, 2023

Minutes

**Attendance**: John Galvin, Elaine Khu, Pat Donnelly, Alan Olenick, Bill Heffernan, Curt Hodgkins, Charlie Gunning, Joe Fortino, Leonard Adams, Mary Malenda, Colleen Bailie, Catherine Bushman

John called the meeting to order at 5pm. Minutes of the meeting of 5-16-23 were accepted unanimously.

**Director’s Report** – Colleen Bailie

Colleen said that although the Giving Collaborative was originally going to give a report at this meeting, it was felt that to truly present their findings to the board, they would like to do a separate meeting to go over their findings and the best way forward. A discussion followed with Alan saying that he felt that it was important that the special meeting be held as soon as possible.

Colleen reported that Tanartha Smith left as of June 1 and Taylor has taken over her job. Taylor’s job has been posted and Colleen hopes to interview next week.

Colleen reported that she has not received a definite number from the city but the mayor’s budget had a 3% increase and she intends to operate as if the mayor’s budget is approved. We are over budget for this year as a result of needed repairs. She said that we may be able to move some of the repairs and maintenance items to special in order to break even. The elevator has been repaired but are waiting for the state inspection. She said that Otis has said that they will service a Kone elevator and she is waiting to see the price breakdown when combined with the elevator at Ora Mason. Final repairs on the HVAC system will be done in the fall. The HVAC actuators have been repaired.

The summer read program will kick off on Wednesday on the Green and the ice cream social at Ora Mason on Friday along with a small book sale.

Melissa had a pairing with the food bank at the beginning of June and was able to talk to many residents about library offerings. Colleen was asked if the food bank at issue was WHEAT and she was not sure but would look into it.

Libraries Without Borders will have a kick off event on June 29 in East Hartford from 5-7 pm. She plans to be there and board members are welcome.

**Assistant Director’s Report** – Catherine Bushman

Catherine reported that she read Colleen’s letter to the City Council which reported on the progress being made for the new library in Allingtown including working with the Allingtown Fire Department. She also said that she had taken part in a zoom meeting titled “So You Want to Build a Library?” She also attended a zoom presentation on Cornerstone (Serving Communities) and has been working with Colleen for a presentation later in the month.

Catherine said that she was involved in offering a safe space to a woman who was attacked, off of library property on June 14. Staff called 911 and an incident report was created.

**Treasurer’s Report** – Charlie Gunning

Charlie said that we are $10,000 over budget. He said that he thought a part time grant writer might be an asset and that the salary for that person could be paid by a grant. A motion was made by Bill to accept and seconded by Alan. Unanimous.

Friends of the Library – Pat Donnelly

Pat said that there will be a small book sale on Friday at the ice cream social at Ora Mason. She said that they are looking to replace the money that was spent of the summer read.

**Nominating Committee** – Bill Lang

Bill submitted a slate of officers for the coming year.

Bill Heffernan was nominated for President. John called for additional nominations, hearing none, he asked that the Secretary cast one vote and that nomination was approved unanimously

Leonard Adams was nominated for Vice President. John called for additional nominations, hearing none he asked that the Secretary cast one vote and that nomination was approved unanimously.

Mary Malenda was nominated for Secretary. John called for additional nominations, hearing none, he asked that the Treasurer cast one vote and that nomination was approved unanimously.

Charlie Gunning and Michelle Bernardi were nominated as Co-Treasurers. John called for additional nominations, hearing none, he asked that the Secretary cast one vote and that nomination was approved unanimously.

**Old Business**

Alan said that he was disappointed at not having the report from the Giving Collaborative. He said that it needed to be done as soon after July 4 as possible. He said that the property at 668 Boston Post Rd is still in foreclosure and that the process is moving forward. Still trying to get the $1,000,000 in ARPA funds released. We need $400,000 to clear the land so that people can see progress being made,

Pat met with Don Boyd. They will try to contact ten more people.

**New Business:** None

Executive Session was called at 5:10 and exited at 5:29.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Alan and seconded by Bill. The meeting adjourned at 5:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Mary Malenda Secretary