VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

July 16, 2019

The Meeting of the Village Improvement Association was called to order at 6:30 p.m. on

July 16, 2019 in the Connie Sacco Room of the Main Library by President Ted Brown.

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

Minutes of May 24, 2019 meeting were approved as corrected by motion of W. Lang, seconded by P. Donnelly, and carried. (Susan Walker was present)

Director’s Report: C. Bailie: Staff: Interviews were held yesterday for Reference position; two candidates were selected for final interviews. Kym Powe’s last day will be August 1st; she will be working with State Library Board. Staff evaluations are in process. She is waiting to hear from union representative. Full staff meeting will be held on July 31st. Budget: $24,000 over at end of fiscal year due to increase in utilities and decrease in revenue. City will withhold $25,000 from Fiscal Year 2019-20 budget. She will contact City Council to asked what they want; if it is an assessment we want to be sure firm doing the assessment works regularly with libraries. $25,000 from State; still unknown if we will receive this. Planning & Zoning meeting about down town area will be July 30th. There are tools missing from the library; she has received gift cards from Home Depot to replace them. Insurance new policy: we will receive better coverage at a cost of $6,000 less than last year. Summer program: 35 kids are meeting at Main for lunch - not dinner this year. Scholarship winners came in for the photo op and checks. Director met with representatives of area libraries and asked if health insurance and utilities came out of library budget or budget of municipality. Almost all of them do not have to pay for these items out of library budget.

Assistant Director’s Report C. Bushman is working on fall schedule. Quote for security installation of front door (left) is $295 and will take approximately 2 hours to complete. READ posters were ordered the beginning of July. She attended tech services interviews and Charter Revision meeting. There were questions as to why the City has 3 libraries.

John Galvin: Charter revision includes the sentence: The VIA may run the library (not will) Funding is at discretion of City Council. P. Donnelly suggests we let the public know about this proposed change. There will be a public hearing on Charter on July 22nd.

Staff Reports:

T. LaBarbera: she is working on programming. August 8th International Folk Dance. and 50th anniversary of Woodstock music festival will be observed. 100th anniversary of death ofAndrew Carnegie: movie August 8th, garden, banner on building (Thanks to Friends) with theme of doing something good for your community or other people. Seminar for college education was held, 40 attended.

Treasurer’s report: C. Gunning: We ended fiscal year $23,613 in the hole. Not many bills were held back; some things were not purchased until new year. We will take $30,000 from Morgan Stanley endowment to balance off last year’s budget. Motion by C. Gunning, seconded A. Olenick, and carried to do this. Motion to accept Treasurer’ report was made by W. Lang, seconded by P. Donnelly , and carried.

Friends of Library: P. Donnelly: FOCL meting was June 25 with a discussion about sale of rare books; one book sold for $1,700. Nov. 17th meeting on engaging the community and marketing your library. Fund raiser: Trivia at a local bar. Looking into another concert with Elm City Girls Choir.

Commitees: none

Old Business:

Library hours: Director things are status quo. Saturday hours for Main will be 10-5 after Labor Day. Discussion on moving some staff around but nothing is settled yet. Draft assessment was sent to VIA board; whoever is hired would have to have library experience. .

New Business.

Gert Beckwith announced her resignation from the VIA because she will be moving out of the city as soon as her house sells.

A. Olenick: Eagle Scout is working on a “little library:” project and is looking for books to stock the project in the beginning. He will be given some books from those being held for September Friends sale.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m. .

Minutes taken by Gert Beckwith

NEXT MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY, SEPT. 17, 2019.

VIA WILL NOT MEET IN AUGUST UNLESS THERE IS A NEED

FOR THE MEETING