VIA Minutes

September 9, 2020

Attendance: Walker, Olenick, Gunning, Gannon, Hodgkins, Heffernan, Khu, Adams, Bernardi, Donnelly

Staff: Baille, Bushman

City Council Liaison: O’Connor

Meeting called to order at 4:15p.m.

Minutes – Motion to approve by Bill H., seconded by Alan. Motion to accept – approved

Director’s Report – Baille

1. Hours open – 7 hours per day. 35 hours a week. ½ day on Saturdays in

Oct. 2 days open at Ora Mason

1. Three retirements, need to replace with part timers
2. 7 computers were added, 1 dedicated for the census.
3. Auditor – report by November
4. Cleaning out basement of Main library to make room for collection from Piantino. Aisha and Roseann are weeding the nonfiction collection at Piantino to get rid of out of date fiction.
5. Still discussing with City Council about possible location of an Allingtown library.
6. Received more chromebooks from the state. We now have 10 to lend out.
7. Colleen will represent both the library and the Rotary on the centennial committee.
8. Will get plaques for three retirees.

Catherine

1. Supported Colleen on all the above activities.
2. Wrote letters to former employees to get memories about retirees.

Treasurer’s Report – Gunning/ Bernardi

1. Won’t see benefit of retirees until January
2. Paper work for block grant was filed.

Friends – Donnelly

1. Book Sale in October.
2. Two take and make Halloween projects

New Site for Piantino Library – Olenick

1. Alan sent out email ahead of time about project.

A quick update of where we are:

1) Lotus Cafe has been ruled out.Talked with Mike Richetelli, at Colonial Properties. The land changed hands last week.

The new investor/developer is looking over the next year to 18 months to redevelop the property. This includes the razing of the Lotus Cafe building.

Makes no economic sense to even do minimal renovations for a short-term period.

2) Met via Zoom with Ted Lazurus on Tuesday afternoon. Real realized quickly that we need hard statistics when talking with these developers.

We will develop a sheet that includes information such as foot traffic, computer usage, more than likely hours expected, etc.

We have another meeting slated for the 22nd which we will furnish him with the information.

The other issue to note is that when we talk about the cost of leasing we are not clear on an answer.

We did discuss that the fact that amount of construction costs that we take on could have an affect on the amount of a lease.

3) We forwarded information to Lee Tiernan today (Thursday) on 668 Orange Ave (Boston Post Road) There is significant back takes on this parcel.

This is developable space with a larger lot next to it at 634 Orange Ave. We have not investigated that parcel.

There are four lots on Daytona Street with an abandoned house on one of them.

4) We remain interested in 10 Fenwick but have not gotten any further information. We did talk about renovation costs which we estimated a soft number of about $400,000.

This number does not include an elevator.

5) We have reached out to Atwood but have not gotten any response. Ted Lazurus responded within 30 minutes.

6) We met with Bill Sapienza and picked his brain a bit. He is pegging new construction costs to be around $200 a square foot in this new Covid-19 economy.

This is probably 2 to 3 times what it was a year ago.

We talked about a butler building and he estimated that we may save on some building costs, but once we go to outfit/complete it this will be about the same as new construction costs if not more.

7) We have a call into Elliptipar as we understand there may be space available there. This property is across from Marginal Drive. We will talk to them about temporary space and/or a permanent location once we have more info.

Alan Olenick

VIA Past President

Chairman, Building Committe.

1. Can we get a mortgage?

Covid –

1. Applied to FEMA for reimbursement from the state for supplies to keep things safe
2. People are becoming annoyed about time limits on computers and time in the library.

Library Assessment – Colleen B.

1. Survey is done.
2. Will ask for it to be put on Board of Ed website
3. Will send out postcards to encourage people to take the survey
4. Cost?

New Business

1. Motion by Bill H to empower the director to get the survey out. Seconded and approved
2. Alan – Motion to authorize the director $2000.00 for purchase donation tracking software. Cost to be shared with Friends of the Library.

1st year – VIA $1500/Friends $500, 2nd – VIA $1000/Friends $1000, 3rd – VIA $500/Friends $1500. Try first year to see how it works. Motion seconded and approved

1. In memory of Gert Beckwith, donate $50 to First Congregational Church and $50 to WHEAT. Motion was made, seconded and approved.

Motion to adjourn made by Bill H and seconded by Alan. Approved. 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan K. Walker, Recording Secretary