VIA Report

December 19, 2023

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

Colleen Bailie, Catherine Bushman

Meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm

Motion to accept the minutes – Motion passes

Brian Elliot from Morgan Stanley attended the meeting. He manages our endowment. He suggested that we take $50,000 from stock market invested portfolio.

Staff reports

Children’s department – Large number of children using the library. Baby clothing drop off due tomorrow (12/20/23). Gingerbread house decorating was last week. Doing outreach to the schools. 150 kids were signed up for library cards.

Adult program

Speaker from AARP. Women’s self defense class. Native American history. How to start a business

Director’s Report – Bailie

She is still looking for an accountant. Interviewing again soon. Still waiting for ARPA Funds. HVAC issues – a leaking pipe – quote from George Ellis for $3500. Looking for a planning grant – we need to hire architect to draw up plans for new library

The $12,500 has been deposited to our general fund for expenses.

BKM recall has been taken care of

Colleen applied for the CIF Round 4 funds for planning purposes for the Allingtown library project – max amount possible is 250k. We have a letter of support from Mayor’s office along with our state delegation for this.

She will be putting in CDBG grant to cover summer reading program. We have 25 to 40 kids in program.

Letters to potential members for the capital campaign went out at the end of last week. Hopefully a number of people will be there for the meeting on 1/19 at 3 pm

Colleen sent handwritten notes along with library cards to all city council members their first week in office.

She saw the rough draft of our documentary - looks fantastic. Needs a few tweaks – final video due soon. Have enough material to do several small vignettes of about 1 minute long. Cost is 6($4500), 12 ($8000), or 18 ($11,000)

She attended the first inaugural dept head meeting with the new mayor.

She attended the library legislative session in Hartford to talk about rise in censorship and costs of ebooks.

We are $23k over budget

Assistant Director report –

Weeding Piantino books

Assisted CMB with bookkeeper interviews

Patrons want Hartford courant but it is not available to us

Arranged for full time staff to get a 4’5 floating holiday for January 2nd. Staff will contact her with the date of day they want off.

Treasurer’s Report

$64,000 in the hole now, Could be $100,000 by end of the fiscal year

Friends of the Library

Collecting donations of books. Waiting for capital campaign to begin

Old Business

Holiday party at Lorenzo’s 5:30 on Friday, Jan 4th

New Business

Vignettes from video – Motion to purchase 6 vignettes for $4500 – Motion approved

Motion to move $54,000 from Morgan Stanley to cover expenses with deposits of $9,000 per month – motion approved

Len Adams – we need to have drawing to of library to sell people on contributing to the campaign.

Bill and Colleen will meet next week with the new mayor and the corporation council on 668 – if we can get the property we will have a one story building.

Fire Station inclusion iffy at this point.

Executive Session – none

Motion to adjourn – 6:07 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Walker