VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

November 20, 2018

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

November 20, 2018 in the Connie Sacco Room of the Main Library by President Teddy Brown.

Present were Gert Beckwith, Michelle Bernardi, Ted Brown, Patricia Donnelly, Joseph Fortino, John Galvin, Charles Gunning, William Heffernan, Curtis Hodgkins, William Lang, Mary Malenda, Alan Olenick, Susan Walker, Director Colleen Bailie and Assistant Director Catherine Bushman. Absent was John Lewis. Also present were staff members Aisha Banks, Taylor LaBarbera, and Amanda Welsh.

Minutes of October 16, 2018 meeting were approved as printed, by motion of

W. Lang, seconded by W. Heffernan, and carried.

Director’s Report: C. Bailie: Staff: Suzanne Delima will replace Joyce Gagnon, Danielle Bean has left to take a post in New Haven as tech librarian. She has set up interviews for 3 part time positions next week. Budget: some things are fixed expenditures for the year. The yearly state report went in last week. Circulations is down but other things are up and 200,000 patrons came through our doors last year. She met with New Alliance; they want us to do small groups one on one tutoring next year. The small group tutoring this past summer was because of $22,000 in funding left over from last year. Getting HVAC quotes from George Ellis and others. LP parking lot had a sewer issue and we have asked to be kept informed of these developments. People are upset about having to park across the street from LP. OM: $1,000 to fix HVAC system. Main: security issues. She is looking into having a panic button under the Circulation Desks (all surrounding systems have this but us) and she getting quotes. Walkie talkies are at front desk to get help. She was invited to City Department Heads meeting to discuss next year’s budget.

Assistant Director’s Report C. Bushman is working to support Colleen on scheduling and the survey which is in Google.doc. She talked with Fire Marshall about having the Knox box installed..

Staff Reports:

Aisha Banks: Working on new program for seniors and working to get AARP at LP. She is asking seniors what they want to do at library. Tech help program is very popular. She is working with U.S.Alliance Federal Credit Union on financial programs. Literary Volunteers come in for ESL program also IRIS on programs to help refugees.

Taylor LaBarbera: Working on programs: home buyers, healthy cooking for adults. Professional organizer coming Dec. 13th and psychic reading on Jan. 17th. They are making the Reference Room more appealing. Starting a West Haven history area (list of those from West Haven who served in Revolutionary War.

Amanda Welsh: WH Community Development children came in and our staff is going there. Two visits from Forest School, one each from Pagels, Bailey and Mackrille. In the

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spring Reading Buddy program will begin with older children reading to kids from K through 4th grade meet with older children. Healthy eating program has started. Launchpad is in and being used. Until January 1st they will be in house only and then will circulate.

Treasurer’s report: C. Gunning: we are in a deficit position. Colleen will speak to Christine. Motion to accept Treasurer’s report made by W. Heffernan, seconded by A. Olenick, are carried.

Committees:

none

Friends of Library:

P. Donnelly Two or 3 new members. Working on possible fundraisers. There may be a small pop up book sale in the spring. In February group will meet at LP and in June at OM.

Old Business:

Fundraising: Comedy night: West River space has been contacted but has not responded. Another possible fund raiser: library mini golf with sponsors for each hole. A company comes in and sets up the ares; we charge $5 per person and have raffles. It could be in the winter(February-March) with a snow date. M. Malenda, A. Olenick and others volunteered to help on this.

Strategic Planning: Director: Another focus group may be held at Main. Suggestions: spruce up Main, get customer training of staff. She thinks we should set 5 or 6 goals and how to approach them: assessing the buildings, parking at all locations, and current needs of libraries.

New Business.

Security discussion on panic button to contact Police Department on Circulation Desk. Director will get prices and report back.

Board went into Executive Session at 7:40 and returned to open session 8:12.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. by motion of C. Hodgkins, second by W. Lang, and carried.

Minutes taken by Gert Beckwith

NEXT MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18 AT 6:30 P.M.