VILLAGE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION

June 19, 2018

The Meeting of the Village Improvement Association was opened at 6:33 p.m on June 19, 2018 in the Connie Sacco Room of the Main Library.

Present were Gert Beckwith, Michelle Bernardi, Ted Brown, Patricia Donnelly, Joe Fortino, John Galvin, Curtis Hodgkins, William Lang, Mary Malenda, Susan Walker, Director Colleen Bailie and Assistant Director Catherine Bushman. Absent were Pamela Gardner, Charles Gunning, William Heffernan, John Lewis, and Alan Olenick. Also present were staff members Aisha Banks, Kym Powe, Tanarah Smith, and Maria Zervos.

Minutes of April 17, 2018 meeting were approved as printed by motion of C. Hodgkins, seconded by M. Bernardi and and carried.

Director’s Report: C. Bailie: Sacco scholarship: there are 12 applicants for the 3 awards. Lauren Johnson began as Digital Services Librarian on June 11th. Reference position has been posted; there are 12 applicants and interview will begin next week. 401K was switched to a different company by the City and a representative has spoken with staff. Budget for 2018-19: we have been cut $75,000 with $25 being held pending our submitting a five-year plan including consolidation. Back parking lot has been paved. Ready for Grade program: over 60 have signed up which will begin July 9th. This is the 3rd year of a 3 year grant and Director will apply for another 3 year grant. We are working closely with the school system. Phone issue at LP which is finally back up and running. Beginning July 10th to 3rd week in August teachers will be tutoring in Main and LP.

Assistant Director’s Report C. Bushman: Attended book expo meeting in NYC and met many authors. She was given many gallies (books not yet in circulation) which she brought back. These cannot be put in circulation but will be used as prizes. Working on article on history of Friends. July-August brochure in process.

Staff Reports:

Aisha Banks: Things are moving quickly. Summer kickoff on June 20th expects 40 students. Branch will partner with Texas Roadhouse. Kiddie Tech kids are majority of those who signed up. They don’t have library cards yet but the teachers do. A volunteer who needed service hours helped a lot to organize this. The phone issues disrupted operations. Building monitor will leave next week as part of City layoff of part time employees. U.S. Alliance credit union which has moved nearby wants to partner with LP. She will work on putting programs together.

Kym Powe: very busy with 4 programs running at the same time. 1,000 books before KG going well with 51 registered. Summer reading material section in place. More publicity for fall programs. Girls who code program ended another program will be this summer, including boys. Story walk on the Green. Library escape room being planned for those who participate in summer programs. 30 attended Eid al-Fitr party.

Tanarah Smith: Adult summer challenge-check out 100 items and win prizes running June 1 - August 31st. She is working on Fall programs. Friday at 2 Animal Embassy program. She trained 3 new employees. Two programs coming: yoga and financial planning with adult movie night.

Maria Zervos: ice cream social tomorrow 2-4 with hula hoop program at 2. Preparing for summer reading, 3 classes form Haley School visited and 4th graders from Pagels. They borrowed 75 book for a program and all were returned!!!. Programs will have a music theme. Circulation has improved over last year; people love the new downstairs area.

Treasurer’s report: M. Bernardi all is well coming up to the end of fiscal year. Motion to accept report made by B. Lang, seconded by S. Walker, and carried.

Friends of Library: P. Donnelly: Membership mailing will be done in July, we are pushing membership this year. Our contribution to the library doubled this past year. Possible fundraiser plans: escape room for adults, Christmas fundraiser with West Haven High School choir alumni. Book sale in September. Looking for more information on what we are spending our money on.

Old Business:

Budget: Finance Committee and made some changes. Increase revenue: computer printout increased to 20 cents peerage effective July 1st. We need a VIA fundraiser - Mayor offered to help with this. Staff could showcase programs during the year; they are taking pictures of every program. Programs are scheduled for every Saturday in July and August so we must be open Saturdays in the summer. Beginning September half days Friday and Saturday 10-2. The book budget cannot be cut any more. By September a plan should be in place for focus groups to determine what the public wants from your libraries, looking into consolidation, etc.

New Business

Fundraising: possible Texas Road House, Rita Italian ice, etc. We need a big fundraiser

The following board members have agreed to serve: Mary Malenda, Susan Walker, Bill Lang, some staff will also serve. The committee will meet in July or August.

Board went into Executive Session at 7:40 and returned to Open Session at 8:30.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Minutes taken by Gert Beckwith

NEXT MEETING WILL BE TUESDAY, JULY 17, 2018 AT 6:30 P.M.