

Friends of the West Haven Library Meeting Minutes 7/7/20

In attendance: Colleen Bailie, Catherine Bushman, Pat Donnelly, Alan Olenick, Bill Heffernan, Ben Martin, Kym Powe, Maureen Ulsamer, Patti GaNun, Sue Bonci, Heather Westbrook, Angela Invernale
Gwen ____

- Membership Report: Read and approved
- Treasurer's Report: Read and approved
 - Paypal memberships are likely to be set to auto-renew unless patron opts out
- President's Report
 - Virtual Bake Sale was a success
 - Mailing sent out to 300 businesses to garner support of the Summer Read program and future programs by donating gift cards/other incentives
 - Bill and Alan sorted through Friends' financial records and reconciled the account. We now have four check signers.
 - Friends membership and mailing lists are being updated
 - Friends to sponsor a sidewalk chalk program
 - Patti and others have offered to donate chalk
- Director's Report:
 - Library reopened July 1st with signs, plexiglass, masks, arrows, etc as safety measures; and all furniture was removed to discourage sitting and lingering longer than necessary. The Main Branch is the only branch open for now: reference has 4 computers available for 1hr per patron, circulation allows 5 patrons in the department at any one time, and children's department has a max of 9 patrons allowed on the floor. Current hours will stay the same for the foreseeable future.
 - Status of the Louis Piantino Branch is still very much up in the air; the LP book group has been actively trying to help (potential Friends?)
 - We are now a part of the Urban Library Initiative (Edge)
 - Summer Reading Kickoff was a great success—we handed out over 200 summer survival kits.
 - We have been maintaining a strong presence on social media: Digital library card signups have increased; Overdrive users have doubled
- Friends Book Sale: We now have a larger, more prominent display in the library for our ongoing book sale (it's worth advertising if/when we allow more patrons into the building). We are at capacity for donations at the moment. The Friends could attempt a sidewalk sale at the Main Branch or possibly transport books to Ora Mason for the sale—maybe one in both locations? Patti has offered canopies and tables to contribute. Shoreline Friends for an online book sale?
- A full library assessment will take place in hopes of a strategic plan; some Board members and Friends should be involved in the initial meeting.

- Mini Golf fundraiser cancelled for the time being
- Maureen to send cards to Jesse for her retirement and thank you card to Mike (custodian) for his “above and beyond” work ethic for our library!
- Carnegie Garden: Should the Friends consider expanding to the community garden at Molloy school? Cost is \$30/yr and we do not need to decide until next year. How can this expansion benefit or advertise for the Friends?
- Ben had a motion to present regarding Paypal—we went over time so it will to be discussed at next meeting.

Next Friends Meeting: Tuesday September 1st 2020 via Zoom