**Friends of the West Haven Library Meeting Minutes 8/2/22**

In attendance: Alan Olenick, Catherine Bushman, Sue Bonci, Christine Diehl, Maureen Ulsamer, Kathy St. Clair, Pat Donnelly, Heather Westbrook, Michael Invernale,

Angela Invernale

5:15 Meeting called to order

Pres:

* Suggested Book Sale date September 3rd - There is some question of if we will get less business due to Labor Day weekend but mostly hopeful - Approved. Rain date would be in October tbd. If we go into Oct we can consider adding a bake sale.
  + Pat contacted Target and they agreed to donate more than enough bags for the sale! Should we raise prices of bags? No, based on size of Target bags, $5/bag is appropriate.
* Fundraising suggestion - Comedy night at Randall’s 21+ on Saturday Oct 15 2022. Ticket prices are $20 per person and comedians agreed to donate half the ticket price to the Friends. Any promotion for the event would come from Friends social media, not the library’s - and promotional materials will be clearly marked as a 21+ event. Approved.

Director’s Report:

* We’ve had some staffing changes since our last meeting; Sara Pettinger, our full time reference assistant, has moved to be closer to home out of state. We have found her replacement internally, Jasmine Jones, who has been a PT assistant here for about a year. She will start FT August 8th.
* Job ads have been posted to fill for 2 PT assistant vacancies (1 being for Jasmine, and 1 for another PTer leaving for a FT position. Library hours have expanded slightly to include Tuesday nights until 7p, and Friday afternoon hours for Ora Mason. They will expand again in the fall.
* Staff are winding down with summer reading in the next week and will announce prize winners in another week. Thank you again to the Friends for sponsoring all of the summer reading! I will submit a request to purchase WHopoly games to add to the prizes for the winners.
* The Summer Literacy Tutoring program went well and is also wrapping up now. All kids that participated have an end of program celebration today!
* Taylor and Shayne are ramping up our Digital Literacy initiative program in September. This will be funded from ARPA funds through the city. Residents will be able to request computer help and after going through a few lessons with staff, will be provided a laptop. We will also loan them hotspots until they can set themselves up for internet access.
* We’ve received another grant as well from a group called Travelling Toys. We will be launching the collection in the fall. Toys will circulate with the exception of the Nintendo Switches purchased.
* The purchase of the land at 634 Orange Ave for the Allingtown Library is complete. The library project passed through Planning and Zoning at the end of May. The library also applied for CIF funds for the library project, and we should hear an answer sometime in the fall. The VIA has contracted with Giving Collaborative to begin our capital campaign and fundraising. At some point we will set up a meeting with the Friends and GC to discuss how you can all help with the campaign. If you know of possible people in town we should talk to, let us know!

Membership Report: 132 members; $1653.22

* Catherine has created a new brochure to be sent to our constant contact list. Feedback: just a few errors to be fixed then it’s good to go

Treasurer’s Reports (June, July, Highlights, and Fiscal Year) All read and approved.

Friends Bags – At one time Friends got a free bag with membership; this has not been the case in a while. Should we use bags for raffle giveaways? For lifetime memberships? Can we sell them in the library and if so are we making sure the money goes to the Friends? A lot to think about – check what we actually have in stock for bags then we can figure out a plan.

Old Business: We decided to donate money to the Native Plant Initiative but have not yet done so – should be looked into. The decision to donate was approved but not announce to the Initiative so there was no expectation on their part.

New Business:

* Maureen sent 3 cards: 2 thank you and 2 sympathy
* Funding Request: $330 for 11 WHopoly as additional prizes for Summer Reading winners – Approved.
* Maybe have a volunteer sign up sheet at Circulation desk
* Are we good on boxes (C:yes)

Meeting adjourned 6:30pm