**Friends of the West Haven Library Meeting Minutes 11-1-22**

In attendance: Colleen Bailie, Catherine Bushman, Bill Heffernan, Alan Olenick, Christine Diehl, Robin Parsons, Maureen Ulsamer, Lois Dioro, Pat Donnelley, Heather Westbrook, Kathy St. Clair, Michael Invernale, Angela Invernale

Cake, Coffee, and Conversation – Casual conversation meeting with the goal of hearing new ideas for fundraising and engagement. No set agenda. (Note: For cohesion, the minutes will not reflect the exact order in which things were discussed as topics got revisited often.)

Funding Request:

Circulation Dept Adult Craft - DIY Wreath Craft supplies - $162.76 - **Approved**

Circulation Dept – Turkey Giveaway Raffles $50 (remainder will be given back) – **Approved**

* Comedy Night was a mixed bag. Succeeded in bringing some money in (no official total just yet as sales were made online) but might have brought in more people with more organized planning. Comedians were working a little blue for the audience but everyone was good sport.
* Fundraising raffles have done well in the past (we could see if local restaurant would donate a gift card), we could a lot some funds to create a gift basket to raffle off
* Improving meeting attendance – Get the minutes and meeting announcement out on time (I know, I’m sorry), going hybrid so people could Zoom in, change meeting time (we’ve done this in the past with not much success but will start next meeting at 5:30pm and see if we get new faces), getting the word out that these are open meetings as some people may not even know they can attend, send out an email to make Friends aware these meetings are open and when they are held and possibly a survey to get some feedback from the Friends. Meetings could be made more approachable if we do introductions at the beginning (particularly if there is a new face at the meeting).
* It would be ideal to hold one big yearly fundraiser that would bring in a lot of money and becomes an annual event. Milford does a Night in the Stacks that is always successful and they’ve been doing it for years. Milford is however a city run library with a different demographic. That doesn’t mean the Friends couldn’t pull off something similar – we just need to figure out what.
* The regularity of us having spring (April) and fall (September) book sales is good. Consistency helps so whatever big event we decide on, we should do it around the same time each year.
* Food-based events get a lot of attention in West Haven, maybe a “foodraiser”. There’s been a “Taste of West Haven” in the past, chili cook-offs at the IA club (people enter competition on their own dime). WH has many restaurants with ethnic cuisines maybe and International food tasting event? This would highlight the library’s “for everyone” mantra.
* Event locations could be somewhere like the green that would grab the attention of people off the street.
* Promotion—Biblioboard has been considered. It may be worth it to pay for ad space in local papers to advertise any big events to supplement our social media promotions. Asking other organizations to promote our events is a possibility, but the library if often the place that *other* organizations come to for help promoting *their* events/causes. Our mailing list is often larger than theirs. The same issue goes for physicals signs/promos, people want to advertise *here*.
* Partner up with other WH organizations – Historical Society, Plant Initiative (potential plant sale?), Rotary etc. We could invite leaders from the other groups to come talk. Or we could all meet like a summit.
* Work on a Community Calendar?
* Members could volunteer to represent the Friends and organize community service work, reading books to kids in the hospital, town cleanups, etc
* Mini-golf fundraiser, or Book Olympics (we don’t know what that is but it sounded cool) ☺
* The Friends could be restructured to consist of individual committees that communicate amongst themselves
* We could try to do a big annual Friends meeting with a performer or author to get more people involved
* A library assessment was done and the results showed that we are under-staffed and under-funded; it also highlighted the need for an Allingtown branch library
* If we could plan a spring gala it could be dovetailed into the capital campaign.
* Host a meet and greet with districts representatives if they’d be willing to come
* Talk to people in the community as you go about your day. Restaurants, stores, see who would be interest in helping out in any way
* Pin fundraiser: Friends of the West Haven Public Library pins will be sold for $10 (cost is appx. $3 on our end)
* Next meeting will be at 5:30pm and will be hybrid

Meeting adjourned 6:45pm