

LaVale Civic Improvement Association, Inc.
Notes of July 23, 2018 Meeting

Paul Yockus called the meeting to order and introduced the speaker, Mr. John Taube, Librarian of the Allegany County Library System.

Mr. Taube stated that he wished to discuss the application for a grant to renovate the LaVale Library, and apologized for failing to send a thank-you note to the Association for providing the replacement of the meeting room air-conditioning a decade ago.

Mr. Taube stated that the LaVale Library has more room for expansion than any other library in the system, and the proposal is to triple the size of the building. In 2017 an architect examined all the system's facilities, and found LaVale to be the busiest, with the most visits. A five-mile circle around the Library contains 60% of County residents, 7 of the 14 elementary schools, 2 of the 4 middle schools, and 4 of the 4 high schools. Each day, 13,265 cars pass the Library on National Highway.

The present Library needs more power outlets and chargers, has 90" high stacks, which don't provide visibility, and has only 30 parking spaces. The renovated Library would have a 90-seat meeting room in two sections, and would remain a 1-floor facility. With two floors, more employees would be needed, and the expense of installing and maintaining an elevator would be required.

The cost of the renovation would come mainly from the Governor's Capital Budget, with the state paying 90% of the cost, and the county paying 10%, due to economic distress in Allegany County. The entire project is expected to cost \$4,500,000, with Allegany County's share being \$450,000. Architectural costs would be \$400,000. The project would be requested over a 2-year span. Mr. Taube hopes the opening could be in late fall of 2020, after at least 16 months of construction.

Mr. Taube said he hoped that the LaVale Library would have expanded hours of 10 hours each day. The processing department would remain in LaVale, the programming department would be relocated to LaVale, while his office would remain in the Washington Street facility.

Brad Metzger commented that LaVale has always been proud of the appearance of the present LaVale Library, and hoped that the renovated building would be equally attractive. Paul Yockus thanked Mr. Taube for his presentation.

The minutes of the June 25, 2018 meeting were presented and approved.

Dick Pesta presented the treasurer's report for June. Income was from interest, and expenses were mowing, \$325; electricity, \$15.22; post office box rental, \$74; and equipment rental, \$81.50.

Tina Midgarden reported that there was a dead deer one morning recently on the highway in front of the Library. The State Highway Adm. or the Dep't. of Natural Resources should be notified of deer deaths. A truck was reported parked for some time; when this happens, the Sheriff's Dep't. should be notified; a vehicle will be towed after being abandoned a certain number of days.

Paul Yockus reported that drainage has been enhanced from the tennis courts at Lions Field, by installing pipes under the walking trail to a small ditch which carries the water away before it reaches the field. At District Park new rims and red, white & blue nets have been installed for basketball. Dick Pesta reported that Metro Tennis will work on the tennis courts in late July or August. The group who had inquired about using the courts will be using the Fort Hill courts instead.

On the website, pictures of the Native Plant Garden and Holly Avenue Recreation Area will be added.

Concerning proposed elementary school closures, it was noted that many neighborhood children can walk to Parkside, but few if any children can walk to Cash Valley School. Also Cash Valley School is an open-space school, which is not desirable in an active shooter situation. It was noted that in other areas, the number of the classroom is placed above each window on the outside of the building, to assist first responders.

The next meeting will be held on Monday, August 27, 2018, in the LaVale Library at 6:30 p.m..