

April 27, 1966

Minutes of the special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Skokie Public Library held at 7:30 p. m. April 27, 1966 in the Conference Room of the Library.

Members present: Conroy V. Erickson, Mrs. W. C. Griffin, L. O. Green, Mrs. Daniel Petty and Rabbi Weiner, Miss Mary Radmacher, Librarian.

Also present: Mrs. Gladys DuBow, an observer for the League of Women Voters.

Meeting was called to order by the President, L. O. Green, who explained the purpose of this special meeting concerned action on two matters of business:

- (1) an appointment to fill a vacancy on the Board of Directors of the Library and
- (2) establishing of the President's Citizens Advisory Committee on Expansion of the Library. Request that all discussions and business be held to these two points.

The President reminded the Board at the time of the adjournment of the last meeting there had been two recommendations to fill the vacancy on the Board: Mr. Fred Wakefield and Mr. Donald Kraft. The President requested the Board's attention to the reading of a letter received from Mrs. Herbert Hersh of the League of Women Voters suggesting the newly formed committee be given the job of selecting a qualified person to fill the vacancy on the Library Board.

Opinion stated that the Committee was formed for a specific purpose with a rather sizable responsibility and the Board would like to see the committee get on with that particular job rather than spending its time on something that is not the reason for its creation. While the suggestion has merit, it is a little late since the Board has already considered the appointment at some length and in some detail.

Reconsideration of the resolution passed at the January meeting on the formation of a committee was discussed. Recommendation by Mr. Erickson to define what the committee is to do and to qualify the Board's intention of its duty which was to advise and counsel on the building development and nothing else, but prior to that action proceed with the agenda decided upon at the last meeting - to appoint a new member to the Board and advise the writer of this letter of the action.

Mr. Green stated the attorney advised filling the vacancy immediately. The

President then asked for any other recommendations of qualified persons. Mrs. Griffin asked permission to withdraw the name of Mr. Wakefield. Since the remaining nominee was Donald Kraft the following motion was made by Mrs. Petty seconded by Mr. Erickson.

Motion: That the Library Board accept Donald Kraft as a member of the Board of Directors to fill the vacancy of Mr. Louis Weingart.

After discussion of Mr. Kraft's qualifications, roll was called and all votes were affirmative.

Mr. Green stated he will draft a letter advising Mr. Kraft of his appointment and also a letter to Mrs. Hersh thanking her for her suggestion and stating the vacancy was filled at this meeting. Recommendation that the letter to Mrs. Hersh might say the Library Board would welcome any opportunity to work with the League to insure adequate and accurate reporting.

Mr. Green gave a short report on the progress of System 5 stating the Skokie Public Library has been providing a temporary meeting place, the quality of the elected board, the plan to set up by-laws, and plans for soliciting a grant. When the grant is given a library will be set up to serve all the libraries in the system. It is the hope of all members to acquire in the System library reference books that smaller libraries could not acquire. These books can be made available by means of loans and provisions will be made for inter-library loans.

The next order of business was the establishment of the President's Citizens Advisory Committee on Library Expansion and the need to qualify the names and purpose of this committee. The President reviewed the circumstances of forming the committee and stated the intention was to have a committee to explain what the citizens felt and bring this to the President of the Board. This Library Board went to considerable time and study of the need for library expansion in this community. We have a very competent librarian who made a very careful analysis of these needs. An architect prepared drawings on the space required. Although

the Board thought the plans were conservative we were severely criticized. Apparently we did not communicate well with the community. After the defeat of the referendum the Board wondered what the community really wants. In an effort to find out it was decided to get representative citizens residing and civically active in different parts of the community and ask them to assess the needs and how to implement them. At the January meeting we discussed at some length formation of such a committee and recommended that the President write to various groups for nominations of persons to serve on this committee, restricting our choice to organizations which are community wide. Five groups were asked to submit four names each. At the last meeting question was raised whether someone from the southeast and southwest end, who was an outstanding user of the library, could be appointed. The Board failed to make any recommendations except for the motion by Rabbi Weiner that three representatives from the clergy be asked to serve as members. Rabbi Weiner was given the commitment of furnishing these names.

At this time Miss Radmacher reported her unsuccessful attempts to contact the President of the Skokie Valley PTA Council for two additional names but will continue trying. She also informed the Board that Mrs. Norman Feit will replace Mr. Sol Herman as a representative from the Skokie Home Owners Council.

Mr. Green further stated that the Board needs to be quite clear as to the functions of this committee in the interest of its efficient functioning and prevention of misunderstandings that might arise.

At this point discussion was held and the question asked whether everyone had reread the resolution and if it clearly stated its objective. Points mentioned were: communication and liaison with the committee should be through the President rather than the staff or the Board at large; the Board should participate in the group's activities but have it clearly understood it is an advisory committee to the President. Rabbi Weiner moved that the motion of the January meeting be amended by a definition formulated now for the purpose of clarification of the intention of the motion as it was made

as it was made at that time.

Mr. Green stated his concept of this committee would be to serve as advisory to the President. He felt it was the consensus of this Board that committees of the Library, as most organizations, are appointed by the President with the chairman designated by the President of the Board. It appears this Board is in agreement that the principal job of this committee shall be to bring to the President of the Board the committee's assessment of the need for physical expansion of the library facilities and a recommendation as to what action the Board should take to meet future library needs of the Village. This committee should feel they are working with the Board but the Board is not presenting any plan to them saying this is what we want you to approve and recommend. This must be a cooperative adventure between the Board and the Committee to which the President will convey to the Chairman of the Committee the thoughts of the Library trustees as they develop in their meetings and convey back to the Library Board the thoughts of the Committee as they develop them and thus complete liaison can be established.

Motion by Mr. Erickson seconded by Rabbi Weiner.

Motion: To approve the President's recommendation concerning the establishment of a president's Citizens Advisory Committee on Library Expansion with the understanding that it is the Board's hope that the Committee's report and recommendations will be submitted to the President of the Board on or before August 1, 1966 and with the further understanding that the Committee may or may not continue to exist after this date at the discretion of the President with the concurrence of the Board.

On roll call all members present voted affirmatively.

The President announced the appointment of Mr. Edwin Simon as Chairman of this Committee. The Board affirmatively confirmed the appointment.

Mr. Simon will be contacted and asked to draft some material for the combined meeting of the Library Board and the Committee. Miss Radmacher was asked to prepare informative materials for each member of the Committee.

The Librarian left the meeting to contact Mr. Edwin Simon by phone and on returning reported she had received his consent to serve as chairman of the President's Citizens Advisory Committee on Library Expansion and his suggestion to ask Mrs. Goldie DuBow to serve as co-chairman.

Motion for adjournment by Mr. Erickson seconded by Mrs. Griffin. The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p. m.

  
Selma Petty of Secretary