

June 14, 1967

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Skokie Public Library held in the Conference Room of the Library June 14, 1967, at 7:30 p.m.

Members present: Mrs. W. C. Griffin, Howard Hummer, Donald Kraft, and Rabbi Karl Weiner, Miss Mary Radmacher, Librarian.

Also present: Mrs. Milton Estes, observer for the League of Women Voters and Mr. Ed. Simon, Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee.

Mr. Howard Hummer, newly appointed trustee, was welcomed by the President of the Board, Rabbi Weiner.

Minutes of the previous meetings held May 10, 17, and 24 were read and approved on motion by Mrs. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Kraft. All ayes.

Financial reports for the General Operating Budget and the Reserve Fund for the Purchase of Sites and Buildings were accepted on motion by Mr. Kraft seconded by Mrs. Griffin. All ayes.

Motion by Mr. Hummer seconded by Mr. Kraft.

Motion: That the lists of bills in the amounts of two thousand nine hundred sixty dollars (\$2,960.00), one hundred thirty-three dollars and fifty cents (\$133.50) and ten thousand four hundred thirty-five dollars and forty-eight cents (\$10,435.48) be approved for payment.

All ayes.

Circulation Report for the month of May, 1967 was accepted and ordered to be placed on file.

The Librarian advised the Board of recent resignations in the personnel of the Library.

Recommendation was made that the Library be closed on July 3 as well as July 4, 1967. Mrs. Griffin moved and Mr. Hummer seconded the following motion.

Motion: That the Library be closed from Saturday, July 1, at 5:00 p.m. to Wednesday, July 5, at 9:00 a.m.

All ayes.

After discussion of the employer-employee benefits to be derived from giving the employees two optional days during the year to permit them to have three or four day week ends, the recommendation was made that Miss Radmacher keep this in mind for implementation, if possible.

A copy of the layout for the Annual Report the Board had voted to issue and mail to the whole community was shown to the Board for approval. The report will be mailed around June 15.

A letter received from Mr. Conroy Erickson was discussed, which brought into focus the Board's approval a year ago to appoint a public relations person to the staff. The need for and the duties of such a person include making up annual reports; arranging programs; designing bookmarks, brochures, etc.; establishing the kind of rapport necessary with the newspapers; and keeping the public better informed about the Library. Since no such person has been appointed, Mr. Hummer offered to assist the Librarian in developing a publicity program. Rabbi Weiner asked Mr. Hummer to report on the progress at the next meeting. Mr. Erickson's letter was tabled until the results of these arrangements have been determined.

Rabbi Weiner informed the Board that no statement should be made by individual trustees without the approval of the Board, excluding routine releases. Rabbi Weiner was requested to represent the Board for approval of news releases.

Miss Radmacher reported she had contacted Dr. Harold Goldstein, Dr. Lester Asheim, Mr. Joseph Schubert and Mr. William Chait for their assistance in making a survey of library services at Skokie Public Library. Regretfully, none of the four has time to add this to their other commitments within the next few months. She has not been able to reach Dr. Herbert Goldhor but will try again and also will try to find someone at the ALA Conference. Mrs. Helen Lyman of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare would be qualified to do the job and is another possibility.

Following the Board's request at the last meeting for a report from the architect, the Librarian stated there is nothing additional he can say until the property situation is definite and the question of cutting a street through is resolved. The present situation indicates the street is not going through. Mr. McDowell was asked to investigate the arrangements between the Village and the Federal Government on the open space grant. To date, Mr. McDowell has been unable to get definite information. The Village has indicated to him they will have to bring in a representative from Washington to straighten out the matter. Mr. McDowell seemed to have the impression that even if the Village had given to the government the land that was supposed to be ours this could be renegotiated. With the situation so indefinite as to the land, the architect cannot be informed of the Board's wishes. In view of all of this controversy, the Library may have to consider the possibilities of acquiring the total land between it and the Village Hall so that for all times the Library would be in control of that land. If the land was given to the Federal government they will have to renegotiate with the Government, but if the Village still has it maybe they would sell the Library the additional land. As it is, the Library is getting the more expensive land per square foot and the Village is holding the balance of the land for no apparent reason. The cost would not be much more to buy the whole piece and remove it from any guesswork in the future.

Discussion was held on the sale of the Library property at Gross Point Road and Kenton Avenue to School District No. 68. The District is satisfied to accept all of the Library's terms of sale. Rabbi Weiner reported that through a phone call from District 68, they stated they were short of funds and would like to work out an arrangement whereby they would have the contract with us to pay for the property over a period of three or four years. The issue is whether the Library should or could do this. Consensus was that payment must be cash or whatever time

it will take to complete our new building. The Library may need cash before the building is completed. The opinion was that at this point the need is for an attorney to sit down and counsel the Board - someone to give an objective opinion and clear the situation on the land.

Rabbi Weiner stated that the Board could do two things - instruct the present attorney it must have action immediately and expect to get speedy results or else seek other legal help. Suggestions were that Rabbi Weiner have a free hand to do what he thinks best and that he and Miss Radmacher get in touch with Mr. McDowell to tell him immediate action is imperative. Motion by Mrs. Griffin seconded by Mr. Hummer.

Motion: That the Chairman get in touch with Mr. W. Scott McDowell and tell him the Board wants some answers immediately.

All ayes.

Mr. Kraft reported on the System's Trustees Meeting held June 3, 1967 in Oak Park.

The Librarian informed the Board of the Summer Reading Programs. Material describing the two programs, one for teen agers with the theme of "Alienated Man in Literature" and the one for elementary students was distributed to the members.

The Librarian announced the exhibition of paintings by Othelia Edelbuth, a member of the Skokie Art Guild, hanging in the Lecture Room.

The ALA Conference to be held in San Francisco June 24 - July 1 was discussed.

Following Mr. Hummer's information that his company was selling a Dodge mobile home discussion was held whether it might be converted into a bookmobile. Miss Radmacher will be given an opportunity to inspect it. Motion by Mr. Kraft seconded by Mrs. Griffin.

Motion: If the Dodge mobile unit now owned by International Minerals and Chemicals is approved by Miss Radmacher for conversion to a bookmobile, the Library accept it as a gift but, in case of the necessity of buying it, the Librarian is empowered to offer up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00).

All ayes.

Rabbi Weiner asked if there were any questions from the visitors. Mr. Ed. Simon, Chairman of the Citizens Advisory Committee, stated his presence at the meeting was to receive up-to-date information on the recommendations made by his Committee, such as: Installation of a Book Drop; a program for Senior Citizens; Sunday hours; Publication of an Annual Report; a printed form of Library Policies; and Neighborhood Library Services.

Mrs. Estes asked if a reply had been sent to the League of Women Voters about their report submitted by Mrs. Gladys DuBow and Mrs. Joseph Beaver.

It was the consensus of the Board that it would be well to issue an interim report to either one or both of these groups to bring up-to-date any action taken.

Motion by Mrs. Griffin seconded by Mr. Kraft.

Motion: That the report of the League of Women Voters be reviewed again and an answer be sent after the next meeting.

All ayes.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 on motion by Mrs. Griffin seconded by Mr. Hummer.



Selma Petty, Secretary (per M. Sarver)