

July 10, 1963

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Skokie Public Library was held July 10, 1963, at 7:30 p.m. in the Conference Room of the Skokie Public Library.

Present: Conroy V. Erickson, L. O. Green, Mrs. W. C. Griffin, Mrs. Daniel Petty, Louis Weingart, and Miss Mary Radmacher, Librarian. Also present: Mrs. M. Sarver for the purpose of recording the minutes.

The president, L. O. Green, presided.

Copies of the minutes of the previous meeting which had been distributed to the members were read by them and, since there were no changes or corrections, the president ordered them to stand approved as read.

The financial statement for the general fund was accepted on motion by Mrs. Daniel Petty and seconded by Mr. Conroy V. Erickson. All ayes.

Bills in the amount of \$12,385.64 were approved for payment on motion made by Mr. Erickson and seconded by Mrs. W. C. Griffin. All ayes.

The statement for the construction fund for the month showed no action either in receipts or disbursements and the president ordered that it be accepted and filed.

The circulation report as submitted showed a decrease for the month of June as compared with the same month in 1962. Reasons for the decrease were discussed, following which the Board accepted the report and the president requested that it be placed on file.

The gift of five hundred dollars (\$500) from the Timber Ridge Women's Club was not earmarked by them exclusively for children's books, Miss Radmacher reported, but that it be used for books, particularly children's, and could include the purchase of books for the Adult Department. Choice of selection was left to the discretion of the Librarian.

Mr. Green complimented Miss Radmacher on the appearance of the Library, and inquired about the acquisition of the aluminum planters for the reflecting pool. Miss Radmacher stated they could not be supplied for the \$300.00 the Board authorized for their purchase and suggested pottery might be a good substitute. Mr. Green recommended that Miss Radmacher try to borrow the piece of Bertioia sculpture, previously used, for a decorative piece during the ALA Conference week.

Miss Radmacher reported that she had received a request for library service from the Twin Oaks Home Owners' Association. Twin Oaks is located across from the Golf Mill Shopping Center. After some discussion about tax levies, Mr. Weingart suggested that some representative from their group come before the Library Board to explain what they have in mind. The Librarian reminded the Board that non-resident adult cards can be had for a fee of \$10.00 per year. There are 2500 families in the area. Mr. Green remarked that it is unfair to Skokie tax payers to have their Library used by surrounding communities without sufficient returns to offset wear and tear plus the expense of operation, and stated that a charge per family might be the answer. Mr. Green instructed Miss Radmacher to request the gentleman from Twin Oaks to put in writing what he has in mind and send it to the Library for the Board to review. The letter should include what they are prepared to pay in the line of fees.

Mr. Green stated that the law has some provision for contractual service. Lincolnwood has never had a library and its greatest use of this library is made by the high school students. He further remarked that he did not feel it would be good practice to limit usage of the Skokie Public Library solely to Skokie students. Miss Radmacher asked for an opinion from the Board about charging students a fee for cards that would be effective from September to June each

year, and fees so collected would, to a degree, pay for the wear and tear on this Library. The consensus of the Board is that Lincolnwood is getting off too cheaply for their extensive use of this facility, and stated the desire to meet with some representative of the town and discuss with them what they would think about helping to provide some funds toward its operation. A decision about what action to take should be made before the fall term begins. Mr. Green agreed that such funds might compensate for lost, stolen or damaged books. He asked Miss Radmacher to compile figures on what percentage of the students from Lincolnwood and what percentage from Skokie use the Library. Also, he would like to have figures on the anticipated fall school enrollment. Miss Radmacher stated that Evanston Public Library assesses a student charge and that she would be willing to accumulate all the facts, including what fees should be charged.

Mrs. Griffin recommended that the talk with the property owners be tabled until fall and, in the interim, get all statistics together for use at that time.

Mr. Green introduced the subject of branch libraries, and stated that the previous week he had learned the syndicate has made, or intends to make, an offer to purchase the three properties between the Library and the Village Parking Lot, with the intention of building a high-rise apartment. Further rumored information had come to him that the property owners have agreed not to sell individually. In the meantime, a reputable real estate man, who asked that his name not be mentioned, had given figures on the current value of the property. The Borcia property is large enough to contain a 4-story apartment building of approximately 30 units and, at the current estimate, would be worth about \$90,000. Using this as a basis, the property between the Library and the Village Hall would cost approximately \$275,000. There was some discussion

about rental of the Borcia's property and speculation whether, if the Borcia's property is acquired, the other two could be purchased. The importance of immediate action to acquire this property hinges on the fact that this building would be completely cut off from expansion if the property were to be purchased for that type of building. Mr. Green, with the Board's permission, made the suggestion that consideration be given to condemnation of all the property. To date the Borcia's have made no offer for rental or purchase. Mr. Green, Mr. Weingart and Mr. Erickson all agreed that it would be wise to approach them and see what kind of lease they would consider - perhaps a ten year lease at \$3,000 per year.

The suggestion was made that the Library Board should try to find out what position the Park District is in to acquire this property for use as a Civic Center with parking facilities in the rear. Mr. Weingart suggested a meeting with Mayor Greisdorf, the Park District and Mr. Green for discussion of the problem. Mr. Erickson stated that the ideal situation would be to get the property on a lease-option. Mr. Green stated he saw no justification in acquiring the property for parking only; if the property is acquired it should be for the expansion of this building or to erect a separate building for

Technical Processes Department. Mr. Green explained his ideas for expansion of this building, and a short discussion followed as to the complete adequacy of such expansion.

Mr. Green stated that he would contact the Village Thursday, July 11.

Miss Radmacher reported on a conversation she had with Mr. Wesley Gibbs who was interested in knowing if the Library Board would be willing to join with his School Board in trying to combat the construction of some of the high-rise buildings. The Board decided the logical thing would be to talk with


the Village, the Park District, and then Timber Ridge Women's Club within the next two weeks to try to ascertain what interest and support there is for a branch library in that district and what potential for a bond issue. It was the opinion of the Board that a bond issue could be passed.

Mr. Green instructed that Mr. White be requested to set up a special reserve fund for purchase of sites for buildings, as soon as sufficient money is available through the maturing of Treasury Bills. Permission to do this was granted the Skokie Public Library by a Resolution passed by the Village Board of Trustees dated July 2, 1963, a copy of which is attached to the permanent minutes of this meeting.

Members of the Board asked that a time be set by Miss Radmacher for their arrival at the Library on July 19, the day of the ALA Library Tour. Registrations for the tour can be made at the time the Conference registration fees are paid, the Librarian advised the Board.

Mr. Green announced that a reservation for a twin bedroom at the Conrad Hilton Hotel had been made in the name of the Skokie Public Library for the week of the ALA Conference. This is for the convenience of all trustees attending the Conference. The key will always be left at the desk.

At this time Mr. Weingart moved for adjournment. This was seconded by Mr. Erickson, and the meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

  
Selma Petty, Secretary