

January 14, 1998

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Skokie Public Library held in the Skokie Public Library Board Room Wednesday, January 14, 1998.

At 7:40 p.m. Leo Friedman, Chairman of the Skokie Creative Writers Association, presented the Library with three copies of *Thought Beyond Feeling*, their October, 1997 publication, made possible by funding from Niles Township.

The Board viewed a taped segment from the Dateline television program about court-ordered censorship of the video The Tin Drum in Oklahoma City. With the judgment that the video contained child pornography, police pulled copies from the library and a local video store, but met opposition from the ACLU.

CALL TO ORDER

Diana Hunter, President, called the meeting to order at 7:55 p.m.

Members present: Diana Hunter, President; Eva Weiner, Vice President; Leo Friedman; John Graham; and Carolyn A. Anthony, Director.

Members absent: Zelda Rich, Secretary and Marcy Goodman.

Susan Greer arrived at 8:25 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 10, 1997

Mr. Friedman made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Weiner, to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 10, 1997, subject to additions and/or corrections.

In the absence of Mrs. Rich, Mrs. Hunter asked Mr. Graham to act as secretary.

There being no additions or corrections the minutes were unanimously approved and placed on file.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
LIST OF BILLS

Mr. Graham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Friedman:

MOTION: THAT THE FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 1997, THE LIBRARY NOTE FUND AND THE YEAR-TO-DATE BUDGETARY STATUS BE ACCEPTED, AND THAT THE LIST OF BILLS BE APPROVED FOR PAYMENT, SUBJECT TO AUDIT.

The roll call vote for approval was unanimous.

PRELIMINARY BUDGET 1998-99

The Board noted the preliminary budget. Questions and concerns should be directed to Mrs. Anthony.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

CIRCULATION REPORT
LIBRARY USE STATISTICS
REPORT(S) FROM DEPARTMENT HEAD(S) (1)
GIFTS
CORRESPONDENCE (3)
PERSONNEL

Mr. Graham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Friedman:

MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES PLACE ON FILE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

1. CIRCULATION REPORT
2. LIBRARY USE STATISTICS
3. REPORT(S) FROM DEPARTMENT HEAD(S) (1)
4. GIFTS - \$10. from Mr. and Mrs. Carl Thuerk in appreciation for Visual-tek services; \$50. from Mr. and Mrs. Frank Zaret in memory of Joseph Zaret; \$25. from William H. Wehrmacher, M.D.; \$25. from Joel S. and Evelyn Marks Siegel; \$10. from Martin K. Irwin in memory of Sarah Isenberg; \$25. from Ruth J. Milner in memory of Margaret G. Robbins; and \$100. from Tony Roshangar

5. CORRESPONDENCE (3) - Note from Pat Groh; memorial notice re death of Jerome N. Robbins; and letter from Tony Roshangar
6. PERSONNEL
Resignation: Caroline J. Grinham, part-time Information Services Desk Clerk, Adult Services Department, effective January 10, 1998

The Consent Agenda items were unanimously approved and placed on file.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Usage--Circulation in December was up nearly 5%, led by still more gains in Youth Services. Juvenile books, audio, video and software all posted double digit increases for the month. Bookmobile circulation also increased strongly in December. The gate count showed a modest increase of 2.4% to 50,144. The popularity of remote use is evident in nearly 3,000 calls to TeleCirc. Almost 45,000 contacts were made to the Library's website, of which 13,070 were made from computers outside the Library.

Staff Day--Staff Day 1997 on the theme of "A Healthier You, A Healthier Library" was a grand success, thanks to Chair John Kadus and the Staff Day Committee. Sixteen staff members received longevity awards for service of 10, 15, 20, 25 and 30 years. Staff listened to presentations, took part in a health fair and exercised through Yoga or line dancing.

Test Site--We have agreed to be a test site, working with Information Access Company on development of a Web-based resource for people working out life problems relating to personal finance, employment, health, travel and other such topics. As a partner, Skokie Public Library will review new modules as they are ready and provide feedback to IAC before the modules are released for general distribution.

Blocked Chat Rooms--We have blocked twenty-six chat rooms so that they may not be contacted from computers in the Library. All are listed under the subject heading "sex chat"

on Yahoo. They are not information sites, but forums for personal communication.

ALA Presidential Race--Sarah Long, Director of the North Suburban Library System, is one of two candidates running for ALA President. Voting takes place in April.

Mrs. Hunter encouraged the Board to participate in the ALA election.

American Library Association Midwinter Conference--Mrs. Anthony and Trustee Weiner attended the Midwinter Meeting of ALA in New Orleans January 9-13. Mrs. Weiner participated in the intensive workshop "Intellectual Freedom and the Library Trustee: A Leadership Development Institute for Trustees", which she said was very interesting and of great value.

Mrs. Anthony is Chair of the ALA Committee on Education and reported on a forum held regarding certification of librarians sponsored by PLA and LAMA.

Librarians Pat Groh, Steve Oserman, and Frances Roehm also attended the Conference.

INFORMATION FROM FRED B. LIFTON RE NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE "SUIT AGAINST LIBRARY MAY TEST FREE SPEECH RIGHTS"

The Board reviewed the information noting that first amendment rights are being put to the test with access to the Internet.

UMBRELLA LIABILITY COVERAGE

The Board had discussed the possibility of increasing the umbrella coverage when our insurance agents from Boyle, Flagg and Seaman came to the November Board Meeting.

It is possible to increase the coverage to \$10,000,000. for an additional \$1,050. This could be added as a rider to the insurance coverage previously approved by the Board.

Mr. Graham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Friedman:

MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE INCREASING THE UMBRELLA COVERAGE TO \$10,000,000. FOR AN ADDITIONAL COST OF \$1,050.

The roll call vote for approval was unanimous.

LETTER FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL JIM RYAN RE PENDING BAKER & TAYLOR, INC. LITIGATION

Attorney General Jim Ryan wrote regarding litigation pending in the Federal District Court for the Northern District of California against book distributor Baker & Taylor, Inc. and its former partner corporation, W. R. Grace & Company.

State Attorneys General have been asked by the Department of Justice to assist in obtaining information necessary to establish the total value of its claim under the False Claims Act. In order to assist in determining whether an action under the Illinois Consumer Fraud and Deceptive Business Practices Act is appropriate, certain information is needed in determining overcharges believed to have been paid during the period in question.

Mrs. Anthony said the Library will provide the information requested by the Illinois Attorney General regarding Baker & Taylor purchases during the period between 1980 and 1993.

CHILLER

There is no new information regarding the status of the chiller motor replacement.

Mrs. Hunter said she is very upset that the motor has not been replaced as yet and that the situation has not been resolved. She said the problem must be taken care of before warm weather is here. Mr. Graham asked if our attorneys have been consulted on this matter - perhaps a letter from our attorneys may have some effect.

Mrs. Anthony said legal counsel has not been requested to look into the matter although they have been apprised of the situation regarding the chiller.

During discussion Mrs. Hunter stated that any future contracts the Library enters into should definitely stipulate that a penalty will be charged for late completion, as well as a bonus if the project is completed early. A number of safeguards could have been taken which would

have prevented this situation. Mr. Graham suggested that, in future matters of this nature, an architect should be consulted to work with the engineer.

Mr. Graham made a motion:

MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES REQUEST LEGAL COUNSEL REVIEW THIS MATTER AT THIS TIME AND ADVISE THE BOARD HOW TO PROCEED.

There being no second, the motion failed.

START UP OF DIGITAL VIDEO DISC COLLECTION

The digital video disc is new audiovisual technology and related to the videotape in the same way that the musical CD is related to audiotape. A DVD is the same size as a musical CD and has enhanced picture quality and sound. The cost is \$25-\$30 per title.

Staff recommend we purchase approximately 30-40 discs initially at a cost of ca. \$1,000. and that the circulation policy for DVDs be the same as for VHS feature films.

We would monitor usage and evaluate demand.

After discussion Mr. Graham made a motion, seconded by Mr. Friedman:

MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A SMALL COLLECTION OF DIGITAL VIDEO DISCS AS RECOMMENDED.

During discussion Mrs. Anthony said that circulation of each disc will be monitored.

The Board requested a review be made in six months to determine the need to maintain the collection.

After discussion, with the consent of the movers the motion was corrected to read:

MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF A SMALL COLLECTION OF DIGITAL VIDEO DISCS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000. AS RECOMMENDED, THAT THE CIRCULATION POLICY BE THE SAME AS FOR VHS FEATURE FILMS AND THAT A REVIEW BE MADE IN SIX MONTHS TO DETERMINE THE NEED TO MAINTAIN THE COLLECTION.

The roll call vote for approval was unanimous.

Mrs. Greer arrived at 8:25 p.m.

“LIMITS ON THE WORK-AT-HOME LIFE”

The Board reviewed the New York Times December 17, 1997 article concerning the increasing number of workers “telecommuting”.

AUTOMATION / JCPL

Mrs. Anthony said that the installation of Release 170 has been delayed by two weeks and is scheduled to be implemented January 29. We expect Dynix to be “down” only one day.

LIBRARY CABLE NETWORK

The Board noted the January 1998 Library Cable Network Cable Guide.

NORTH SUBURBAN LIBRARY SYTEM

There was nothing to report.

COMMENTS FROM TRUSTEES

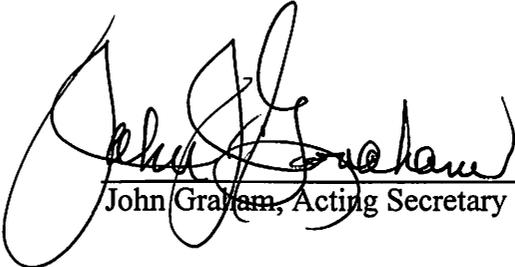
Mr. Graham said the Library Cable Network channel transmission is atrocious. All other public access channels have a better quality picture than Channel 24. We pay \$28,000. annually for cable production which is all for naught if the picture is not of decent quality.

It was the consensus of the Board that Mrs. Anthony pursue an immediate remedy to the situation, writing a letter of complaint to Village Manager, Albert J. Rigoni, with a copy to the Cable Commission and TCI.

Mrs. Weiner reported on the workshop and programs she attended during the American Library Association Midwinter Conference in New Orleans January 9-13, 1998.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.


John Graham, Acting Secretary