

April 12, 1976

Minutes of the regular April meeting of the Board of Directors of the Skokie Public Library held Monday, April 12, 1976, in the Skokie Public Library. The meeting date was changed.

Members present: Walter Flintrup, Diana Hunter, Shirley Merritt, John Wozniak, Norma Zatz and President Karl Weiner, Miss Mary Radmacher, Chief Librarian.

Also present: Mrs. Marian Rosen, Observer for the League of Women Voters.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Weiner.

Minutes of the March 3 and 24, 1976 meetings were accepted and approved on motion by Mrs. Hunter, seconded by Mrs. Merritt. Motion carried.

Minutes of the March 31, 1976 meeting were accepted with revisions made to paragraph three of page 1 as stated by Rabbi Weiner, on motion by Mrs. Hunter, seconded by Mrs. Merritt. Motion carried.

Financial statements were examined and balances discussed. Motion by Mr. Hunter seconded by Dr. Wozniak which, on roll call vote, carried unanimously.

Motion: That the financial statements for the General Operating Fund, Reserve Fund for the Purchase of Sites and Buildings, and Library Construction Fund, for March, 1976 be accepted and the list of bills for the General Operating Fund in the amount of \$33,982.59 and the Library Construction Fund in the amount of \$37.50 be approved for payment.

Circulation Report and Report on Reciprocal Borrowing for the month of March, 1976 were accepted and ordered placed on file.

In discussion on reciprocal borrowing with Chicago Public Library and the inability to get figures, Mrs. Hunter suggested Skokie, Evanston and Park Ridge should get together and have some conversation. Rabbi Weiner recommended that Skokie Public Library host a meeting of the three libraries that most heavily serve the Chicago area, Skokie, Evanston and Park Ridge, David Reich of Chicago Public Library, Board representatives from each library, Mr. Robert McClarren, Director of the North Suburban Library System and Mr. Seymour Nordenberg, President of the NSLS Board. Miss Radmacher will arrange for this meeting to be held Monday, May 10, at 1:30 or 2:00.

Mr. Flintrup said there had been a long discussion at the System Board meeting relative to getting the statistics from Chicago and the idea was generated if the figures are not forthcoming there will be no reciprocal borrowing with the City of Chicago.

Miss Radmacher informed the Board of personnel appointments and resignations.

On the Library Use Statistics, Miss Radmacher called the Board's attention to permission granted for a private birthday party held in the second floor Lecture Room for a Skokie juvenile patron of the Library. A small program was given by the Young People and Children's staff. Miss Radmacher asked for the Board's approval to continue allowing birthday parties to be held in the Library within the framework of a policy for such as approved by the Board. Discussion touched on the question of whether the staff can be spared to take care of this and if two parties were scheduled a week would the staff have time to do it. Miss Radmacher answered that question by saying this had been discussed with Miss Burmeister and her opinion was Children's Department staff could do one a day Monday through Friday, but Tuesday and Thursday afternoons would be more suitable. Rabbi Weiner asked for a statement from Miss Burmeister, for inclusion in the Board minutes, of why she approved of this idea. Materials already prepared for other programs would be used for these programs and the staff commitment would be one-half hour or less. Miss Radmacher will write up a tentative set of policies concerning the use of the Library for birthday parties covering the following points:

- Age limit is 9 years
- No music should be played
- A deposit of \$25 will be required to reserve the room to be refunded if the room is left in perfect condition
- Children must stay in the room
- No running up and down stairs
- Cup cakes or birthday cake may be served. All items necessary for serving must be furnished by person reserving the room.

The Board approved the use of the second floor Lecture Room for holding birthday parties, when requested.

Mrs. Hunter mentioned Evanston Public Library is selling plastic bags to carry books for 15¢. She thinks this is a good way to keep books dry and presents a way to get free publicity for the Library. If Skokie would do this perhaps Skokie and Evanston

might combine their orders to get a better quantity price. Mrs. Hunter also mentioned Evanston Public Library is having a book plate contest with a prize of a \$25 savings bond to each winner. Motion by Mrs. Hunter, seconded by Mrs. Merritt which, on roll call vote, carried unanimously.

Motion: That the Skokie Public Library provide plastic bags that are identified with the Skokie Public Library name to be available for sale to its patrons.

Miss Radmacher said for many years it was recommended this Library have a picture post card of the Library for sale, but the Board was reluctant to get into marketing.

Rabbi Weiner requested that further discussion of this subject be postponed until the next meeting.

Mrs. Hunter mentioned one more thing Evanston was promoting was a "Meet Your Library Board" program. Via a newspaper article the public is invited to visit the Library and meet the members of the Library Board. It appears to be an excellent way to make the public more aware of the Library Board.

On the North Suburban Library System, among papers distributed was a Legal Advisory with reference to sending overdue notices on a post card versus in a sealed envelope. Consensus of this Board was to continue the practice of sending the notices out in sealed envelopes.

Regarding bookmobile service, a permanent stop at Lawler and Emerson is posing some problems. The electrical code now in effect makes our original electrical installations obsolete. However, the Village electrical inspector will permit another installation to be compatible with our existing bookmobile hook-up. For these installations Commonwealth Edison designates where to get the power and the site selected must be approved by the Village. When Mr. Jack Brod and Commonwealth Edison met at the site they discovered the closest power available is north of Emerson on Lawler. A pole needs to be installed and power must be brought from the existing power location to the bookmobile site on Emerson west of Lawler. Through the cooperation of Mr. William

Graham, Electrical Inspector for the Village, Mr. Hohs and Mr. Chrapla, permission has been received to locate a stop and make an installation at this site. Mr. Brod has estimated the electrical work at \$420. Neither the Village nor Commonwealth Edison supply poles and Mr. Brod is trying to locate one.

In discussion, selection of another location was mentioned. Miss Radmacher pointed out that bookmobiles can be operated on a generator. Rabbi Weiner asked Miss Radmacher to investigate this possibility and Mr. Flintrup offered to assist with this.

With the advent of spring and the Village's renewed interest in the Village Green, Rabbi Weiner thinks the Library Board should find the time to go over the subject of the Mooney sculpture. His suggestion was to include Mr. Mooney in a meeting May 10 at 3:30 following the 1:30 session and if not possible then to list it early on the agenda for the regular meeting May 12.

Copies of two letters received from the insurance company were distributed for the Board's information.

Mr. Hoglund and Mr. Stowell will be at the Library later this week to discuss remedial work to complete this building. No estimates have been received from Stowell at this time.

Reference was made to comments regarding action of the guards who serve in the Library. One opinion is we should be more strict and the other is we are too tough. Very recently a new guard had a great deal of trouble with children in the Children's Department. When he left this building about a dozen boys and half a dozen girls (14 and 15 years old) escorted him with their bicycles to his car and followed him home. He was a little uncomfortable. Miss Radmacher reported this to Chief Chamberlain and asked to have policemen around the Library entrance a little before 9:00 p. m. until 9:10 p. m. to afford some protection to people going to their cars. Chief Chamberlain agreed to this. He said in Skokie for 16 to 18 years there has been the attitude of taking a very low profile on discipline. Discipline is out of control in many places in the community. The governing bodies are going to have to take hold, wrestle with the problem and work out some of the needs. He feels youth wants a structured discipline and

the community should reconsider past action.

Rabbi Weiner recalled contacting the police some time ago and, at that time, made the same request. It does not seem possible for the Library to solve the problem of the community. Our getting tough is unrealistic and how are we going to get tough? We would have to close the doors. Chief Chamberlain said to call the police when somebody is needed and every time the Library has called for the police the response has been excellent. Chief Chamberlain has been cooperative.

Suggestions of contacting the Youth Groups and Juvenile Officer were discussed. Another suggestion was to request touring this area on the regular beat. If it becomes necessary to sign a complaint, Mr. Di Leonardi should be consulted.

Following a report on stolen records by a patron, security systems were discussed. Miss Radmacher recommended the Board adopt a policy to spot check periodically which the Library can do legally. The Board approved.

Rabbi Weiner asked the Board to take the Personnel Code with them and assume the obligation to examine it for word corrections or contradictions and come prepared to approve it at the next regular meeting.

The Board will examine the 1977-78 Budget Recommendations. The next scheduled Village Hall Budget hearings will be for the budget prepared last year.

The deadline for reports and comments on the North Suburban Library System Long Range Plan has been extended a month. Mr. Flintrup explained the State required all Systems to submit such a plan. It is a fluid document and can be changed at any time. It might be classed as a wish list of the many ways and things you would like to have happen. It is an outline of goals you are reaching for, a comprehensive plan, but not cut in stone.

The System appointed a board-based committee to write the plan and a great deal of time went into its preparation. Everyone was alerted to send in suggestions but none were received at that time. Mr. Flintrup's impression is that Mr. McClarren thinks of the Plan as being a document that within a year could be changed, and again in two years and at the end of the fifth year some things would be accomplished and some not.

Suggestion was made to get feed-back from the staff.

The document was divided among the members for review of specific pages.

The Board's attention was called to Legislative Day and the memo NSLS sent out about a bus trip May 24 and 25.

In general few libraries are receiving revenue sharing funds. The question of what ALA in Washington is doing about lobbying for this was discussed. Rabbi Weiner suggested communicating with the news media relative to taking a firm stand on reinstating library grants. Motion by Mr. Flintrup, seconded by Mrs. Merritt which, on roll call vote, carried unanimously.

Motion: That Diana Hunter should write a letter to American Library Association to take a strong legislative position to have library grants reinstated which proved to be good. Libraries under revenue sharing have lost some of their ability to get funds.

The Board concurred.

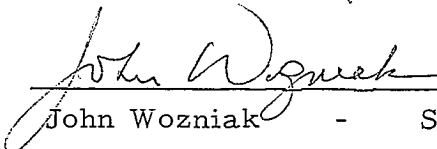
Mrs. Merritt recommended for the summer reading programs something of other than intrinsic value be rewarded to the children, such as balloons, a free shopping bag or something tangible.

A contest for a logo will be discussed at the next meeting. A dinner meeting will be scheduled if Mr. Mooney attends.

Miss Radmacher informed the Board the Evanston Art Council have been granted space for an exhibit to open May 10. They have asked if they might have a reception Sunday afternoon, May 9, in the second floor Lecture Room, and would like to serve a wine punch. Approval of the Board was asked and given. ~~Recommendation was made~~

~~that Miss Radmacher ask the Art Council's committee to have a special display of Rabbi Weiner's work in silver.~~ (Last sentence stricken by action of the Board May 12, 1976.)

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p. m.


John Wozniak - Secretary