

August 14, 1968

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Skokie Public Library held August 14, 1968 at 7:30 p. m. in the Conference Room of the Library.

Members present: Howard V. Hummer, L. O. Green, Donald Kraft, Mrs. Daniel Petty and Rabbi Karl Weiner, Miss Mary Radmacher, Librarian.

Also present: Mrs. Milton Estes, observer for the League of Women Voters.

Minutes of the meeting held July 10, 1968 were approved on motion by Mr. Green seconded by Mrs. Petty. All ayes.

Motion by Mr. Hummer seconded by Mr. Green.

Motion: That the financial report for the General Operating Budget for the month of July, 1968 be approved and that the list of bills in the amount of ten thousand seven hundred twenty-nine dollars and nine cents (\$10,729.09) be approved for payment.

All ayes.

The financial statement for the Reserve Fund for the Purchase of Sites and Buildings was accepted and ordered placed on file on motion by Mrs. Petty seconded by Mr. Kraft. All ayes.

Circulation Report for the month of July, 1968 was accepted and ordered placed on file.

Personnel appointments and resignations were discussed by the Librarian. The hiring of a staff member to do public relations work was discussed. Mr. Hummer informed the Librarian he had contacted several people and will arrange appointments for interviews with her.

A report on the salary costs for the Sunday hours was presented to the Board. Miss Radmacher again stated that the Sunday hours were used considerably more by students (high school, grade school and college) than adults interested in browsing. Discussion followed of the value of continuance from a public relations point of view and the expense involved may have a minimal appearance if it would assist in passing

a referendum. The Librarian stated that the public library has difficulty keeping librarians because it is competing with the schools. School librarians have shorter hours and higher salaries. To inflict regular Sunday hours on our librarians mainly to serve students who should be getting their material at the school library, might cause the loss of valuable personnel. Mr. Green stated he was opposed to having the Library open on Sunday and his opinion had not changed. Mr. Hummer concurred. Mr. Kraft made the following motion:

Motion: That the Library continue Sunday openings coincidentally with the opening of school and realizing that this will cost approximately \$8,000 per year, based on thirty-six Sunday openings.

There was no second to the motion and the motion was lost.

Mr. Kraft gave a summary of the development of the sale of property to School Board 68 and stated that the Village has approved the sale, the School Board wants to buy the property, and will pay a price of \$95,471,35 for it, minus pro-rated taxes. They have arranged for a meeting August 27th at which time the contract will be signed. Payment will be made in September.

Copies of correspondence incidental to the sale of this property and the Resolution for this sale were given to each Board member. Mr. Green moved for the adoption of the Resolution for the sale of the property at Gross Point Road and Kenton Avenue to School Board No. 68, Mr. Hummer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously. A copy of the Resolution is attached hereto and made a permanent part of these minutes.

Mr. Kraft recommended that the part of the Contract of Sale referring to the eventuality of the sale of the property within ten years by School District No. 68 wherein any net profit realized should be divided equally between the School District and the Library Board should specify the meaning of "net profit" to be similar to the formula used by the Library Board. Mr. Scott McDowell will be asked to insert this clause in the Contract of Sale.

Reporting on the purchase of the property at 5219 Oakton Street, Rabbi Weiner informed the Board he had signed the contract for King Realty to proceed at a figure of \$78,000 plus the Library will pay the realtor's commission. This was approved by the seller's attorney, but Mr. Rath has been reluctant about accepting. One thing he requested was that he may have the shrubbery when the buildings are razed. The Board unanimously approved of this.

Copies of the Resolution for the purchase of the property at 5219 Oakton Street were given to each Board member. Motion for the adoption of this Resolution was made by Mr. Kraft seconded by Mrs. Petty. Motion passed unanimously. Copy of the Resolution is attached hereto and made a permanent part of these minutes. The Secretary was directed to record this for and in the records of the Village of Skokie, Skokie, Illinois.

A copy of the Village of Skokie Notice of Return Date of Petition regarding Street Improvements was given to each member. Discussion followed and the Librarian was instructed to pay this as the payments come due.

Rabbi Weiner, reporting on developments on the property to the east of the Library stated that when he was in New York, Mayor Smith contacted him and advised that Mr. Davis of HUD had called to give him the news that word had been received from Washington of the approval of our application. Copies of thank-you letters to Mayor Smith from Rabbi Weiner and Miss Radmacher were given to each Board member. As of August 9 Mayor Smith had not received the official papers but stated he would pursue this until it was final. Mayor Smith expressed his eagerness for the Library and Village to start making plans.

Rabbi Weiner further reported that in talking with the Mayor about looking forward to developing with the Village Board of Trustees an official plan, and thinking of an additional building, recalled the Library's experience with the present building on which a very conscientious projection had been made -- but the unpredictable had happened. Present plans are to make provision for any future developments

by building adequate space plus room to grow, especially in view of the constantly increasing cost of building. In providing more room than we need at present, we are interested in knowing if it is legally possible for the Library to rent the additional space and thus have it utilized until it is needed.

The Library is fully in accord with the Mayor in preservation of the "Village Green," and development of this area as the cultural center, and will, in fact become the cultural center. The Library will work with various groups interested in the arts. The concept of the Library as a cultural center includes more than is being done at present so that within the scope of the Library a Center of the Arts would be provided. The question arose as to whom should own it and run it and from where would the money come. It was concluded that the Library should build the Center of the Arts - it should be part of the Library building - belonging to the Library. This would incur an annual expenditure which could be on a contractual basis with the Village and they would provide the budget for the Center of the Arts. The question is whether this would have the approval of the Village since our referendum would be much higher. On the other hand, with these plans the Library would have many of the people belonging to the cultural groups ready and willing to assist at the time of the referendum.

Presuming we have the Center of the Arts as part of the Library, present programs could be expanded and tied in with the arts, e. g. at present we have our story hours and similar programs might be provided in the arts. The entire library program could be enriched and the citizens benefit from it. This would again put Skokie on the map as doing something first and significant. Mayor Smith was very excited about the idea and suggested having Mr. James Arnold, Village Planner, investigate possibilities of getting State funds. Discussion followed after which Mr. Green recommended the State Statutes be searched to see if the Library will be permitted to do this according to the law and whether Chapman and Cutler, the firm which

handles the bonds, would approve of the plan.

Since Mr. Scott McDowell, the present attorney, has come to the time when he must disengage himself from some of his activities, another attorney must be secured whom the Library can retain and have him sit in on the Board meetings. Mr. McDowell said that he would help with securing the bonds. Consensus was that the the new attorney should be a resident of Skokie. Rabbi Weiner appointed Mr. Green to head a sub-committee to select an attorney and asked that all Board members give consideration to this and submit their recommendations at the September meeting.

The Librarian reported on the success of the summer programs - the "Happenings" in Young People's and Children's Department and, in Adult Services Department, the Film-makers' Workshop which is to be continued on a monthly basis at the request of the participants.

Announcement was made of the Trustee Conference to be held in Urbana, Illinois September 13-15, 1968 and Trustee Day - ILA meeting, Chicago, Illinois, October 18.

Two booklists were distributed to each member: Indians of North America and Selected List of Recent Acquisitions July 1 - 31, 1968.

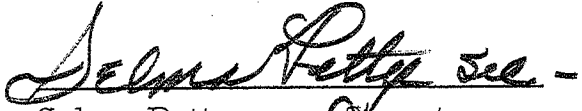
Miss Radmacher requested more specific directions from the Board for the planning of the new building including the cultural center. They agreed the plan should be the absolute ultimate that would be needed in the next twenty years. She further interrogated about how extensive the plans should be for theatre groups; whether practice rooms will be necessary for music, etc. since an auditorium can not be used for the practice of the Skokie Civic Orchestra and have performances being put on by the Skokie Civic Theatre at the same time. Consensus was the facilities already available in the community should not be duplicated. Rabbi Weiner stated that he conceives of having space for fine arts, painting and sculpture, making theatre back-drops and the auditorium to be sufficient to provide rehearsal

space, space for chamber music, and perhaps for small skits.

Use of the property the Library is acquiring at 5219 Oakton Street was discussed and recommendation made that the building be examined for use by Technical Processes Department.

A special meeting was called for August 28 specifically for the purpose of discussing the building program at which time Mr. James Hammond, Architect, will be present.

Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p. m. on motion by Mr. Kraft seconded by Mrs. Petty.


Selma Petty - Secretary

July 23, 1968

Mr. L. O. Green, Member
Mr. Howard V. Hummer, Member
Board of Directors
Skokie Public Library
5215 Oakton Street
Skokie, Illinois 60076

Gentlemen:

Here are the numbers I sent Mr. Scott McDowell, our lawyer. A number of things have happened since our Board meeting:

1. Mr. McDowell wrote Harvey Schwartz to formally ask if the Village wanted to exercise its right of first refusal to buy our Kenton Avenue property. This might have been discussed at Monday's Village Board meeting. Harvey felt it was merely a formality and that the Village would give us permission to sell.
2. Scott McDowell sent a carbon copy of the above letter to Dr. Wesley Gibbs, Superintendent of District 68 to inform him.
3. I called Scott McDowell and reviewed the costs with him. He thought they were O.K. except for the \$4,840.95 item. I agreed that this did not seem to be an expense for District 68 to bear. I was able to call Howard Hummer on this and he concurred.
4. I then telephoned Gibbs. He agreed to the \$94,789.45 figure (after I asked Mr. Kahn, Village Finance Director, to telephone Dr. Gibbs and assure him that five percent was fair).
5. I discussed the propriety of the same lawyer helping both buyer and seller with Mr. McDowell. He said that he normally would not do it, but, in this case, both parties agree on price and it is merely a formality. Since we are getting a fair return on our money, he did not think anyone could rightfully object. Actually, the Library is selling the property as if we never bought it; and District 68 is buying it at what it would have cost them four years ago - including the cost of money.
6. Gibbs wanted to know when we would be ready to close. I replied, "As soon as possible." However, it may be September 1 before District 68 can get the money.

July 23, 1968

7. McDowell and Gibbs both agreed to a clause in the contract protecting the Library in the event District 68 sold the property for non-school purposes within ten years. The exact wording will be worked out by Scott McDowell.

I believe everything is set, awaiting word for the date of closing. Call me if you have any comments. Things happened so fast that I haven't had time to notify you sooner.

Sincerely,

Donald Kraft, Vice President
Chairman, Sub-Committee on Property Negotiations
Board of Directors
Skokie Public Library.

DK:me
enc.

(Dictated by phone -
Signed and mailed by M. Sarver for Mr. Kraft.)

cc/ Rabbi Karl Weiner
Miss Mary Radmacher