

July 11, 1973

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Skokie Public Library held July 11, 1973 at 7:30 p. m. in the Library.

Members present: Howard V. Hummer, Diana Hunter, John Wozniak and Rabbi Karl Weiner, Miss Mary Radmacher, Chief Librarian.

Also present: Charles Hug, attorney.

Rabbi Weiner, President, presided.

A correction was requested in the minutes for the June 7 meeting as follows: ~~on page 4, paragraph 3:~~ "Mrs. Hunter expressed her belief that action should not be taken at this time due to the fact that the NSLS reference service is undecided and the alternative will be settled within two weeks."; and the last paragraph on that page to state: "Mr. Engel, including Rabbi Weiner's recommendation, stated." Mr. Hummer moved the minutes for the June 7, 1973 meeting be approved as corrected. Mrs. Hunter seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

Mr. Hummer made the following motion which was seconded by Dr. Wozniak and, on roll call vote, carried unanimously.

Motion: That the financial statements for the General Operating Fund, the Reserve Fund for the Purchase of Sites and Buildings, Library Construction Fund and the North Suburban Library System Coordinated Acquisitions Program on Literature be accepted as submitted.

Mrs. Hunter commented on the discontinuance of the Coordinated Acquisitions Program by the System, at least temporarily, and that pre-commitments will be paid. She suggested Miss Radmacher write a letter stating Skokie Public Library has several thousand dollars committed and a copy of the letter be given to her to take to the next NSLS Board meeting.

Mr. Hummer made the following motion which was seconded by Dr. Wozniak and, on roll call vote, carried unanimously.

Motion: That the lists of bills for the General Operating Fund in the amount of \$14,023.24, and the North Suburban Library System CAP in the amount of \$2,238.14 be approved for payment.

Mrs. Hunter inquired about the purchase of additional chairs for use in the meeting rooms. Miss Radmacher reported because the increased price was not within the limits set by the Board, nothing had been done. Consensus was that the price is not going down and the chairs are needed. Because of past experience with Slater discussion ensued concerning going out for bids. Motion by Mrs. Hunter, seconded by Dr. Wozniak which, on roll call vote, carried unanimously.

Motion: The Skokie Public Library Board get three bids on the 30 chairs for the auditorium, matching the present chairs, and purchase the chairs from the lowest bidder as determined by Miss Radmacher.

Rabbi Weiner stated if the price has gone up unreasonably then Miss Radmacher will defer action to the Board.

Circulation Reports for the month of June were examined and ordered placed on file.

Appointments and resignations of personnel were announced by Miss Radmacher.

A copy of a letter from Rabbi Weiner to Mr. Harvey Schwartz regarding use of space in the Library by the Village Planning Department was distributed.

Rabbi Weiner read Mrs. Selma Petty's letter of resignation from the Skokie Public Library Board of Directors. He spoke for the Board when he said the letter was received with a deep sense of regret. Mrs. Petty's resignation marks a turning point in Selma Petty's life and marks a turn in the page making a conclusion of a chapter in the Library. Mr. Hummer made the following motion which was seconded by Dr. Wozniak and, on roll call vote, carried unanimously.

Motion: That the Skokie Public Library Board of Directors accept the resignation of Mrs. Petty with the proviso that Rabbi Weiner respond from the Board with keenest regrets and appreciation for her years of service.

Rabbi Weiner stated a vacancy on the Board exists and a replacement must be considered and asked for suggestions from Board members. Attorney Hug stated the statute provides that the remaining directors may fill the position until the next annual election April, 1973. At that time a director shall be elected to fill the vacancy of

Mrs. Petty's unexpired term to April, 1977. Rabbi Weiner recalled that in the past the whole Board acted as a selecting committee and the President was asked to solicit interest of those nominated by asking them to attend a Board meeting, and the Board then acted as individuals. Consensus of the Board to continue that procedure. After discussion President Weiner asked the Board to wait for another month before submitting recommendations. Mrs. Hunter suggested having biographical information to accompany the recommendation. Dr. Wozniak asked the reaction of Board members as to the feasibility of having another lady. Approval of this idea was expressed.

Discussion followed and it was decided to release Mrs. Petty's resignation and in such form that the statement of regret will be honoring her years of service. This may induce groups or people to present candidates for replacement. Rabbi Weiner stated his understanding that the Board would rather wait than make an appointment at this meeting. The decision was the Board is going to release a news item on Mrs. Petty's resignation and each Board member will submit their recommendations with the qualifications of candidates and also include name of the recommendation from Mrs. Petty.

Mrs. Hunter reporting on the North Suburban Library System said the System stated some concern over a legislative bill introduced and sponsored by Highland Park and Arlington Heights. The idea of the bill was that an amendment be attached to Senate Bill 643 stating that 50 o/o of the increase should go to local libraries to supplement local taxation instead of going to the systems. The System asked the local libraries to write Springfield objecting to this. The amendment was withdrawn because only those two were promoting the idea. Request was made for recommendations of better way of funding local libraries. It would be good to have some kind of a committee study done on this.

Mrs. Hunter stated she wanted to make known that the libraries in the Lincolnwood Schools are open in the summer.

Continuing on the North Suburban Library System report, a letter was sent by Mr. McClarren stating the North Suburban Library System is interested in relocating

the reference service and inviting interested libraries to state their interest. Three libraries are likely to be considered: Evanston, Arlington Heights and Skokie. Requirements are to house four staff people and their equipment. Rabbi Weiner said at this point we would be cancelling the accommodations to our own Village and when we previously considered housing the reference service there was no thought it would be given free. Miss Radmacher explained that due to building, Chicago Public Library can no longer accommodate them. Evanston Public Library has stated it would prefer to see reference service of the System disposed of in favor of being able to support a reciprocal borrowing imbalance. Rabbi Weiner commented that if this had come to us at a time when we had open space and had no purpose designated for it, we might have considered it for the greater service of librarianship, but the situation has changed and, at this point, for NSLS to ask us to choose them as priority instead of our Village does not make sense. Mrs. Hunter said she feels if we accommodate them, as the System gets money it will add to our reference collection. Miss Radmacher expressed her belief that when Chicago Public Library's new building is completed the System will move its reference service back to C. P. L. since no System Library is a depository for government documents and no library can equal its periodical and reference collection.

Mr. McClarren is assuming Rabbi Weiner's letter of invitation sent three years ago is in order. Since last November the Reference Evaluation Committee has been functioning and there have been indications that many libraries would like to see the System reference service in the Skokie Public Library. Rabbi Weiner stated at this point for the Library to tell the Village, after they have gotten organized, to pack up and go is politically not easy. The letter to Mr. Schwartz was simply to say we might need the space some time and the term of occupancy a year as the maximum. We could inform them what we expected is materializing and in the meantime we are going to make accommodations that will tie us over. Discussion followed as to the possibilities of locating the reference service in other parts of the building.

In discussion of reimbursement, Mrs. Hunter stated the System is not in a position to pay rent, but Miss Radmacher thinks Skokie should get no less money

than Evanston Public Library gets for Inter-Library Loan. Motion by Mr. Hummer:

Motion: That this Board advise the System its interest in the System Reference Service is as great as it always has been.

Discussion followed wherein it was suggested Rabbi Weiner appoint either the System representative only or with someone else to pursue this matter in terms of benefit to Skokie. Mr. Hummer thinks we should have the reference service but not under the terms of no reimbursement. Amendment was made by Dr. Wozniak, as follows:

Amendment: That Mrs. Hunter and Mr. Hummer be empowered to explore the conditions and arrangements to negotiate the terms of a contract with the North Suburban Library System for the reference service and that Mrs. Hunter convey this to the System with specific instructions.

Rabbi Weiner explained the motion as stated seemed to indicate that this Board would not immediately commit itself to a written spelled out proposal of saying take it or leave it but would explore what could reasonably be accepted and put into a proposal. The amendment was accepted and, on roll call vote, carried unanimously.

Mrs. Hunter asked to report on something not on the agenda and stated at the luncheon the Library had for the presentation of the Dali lithographs, Mr. Hunter and Mr. Pratt from Abbott Laboratories attended. Abbott has a very large traveling art collection. Possibly three of these paintings will be offered on loan to the Skokie Public Library. Abbott will provide plaques to go with each painting. A date for acceptance should be decided, possibly some time in September. Rabbi Weiner asked to have the same committee structure as before. Mrs. Hunter suggested something less elaborate than before with suggested dates of September 10 or 13.

Miss Radmacher called the attention of the Board to copies of the Legislative Notes furnished by the System.

Report on the ALA Conference was given by Rabbi Weiner and Mrs. Hunter. From reports by regions it was apparent in Illinois much less lobbying is done than elsewhere. Rabbi Weiner observed that ALTA seems not to be a very effective organization and does not have much status. A low percentage of directors are members.

Mrs. Hunter reported about the session on revenue sharing which she attended.

Rabbi Weiner reported on the Supreme Court ruling on Obscenity. Libraries

will be the first targets. In placing authority in the hands of individual localities makes it possible for raiding parties to ask that books be removed. The librarian will be the one who will be in danger of violating the law because books may be considered obscene. If she upholds the ethics of the library, she will be liable for suit under the judgment books may be pornographic. It is an action full of danger. There was some discussion in the Committee on Intellectual Freedom how to face it. Materials will be sent to every trustee in the nation. Rabbi Weiner talked with Miss Radmacher about this and suggested getting reacquainted with the Skokie Public Library book selection policy as passed by the Board. Here is established a policy which is the Board's responsibility to uphold. It might be necessary for the Board to reconsider it and determine whether it is strong enough. Miss Radmacher said any book selection policy frequently needs updating and this policy is now over six years old. It was suggested each member read the policy and perhaps plan to have a discussion with the Board's attorney. Rabbi Weiner said one more strategic issue discussed was that the library deal with the issue strictly in the name of the library and that in any legislation the librarian be exempted from responsibility.

Policy regarding the use of the library meeting rooms was postponed until later.

Rabbi Weiner suggested the Library secure "no parking" signs on standards. Since the Village cannot supply these, Miss Radmacher was instructed to investigate where they can be had and secure a quotation. Miss Radmacher asked about the wording and the reply was "No Parking at Any Time."

Miss Radmacher informed the Board of the ALA Minority Scholarship Program. Rosary Library School has five interns scheduled to serve one month for learning experience in the total picture of library service. The Skokie Public Library is one of eight libraries asked to participate in this Internship Program. Miss Radmacher accepted. The Board highly approved of this and suggested it be publicized.

Miss Radmacher asked to set a special meeting to get some policies acted upon.

Rabbi Weiner asked to set the date of the August meeting for August 1, and if it would be possible to have the meeting at 6:30.

Building program report was given by Miss Radmacher who distributed a

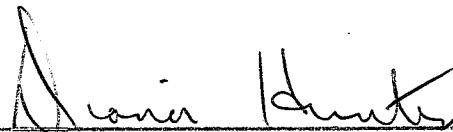
sheet of items which are still not done. We are holding \$20,000 until their completion. Question was asked at what point the Library gets the work completed elsewhere. Mr. Hug said under the terms each of the contractors had to put up a bond and if they do not complete the job we are supposed to inform the bonding company and they will either hire someone else or have us do so and pay for it. Rabbi Weiner suggested the Board take some action tonight. Mr. Hummer made the following motion:

Motion: That the Skokie Public Library Board instruct its attorney to take all steps to force the contractors to complete their contracts on the basis of the architects punch list by contacting the bonding companies.

Mr. Hummer suggested the Board not pay any more money to the architect. Mrs. Hunter suggested contacting Corrigan and stating something must be done in 7 days or the bonding company will be contacted. Motion was seconded by Dr. Wozniak and carried unanimously.

Rabbi Weiner again brought up the idea of inviting service clubs to hold a luncheon meeting in the Library and give a tour of the new facilities.

Meeting adjourned by President Weiner at 11:00. p. m.



Diana Hunter

Secretary