

December 18, 1968

Minutes of the December meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Skokie Public Library held at the Howard Johnson's Motor Lodge, 9333 Skokie Boulevard, Skokie, Illinois, December 18, 1968, at 5:30 p.m.

Members present: Messrs. Howard Hummer and Donald Kraft, Mrs. Daniel Petty and Rabbi Karl Weiner, Miss Mary Radmacher, Chief Librarian.

Rabbi Weiner presided.

Minutes of the previous meeting held November 13, 1968 were approved on motion by Mr. Kraft, seconded by Mr. Hummer. All ayes.

Financial statements for the general Operating Budget and Reserve Fund for the Purchase of Sites and Buildings for the month of November, 1968 were approved on motion by Mr. Hummer seconded by Mr. Kraft.

Motion by Mr. Hummer seconded by Mrs. Petty.

Motion: That the list of bills for the General Operating Budget in the amount of nineteen thousand one hundred thirty-eight dollars and twenty-seven cents (\$19,138.27) and for the Reserve Fund in the amount of seven hundred sixty-eight dollars (\$768.00) be approved for payment.

All ayes.

The Circulation Report for the month of November, 1968 was approved and ordered to be placed on file.

The Librarian announced the receipt of a gift of \$25.00 from the Junior Women's Club of Skokie for the purchase of foreign language books for children.

The Secretary, Mrs. Petty, read a letter she had received from Alvin M. Levy complimenting the Library and offering to assist in the next referendum. Miss Radmacher was requested to send a suitable answer to the letter.

The Librarian explained the advantages of the revision of the Library Bill of Rights and recommended the adoption of it. Motion by Mr. Kraft seconded by Mr. Hummer.

Motion: That the Board of Directors of the Skokie Public Library approve the Library Bill of Rights as amended June 27, 1967.

All ayes.

Mr. Kraft reporting on the North Suburban Library System informed the Board the System is starting a film service. They will spend \$190,000 on a film collection. There are 400 films in the System and the money would go to buy additional films which would be available to all patrons. Every member library will have a list of these films. The Evanston Library will house the collection and will have an audio-visual librarian to handle film service. Evanston will be paid for this service but the films remain the property of the System. Mr. Kraft distributed copies of the first annual report of the System. He further reported that reciprocal borrowing had been discussed at the last meeting. Miss Radmacher pointed out that there is no uniform non-resident borrower's fee. She discussed a formula using .12 per cent as the tax rate based on the assessed valuation of the area. The use of such a formula to compute non-resident borrower's fees would produce a more equitable basis for all member libraries. Regardless of the System's recommendation, every library may still establish its own rate. However, cards from an area in which standards are not met need not be honored in other areas.

Discussion of members for the Board of Directors and possible candidates followed. This would be for the seventh member to be elected to the Board. Mr. Hummer offered to call Mr. Eugene Denning of the Skokie Valley Industrial Association and Mr. Karl Schmidt of the Skokie Chamber of Commerce for any recommendations they might have. Mrs. Harry Hunter was also suggested as a possible candidate. The terms of office were also discussed and recommendation made to ask Mr. Harvey Schwartz whether to make it two years, four or six years.

Discussion of building plans led to the following motion by Mr. Hummer seconded by Mr. Kraft.

Motion: That the Skokie Public Library Board of Directors ask the architect to submit final plans and specifications for the interim plans and program and that the plans, if possible, be confined to a maximum total of \$150,000.

All ayes.

Motion by Mr. Hummer seconded by Mrs. Petty.

Motion: That the Skokie Public Library Board advertise for bids from contractors to complete this interim expansion program.

All ayes.

Motion by Mr. Hummer seconded by Mr. Kraft.

Motion: That the Skokie Public Library Board ask the Village if it can borrow money sufficient to make up the difference between the money in the Reserve Fund for the Purchase of Sites and Buildings and the price of the bid from the lowest responsible bidder.

All ayes.

Rabbi Weiner stated that there was one other thing - in order for the architect to develop a total plan of which this interim plan does not have to be part, it may be necessary for the Board to determine once and for all whether to include in the overall plan the Library's idea of the Fine Arts Center. No formal action has been taken to date. He said when this was discussed the only consideration would be for Miss Radmacher to be the head administrator and the Library have jurisdiction over all. The Librarian reported that Mr. Schwartz said the questions asked by the Board are much more complex than he originally thought and will take much more time to investigate. He said he thinks the Library could be in control of this but would have to determine for sure. Further action was postponed until the Board has more legal advice.

Motion by Mr. Kraft seconded by Mrs. Petty.

Motion: That the Skokie Public Library Board approve in principle that included in its plans for expansion of the Library, space be included for physical facilities for a Fine Arts Program subject to legal opinions.

All ayes.

Discussion of the property at 5219 Oakton Street was held. Miss Radmacher reported that Mr. Scott McDowell has filed papers for exemption of taxes for 1969.

Motion by Mrs. Petty seconded by Mr. Kraft.

Motion: That the Skokie Public Library Board use the property at 5219 Oakton Street for library purposes.

All ayes.

Miss Radmacher stated that in considering use of the property it would be good to have a custodian living there. Earle Smith might be interested in it if offered by the Board. The cottage is a little smaller than his present home. Discussion followed of various repairs that must be made. Recommendation was made that the cottage be put in first-class condition for occupancy by Earle Smith but that the light and heat for it be paid by him. Motion by Mrs. Petty seconded by Mr. Kraft.

Motion: That Miss Radmacher be instructed to approach Mr. Earle Smith about living in the cottage on the property at 5219 Oakton Street, rent free, and the Library will assume the responsibility to have it in good repair.

All ayes.

Miss Radmacher stated that she had hoped to install a 220 outlet on the 5219 Oakton property so the bookmobile would be able to park there but the driver said it was absolutely impossible to drive it in there. Other use of the building was discussed. Mr. Hummer reported briefly on securing help for public relations work. He has had two sessions with Mr. Terry Riley who has been hired by Feldstein to do their work. Mr. Feldstein has been ill but Mr. Hummer will meet with Mr. Riley December 19 to discuss (1) for them to handle the whole program; or (2) to find somebody in the form of a permanent public relations man.

Meeting adjourned by 9:00 p.m. on motion by Mr. Hummer seconded by Mr. Kraft.


Selma Petty Secretary