

October 13, 1965

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Skokie Public Library held October 13, 1965, at 7:30 p. m. in the Conference Room.

Members present: Conroy V. Erickson, Mrs. W. C. Griffin, L. O. Green, Mrs. Daniel Petty and Rabbi Karl Weiner, Miss Mary Radmacher, Librarian.

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

The meeting was opened by the Secretary, Mrs. Daniel Petty.

Minutes of the meeting held September 8, 1965 were read and approved on motion by Mr. Erickson, seconded by Rabbi Weiner. All ayes.

Motion by Mrs. W. C. Griffin seconded by Rabbi Weiner.

Motion: That the financial statements for the General Operating Fund and Reserve Fund for the Purchase of Sites and Buildings for the month of September, 1965 be accepted.

All votes were affirmative.

Motion by Mr. Erickson seconded by Mrs. W. C. Griffin.

Motion: That the list of bills in the amount of ten thousand nine dollars and eight cents (\$10,009.08) be approved for payment.

All votes were affirmative.

At this time President L. O. Green took the chair.

President ordered that the Circulation Report for the month of September, 1965 be accepted and placed on file.

Mr. Erickson recommended that a report on the reference calls be included with the Circulation Report - as a summary of reference statistics. Miss Radmacher stated such a sheet could be included each month showing these figures.

Miss Radmacher talked briefly about the Film Festival to be held in the Library starting October 22, 1965 and continuing through November 19.

The President directed the Board's attention to the Building Program. He

said that he presumed there are several questions in the minds of people about the value of this land. He pointed out that by advice of our legal counsel this high figure was set knowing condemnation procedure may be necessary. The Library Board would fight for the lowest possible price. Mr. Green stated: "Not one cent more will be paid for any property to be acquired by the Skokie Public Library than the approximate value as established by independent appraisers of unquestioned integrity. On my return Sunday from an extended business trip I was concerned when a number of friends of the library said they were being asked why a figure of \$253,000 had been used in the library referendum proposal as the estimated cost of the more than 2-1/2 acres to be acquired for the new branch. Other Board members are also concerned. Part of this land we have already under contract at a purchase price slightly under its appraised value of \$1.50 per square foot. We expect to pay about the appraised value of \$1.45 to \$1.50 per square foot for the remainder of this land. However, we are well aware that we may have to ask the Village to go to condemnation proceedings to acquire this land at a fair price. Our attorney has advised us to take into account the unpredictability of the courts in making condemnation judgements. Depending upon whether or not the courts set the price based upon the property's value under a multiple dwelling zoning, we might conceivably be ordered to pay a price approaching the \$3.00 per square foot allowed in the bond issue. But the \$3.00 per square foot is only the maximum we can pay. We will negotiate - and fight in court, if necessary - for the best possible price.

"The past performance of this Library Board and our pledge to the Community that we will not pay a cent more than is required for this property should be an adequate answer to the questions raised."

The President stated it would be necessary to get the facts to the people and recommended that the Board engage the services of a competent firm to

write copy, etc. Communications, Inc. was suggested as the firm equipped to prepare the whole thing, such as write releases, brochures, etc. for between \$600 and \$700. This would not include printing and layout work. Our attorney has advised that it is perfectly legal to obtain services to present the facts. Discussion was held about whether this firm would work with the librarian, etc. on the project. The answer was "yes" and the following motion was made by Mrs. Griffin seconded by Rabbi Weiner.

Motion: That the Skokie Public Library Board obtain the services of Communications, Inc. Total amount for these services not to exceed seven hundred dollars (\$700) excluding printing.

All votes were affirmative.

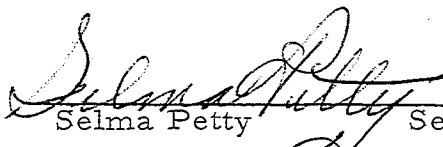
It was stated that enough copies of the brochure will be printed to send out to the people along with a personal letter signed by the members of the Board.

Miss Radmacher in speaking about the LSCA grant stated the original idea was on a 60/40 basis but since such a large number of applications are being submitted to the State Library it is likely that the 40 per cent will be reduced to 25 per cent. The application must be submitted soon since the committee plans to meet around November 1st. We should know their decision on allocation of funds prior to our election and the amount of bonds issued will be decreased by the amount of Federal funds granted.

At this time there was discussion about intensifying the campaign for the referendum.

The Librarian discussed the Illinois Library Association Conference to be held October 28, 29 and 30 at the Sheraton Chicago Hotel and announced the Trustees and Public Librarians Section Luncheon will be Friday noon, October 29 - reservations should be made through Miss Radmacher.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p. m.


Selma Petty Secretary