

February 13, 1963

The regular meeting of the Skokie Public Library Board of Trustees was held Wednesday evening, February 13, 1963, in the Conference Room of the Library. The following members were in attendance: Conroy V. Erickson, L. O. Green, Mrs. W. C. Griffin, Rabbi Karl Weiner, and Miss Mary Radmacher, Librarian. Also present: Mrs. M. Sarver for the purpose of recording the minutes.

The president, Mr. Green, presided.

The minutes of the January 9, 1963, meeting, which had previously been distributed, were approved.

The financial reports of the general fund and of the construction fund were accepted and placed on file upon motion made by Mrs. Griffin and seconded by Rabbi Weiner. All ayes.

Miss Radmacher called attention to an increase of 25+ per cent, in the circulation since the loan period was increased to three weeks, as shown on this report. The circulation report was ordered to be filed.

The list of bills from the general fund, as attached, was presented and approved for payment upon motion made by C. V. Erickson and seconded by Mrs. Girffin. All ayes.

Mr. Green reported that he had been unable to have a discussion with Mayor Proesel of Lincolnwood regarding a contribution to the Skokie Public Library for the use made of it by their population. Mayor Proesel is out of town.

Miss Radmacher reported the Gail Green problem had been resolved. Mrs. Green (the gir's mother) paid for the book. A discussion followed on the merits of pressing charges against similar offenders. Mr. Green stated if this were done, the cases would come under the jurisdiction of criminal court and be turned over to a downtown court. In those courts there are so many cases much bigger in criminal scope there is a possibility very little attention would be paid to the charges and they might be by-passed altogether.

Report from Mr. Erickson on National Library Week. He reported that he and Miss Radmacher had been discussing ideas for programs. Visitation to the Library for a one-hour period for the fourth grade students from all schools appeared to be a good juvenile program for that week. This was a featured part of last year's program and the same procedure for contacting the schools will be followed, that is, letters sent to the district superintendents and principals of various parochial and village schools.

A suggested program would be to have as speaker Dr. Bettelheim, psychologist from the University of Chicago and author, using his latest book "Dialogues with Mothers" as the theme. Rabbi Weiner reported that

Dr. Bettelheim has spoken several times recently in this area and that could lessen the attendance. Miss Radmacher suggested Dr. Herbert Goldhor, Associate Director of the University of Illinois Library School, an excellent speaker, who, as someone not immediately connected with public library work, could explain the public library's area of responsibility as well as the school library's area of responsibility.

Mr. Erickson suggested a program hooked up with a T.V. show should have audience appeal. The program, taped before a live audience, could have a panel of authorities dealing with a theme related to books and perhaps someone like Norman Ross invited to participate. Rabbi Weiner offered his assistance.

A discussion was held at this time about the advisability of establishing a minimum fine for taking a reference book from the Library. Mr. Green suggested that, after the new stickers are attached, when the first book disappears the family of the offender should be called and the theft reported to them and, if necessary, the Police Department.

On the subject of reference material available to the students, Mr. Erickson talked of setting up something in the way of a series of small seminars in the school, in cooperation with the schools, students, English Departments and school librarians. Mr. Green suggested that the PTA Council be approached to put a program of this type on their agenda for next year, thus making a direct approach to the parents, to the teachers, and to the schools. All were in agreement that it would be worth working out with the PTA.

Miss Radmacher talked of a brochure now in preparation which is directed to the teachers of Niles Township High School and stated another such brochure could be printed for PTA distribution explaining the public library's area of responsibility. Mr. Green requested Miss Radmacher to proceed with the second brochure.

Mr. Paul Box, Skokie Traffic Engineer, when consulted on means for slowing traffic in the library driveway, advised Miss Radmacher that a bump in the driveway would be too much of a hazard for safety. His suggestion would be to erect a diamond shaped sign reading "CAUTION - PARKING LOT AHEAD - PEDESTRIANS - CARS PARKING AND LEAVING." Mrs. Griffin mentioned the use of an electric gate, but the maintenance cost might be prohibitive.

Miss Radmacher reported the plan of checking books at the door has proved highly satisfactory in preventing the illegal removal of library material. It appears that a full-time employee must be hired for this job.

In the absence of Dr. Leon Carnovsky of the Chicago Graduate Library School, due to illness, Miss Radmacher talked with one of the teachers who conveyed the message to him of the plan to hire a library student to assist with the work of gathering data pertinent to establishing branch libraries. No concrete answer has been received but he appeared to be enthusiastic about it.

Regarding bonding power, Miss Radmacher reported that Mr. White said that Skokie is still under its bonding power limits.

The Milwaukee Area Library Board Association's visit was reported and their appreciation extended to the Board.

Skokie Public Library will be host for the North Shore Library Club March 5, 1963. Mr. Joseph F. Shubert, Assistant Director of the ALA International Relations Office, will talk on "A Brief Look at Some West African Libraries."

The Northern Illinois University extension class on cataloging and classification is scheduled to meet in the Skokie Public Library beginning February 21 and weekly through the semester.

Mr. A. Weinbrecht called Miss Radmacher regarding a presentation on the Library budget for a meeting of the Skokie Taxpayers Association the evening of March 7. Mr. Green instructed Miss Radmacher to advise the committee that the Board would be happy to comply with this request at a later date. Mr. Green will be absent from the city at that time.

A message was sent to the Board by Mr. Throop that he is doing his utmost to get the parts for the light which was broken so it can be repaired or replaced as soon as possible.

Miss Radmacher called attention to the wording of the statement on vacations in the Personnel Code which could have a dubious meaning:

"Regular full-time salaried employees having worked at least six (6) months by June 1st are eligible for a paid vacation. During the first year of employment the vacation allowance is pro-rated on the number of months worked."

It was the recommendation of the Board that the wording be changed to:

"Regular full-time salaried employees who have been employed for at least one year are eligible for a paid vacation."

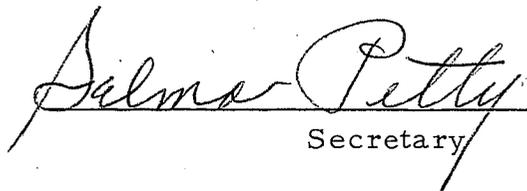
The president stated that in the event of a person leaving with six months or more credit toward a vacation this would be reflected in the termination salary.

Miss Radmacher submitted to the Board, for their perusal, a letter received from Miss Josephine M. Hilton suggesting a return to the practice of renewing books by phone, in certain extenuating circumstances because payment of a fine is sometimes a hardship. She requested a reply. Mr. Green, with the approval of the Board, requested Miss Radmacher to send a letter of

reply to Miss Hilton stating that the Board had taken her letter into consideration but were of the opinion there is no way the Library can deviate from the policy which has been established about the renewal of books.

The next subject for consideration was the excessive charge by Frank's Texaco Service for an inferior job of snow plowing. Because of current contracts, etc. an immediate remedy could not be suggested.

The meeting was adjourned by Mr. Green at 9:45 p. m.


Secretary