

March 3, 1976

Minutes of the special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Skokie Public Library held March 3, 1976, at 5:30 p.m.

Members present: Diana Hunter, Richard Lindberg, Shirley Merritt, Norma Zatz and Rabbi Karl Weiner, Miss Mary Radmacher, Chief Librarian.

Also present: Robert W. McClarren, Director of the North Suburban Library System, and Mrs. Phyllis Young, Observer for the League of Women Voters.

Meeting was called to order at 6:55 p.m. by President Weiner who stated the purpose of the meeting was two-fold. Originally, there was to be discussion about the settlement agreement due to the January, 1975 beginning date on the glass replacement which might instigate a charge back on replacements heretofore installed. Mr. Di Leonardi assured Rabbi Weiner there was nothing to worry about because the third paragraph indicated the Library would not be held liable for any of the lights that had been replaced. On the basis of the recommendation of Counsel, the agreement forms were signed and Mr. Di Leonardi will write a covering letter stating specifically what will be.

The second item of business for this special meeting was for the Board to view the possible advantages and disadvantages of becoming the sponsoring library for the demonstration project in the Village of Lincolnwood.

Mr. McClarren was asked to present his views. He thinks Lincolnwood ultimately will have its own library because of the level of interest exhibited. This will press the Village of Lincolnwood into some permanent library service. The System is interested in supporting library development. Lincolnwood is very closely attuned to Skokie, not politically, but for schools, shopping, etc. There is some identification and certainly the Skokie Public Library will be involved with Lincolnwood in consummation of library service. The preference for library development would be to work and look to see what can be done in positive terms without eroding Skokie's capacity to build a base potential some time in the future. It would seem in looking at the possibility of demonstration to look for Lincolnwood citizens giving at least acceptable support to the State planning and System contribution that would

be at the 15¢ levy rate. The Advisory Board has a program involving Lincolnwood as a demonstration library which could lead to some permanent relationship with Skokie. It is not known what Lincolnwood might do financially to support a program. At one time the Mayor indicated some support for a demonstration library in Lincolnwood in terms of space utilities, as well as good will and mutual funds which they had accumulated. This would have been used for a Chicago contract. Mr. McClarren said he has encouraged the Friends Group to pressure this approach in working with the Village Board. Should there be a developmental program worked out the State would provide on the same basis as Project Plus by providing \$5.00 per capita, the System would provide \$.70, and a sufficient amount in funds to come from the Village of Lincolnwood. In the Project proposal, Mr. McClarren thinks demonstration would be successful only if there is some permanent promise of a library in Lincolnwood - some tangible evidence. It would take some years to develop into anything close to standard. Lincolnwood's development with Skokie would be a warm example to use library service and that Village might come to help support a larger service at Skokie Public Library in other ways. Mr. McClarren said that in developing a proposal the System would expect there would be in the Project reasonable payment to Skokie Public Library for its activities, its direction as well as the out-of-pocket costs involved with it, depending upon the amount the Village could bring in. Hopefully, the payment would be at least the equivalent of the per capita amount of this community. If financing were possible and Skokie was amenable to it, the System will work with this Library. The System's role would be as an intermediary prepared to step in and help where necessary. Should this not be a possibility or be rejected then an alternate would be for the System perhaps to sponsor a Project Plus activity. In this case Skokie's obligation would come regarding the use of its collection and the reciprocal borrowing. There should be some monetary reimbursement but not significant enough to help Lincolnwood to get off the ground.

Rabbi Weiner asked Mr. McClarren if Skokie took on the guidance of the Project would it be reimbursed for reciprocal borrowing? His answer was that normally in any Project Plus there would be reimbursement but the developmental

project is not bound by Project Plus. Project Plus requires the sponsoring library to be a district library so that if the demonstration is successful then the area after the demonstration can be encased. This would be a different situation. It is possible there would be some possibility of reimbursement, maybe reciprocal borrowing, but the System is interested in promoting this project to encourage the Village of Lincolnwood to supplement to some degree of adequacy the financial burden to Skokie. Rabbi Weiner's second question was if Skokie is to be the one to guide the Project who makes the policy - is there a sponsoring board or policy making board? The answer was the project that directs it is the Skokie Public Library. The decision making would be the project of the project making director. In this case the System's interest would not be incompatible with Skokie's or the State. The idea is to dissipate the unserved area by agreement on a project. Once this is done the primary responsibility is the Skokie Public Library's and the staff would be part of the Skokie Public Library staff on a permanent or temporary basis. As soon as demonstration is over, after an election, there would be a Board created. During the project, the project library is the one responsible for administration unless it is done by the System's staff. Mrs. Hunter said that it was a full time job on the three libraries the System helped and if Skokie Public Library administered this project and must assign one person full time, that person should be paid out of Project Plus funds as was the System's staff member.

Rabbi Weiner said that the problem is some way to reimburse Skokie when everyone in Lincolnwood gets a library card. Skokie Public Library Board's concern is for the two year trial period to see that the Skokie Public Library and Village of Skokie are not financially put in a negative position because of this, and if Skokie is interested enough to make a proposal this should be included. Mr. McClarren mentioned the big key at this point is in the total financial resources available for the project. Mrs. Hunter's impression was the consensus of the meeting Mrs. Gesterfield called was that unless the Village of Lincolnwood put up some money toward the project (at least one-third) it would not be considered as a project. She stated that Skokie is trying to say in the two year period it should not cost Skokie financially or in

materials. It should be a communal neighboring project and cost Skokie nothing.

Mr. Lindberg said, "It is going to cost \$5 or \$6 per person in Lincolnwood and it costs the Village of Skokie people \$30." He asked Mr. McClarren if he thought this was fair? Mr. McClarren stated \$5.00 is the figure of what is available from the State.

Rabbi Weiner gave his view in that he is considering this on the basis that Lincolnwood happens to be next to Skokie and their people will either go to Chicago Public Library or to the Skokie Public Library. Skokie has them no matter what happens and to some degree this is the fate of any larger community surrounded by smaller ones. They will come to Skokie for use of the better facilities. He feels the only purpose in discussing this project is to somehow lighten the burden or make it as palatable as possible. If Lincolnwood starts a library, is it to Skokie's interest to be involved from the ground floor? Is it worth our while to rather be involved in the process because we are going to continue to have them come to us by using the library cards of Skokie people or the ones they buy until they have a respectable library? Rabbi Weiner stated he is questioning if Skokie takes on the burden of servicing Lincolnwood during the demonstration what does it mean in terms of cost, personnel and wear and tear. Is it worth that price because Skokie will be on the ground floor and have some voice in the development? That may be some intangible consideration but this Library should know what they are going to do and have some input even though Skokie will be the object of their usage. Mr. McClarren told the Board if Lincolnwood develops a library on their own they can open it at 2¢ or 3¢ and then the decision has to be made of what Skokie is going to do about it. At this point there is no set of standards they would be compelled to meet.

Another opinion expressed was if Skokie feels compelled to withdraw from the System, this penalizes Skokie citizens. It would be better to assume some control and receive some reimbursement instead of being pirated. If Lincolnwood puts up good faith and money it might give Skokie a chance in the future but if nothing is done about it Skokie might be in a far worse position.

It appears the amount of money Lincolnwood is talking about having available is \$70,000 for at least two years, although it is not known if this is only planning or money in hand. Rabbi Weiner stated Skokie would be reluctant to go into a demonstration project based on the assumption Lincolnwood has the money because if it does not succeed Skokie would be paying the price. He felt the Board had arrived at the point where it would only consider the project if Lincolnwood were ready to come into this project with its support of somewhere around \$70,000. In recap the project would be paid for by \$5.00 from the State, \$.70 from the System and the balance from Lincolnwood. If Skokie could count on the \$5.00 plus \$.70, collected independent of Lincolnwood, and, if the Village of Lincolnwood comes through with \$5.00 per capita then the project would be appealing with \$12.00 per capita. That comes much closer to Skokie's \$15.00 per capita. Would the Board then consider assuming the guidance of this project at that rate, especially in view of the fact that it would make it possible for Skokie to get some reimbursement for the use of this Library by Lincolnwood people? Is this Board willing to go into the project under those financial conditions and because it allows Skokie to be a part of the activities involved in the initiation of the project? All of this contingent upon the ability of Lincolnwood to come up with the money. The Board was asked for an opinion and the consensus was yes,

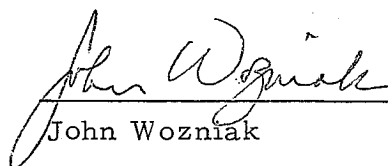
Mr. Lindberg recalled that some time past three ladies attended a Skokie Public Library Board meeting about Lincolnwood library service and Skokie was talking about \$160,000 for this service. Now it is proposed to use \$5.00 of his tax money to fund these people.

If the project fails the System cuts off the service immediately and holds the assets. Although it appeared that until the Village of Lincolnwood takes some action on a sum of money they will allocate, arrangements are at an impasse, Mr. McClarren felt another step has been Achieved by approaching this situation positively by defining some ways to meet it, and this Board's willingness to discuss it rather than refusing to get involved. He viewed this as a very important meeting from the System's standpoint to recognize Skokie's position. As soon as there is any positive response in the nature

of money from the Village of Lincolnwood, Mr. McClarren will return to engage in further conversation of what can be done. Rabbi Weiner suggested including the professional librarians at that time.

Discussion was held concerning having an earlier meeting than the March 31st date set at the last regular meeting February 11. This will be discussed later.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.



John Wozniak

- Secretary