

June 12, 1974

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Skokie Public Library held June 12, 1974, at 7:30 p. m. , in the Library.

Members present: Richard Lindberg, Shirley Merritt, Richard Telingator, John Wozniak and Rabbi Karl Weiner, Miss Mary Radmacher, Chief Librarian.

Also present: Robert J. Di Leonardi, the Board's counsel.

President of the Board, Rabbi Weiner, presided.

Minutes of the regular meeting held May 8, 1974 were approved and accepted on motion by Dr. Wozniak, seconded by Dr. Telingator. Motion carried.

Minutes of the annual meeting held May 8, 1974 were approved and accepted on motion by Dr. Wozniak, seconded by Dr. Telingator. Motion carried.

Motion by Dr. Wozniak, seconded by Mrs. Merritt which, on roll call vote, carried unanimously.

Motion: That the financial statements for the General Operating Budget, Reserve Fund for the Purchase of Sites and Buildings, Library Construction Fund and the NSLS Coordinated Acquisitions Program on Literature be accepted and that the lists of bills for the General Operating Fund in the amounts of \$17, 990. 30 and \$2, 842. 80; and the Library Construction Fund in the amount of \$1, 140. 90 be approved for payment.

Circulation Report for the month of May, 1974 and Statistics on Reciprocal Borrowing were examined and ordered to be placed on file.

Mr. Lindberg inquired if any reply had been received to the Library's request for memorabilia of the early days of Skokie for the Library's special file. Nothing has been received and Mr. Lindberg offered to delve into this after his retirement in the fall of this year.

Library Use Statistics were distributed to the members.

Personnel transfers were reported and discussed by Miss Radmacher.

On the North Suburban Library System, no report of the Board meeting was given due to Mrs. Hunter's absence. Miss Radmacher called the Board's attention

to a report from Mr. McClarren on a possible reduction of the equalized assessed valuation in Cook County. Mr. Di Leonardi explained the proposed change and his surmise that the legislators are looking to reduce the burden of the tax on real estate, especially since the elimination of the personal property tax. He explained it will not save the taxpayers any money and in his opinion it should be defeated. Since this is before the Legislature now, Mr. Di Leonardi suggested writing to the local legislators, the Governor, State and Local Representatives of the District and other agencies such as Department of Local Government Affairs to oppose the bill. He assumed the State Library is doing something about it. Dr. Telingator suggested Library Trustees might like to write such letters.

Miss Radmacher called the Board's attention to the March, 1973 copy of budget recommendations made for the 1974-75 fiscal year. A letter to Miss Radmacher from Mr. Matzer, Village Manager, on behalf of the Village Trustees asking for an explanation of specific line items of the 1974-75 Fiscal Year Budget was discussed. President Weiner recommended Miss Radmacher respond in as informal a way as possible by telephoning Mr. Matzer. The Board concurred.

A special meeting will be held Wednesday, June 26, at 5:30 p. m. at the Library for interviewing persons interested in serving on the Library Board, to replace Mr. Howard Hummer. Discussion was also held concerning a change in the date for the July Board meeting due to the ALA Conference being held July 8 - 13. A date of July 31 was set for the July Board meeting.

Miss Radmacher reported on the Book Sale. It was set up as a festival with balloons, a popcorn machine (furnished by the First National Bank of Skokie and the Federal Savings and Loan of Skokie) and a music combo which played for about three hours. The total amount collected from the sale of books and periodicals was \$1,388.70.

Rabbi Weiner brought up the question of the Finance Director of the Village being automatically appointed Treasurer of the Library. Mr. Di Leonardi referred

to a ruling which stated that for a municipality of 50,000 or less it would be a legal obligation but for municipalities over 50,000 it is not a legal requirement. His opinion is that, as a practical matter, such appointment be made. After discussion, Dr. Telingator proposed the following Resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Skokie Public Library Board continue to use the Village Finance Director as the Skokie Public Library Treasurer, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a letter be sent to Mayor Albert Smith informing him of the Resolution and transmitting the message of the Library's awareness of the close relationship and its desire for a continuation of the cordial relations enjoyed.

Dr. Wozniak seconded the Resolution and, on roll call vote, it carried unanimously.

Miss Radmacher presented a form received from the Old Orchard Bank concerning the signatures of officers to sign checks at the bank and those authorized to borrow money. The following Resolution was proposed by Dr. Wozniak.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the President of the Skokie Public Library Board and Treasurer (who is also the Village Finance Director) be authorized to sign checks for withdrawal of funds and the President and Secretary be authorized to borrow money for the Library's use.

Dr. Telingator seconded the Resolution and, on roll call vote, it carried unanimously. The form will be completed in accordance with the Resolution passed this day and sent to the Old Orchard Bank to be kept on file.

Mr. Di Leonardi reporting on the arbitration proceedings against E. W. Corrigan Construction Company stated, as he anticipated, Corrigan has gone to the glazing contractor. Corrigan has instituted his own arbitration proceedings so that if Corrigan must respond to the Library then National Hamilton must respond to Corrigan. There apparently is no arbitration contract between National Hamilton and Libby Owens Ford. National Hamilton is threatening to sue LOF. If it were possible to get LOF into this voluntarily along with the Library's dispute against Corrigan, perhaps by agreement it might be consolidated into one, thereby getting everyone that must be answerable around the same arbitration table. Mr. Hammond has delivered all the material needed. One of the provisions between National Hamilton

and Corrigan is the provision relating to breakage by National Hamilton that glass will be replaced at no cost to Corrigan or the owner.

Miss Radmacher reported that the ceiling in her office is no longer leaking.

Regarding the locks, originally the quotation for correcting this situation was in the neighborhood of \$400. Martin, a locksmith in Skokie, was also asked for an estimate. His estimate was in excess of \$1,000 completely out of line. Because of the hardware situation a firm price cannot be given, and the \$400 estimate could be higher when the billing is received.

The lease permitting the Village Planning Department to use the Skokie Public Library space was presented and was referred to Mr. Di Leonardi for review. The following motion was made by Mr. Lindberg, seconded by Dr. Wozniak which, on roll call vote, carried unanimously.

Motion: That the Skokie Public Library Board renew the lease permitting the Village Planning Department to use the space they are now occupying in the Skokie Public Library for one year.

A letter from the Skokie Park District asking the Library to participate in its annual parade by having the bookmobile as one of the entries was read. Miss Radmacher responded that the Library would participate as it has in the past and she suggested a car with Trustees in it might accompany the bookmobile in the parade. Consensus that as many Board members as possible will participate.

Copies of a letter received from the Village announcing the Open House to be held Sunday, September 29 were distributed. Miss Radmacher explained last year staff members served at a table with books, booklists and brochures for distribution and borrowers' application cards for new registrants. Suggestions were: an exhibit of arts and crafts or some kind of a three dimensional display, a microfilm reader could be set up and its use demonstrated, have a reference section with "questions you always wanted to ask and were afraid to do so", show a short film

perhaps once an hour, consider using a gadgetry approach.

Dr. Wozniak reported from Personnel and Policies Practices Committee. The committee held a meeting June 6th and devoted about an hour to each of the two candidates who appeared as consultants on personnel policies and practices. Those in attendance were Diana Hunter, Miss Radmacher, Dr. Wozniak and Rabbi Weiner. Board members received a copy of each candidate's resume. The committee felt Dr. Ronald Miller was extremely competent, experienced and seemed to deal with large bodies such as art museums, etc. There was a feeling he might be over-qualified and Dr. Miller indicated his lack of time during the summer. Rabbi Weiner said he was impressed by Mr. Barry Simon's maturity, knowledge of libraries and mature judgment. Dr. Wozniak said he would be ready to recommend to the Board at large that Mr. Simon is the choice. Motion by Dr. Telingator, seconded by Mr. Lindberg.

Motion: That the Skokie Public Library Board retain the services of Mr. Barry Simon to do a study of the Library, subject to agreement between Mr. Simon and the Board as to his compensation.

In discussion it was stated Mr. Simon will give an estimate on the basis of quoting "no more than." The proposals should be received by June 24 and, Miss Radmacher suggested that, perhaps at that time, the Board would care to discuss this more fully. Dr. Telingator moved to withdraw his motion and Mr. Lindberg withdrew his second. No action was taken.

Rabbi Weiner reported that Mr. Einstein, Chairman of the Fine Arts Commission, indicated by phone, that the Commission has planned a very elaborate program for next year and would like to use the Skokie Public Library. This cannot be done without a piano. The Commission meets June 12 and he inquired if the Skokie Public Library is willing to state it is ready to buy the piano. If so, he advised Rabbi Weiner the Fine Arts Commission would make a request from the Village to contribute one-third toward the cost of the piano. Mr. Krakow expressed his willingness to act as advisor on the piano and he and his wife will contribute their knowledge, but his piano tuner would have to be paid for his consultation time. Mr. Krakow's idea was

a five or six foot concert grand piano between \$800 to \$2,000 or \$3,000. He thinks it is unnecessary to go to Lyon & Healy or any large company and suggested searching ads in the newspapers. He and his wife will try to keep track of people who have a piano for sale. He thinks only a Steinway should be purchased and would prefer seeing a new one in the Library.

Miss Radmacher reported Lyon & Healy has examined our lecture room and think it should have a 7 ft. piano either rebuilt or new. A rebuilt piano would cost in the neighborhoods of \$7,000 and a new one \$8,800, subject to a 10 o/o discount. This discount is applicable only to the purchase of a new piano. No discount can be given on a rebuilt instrument. They do not recommend a rebuilt piano because it would lack the features contained in the modern one.

In discussion the Board's consensus was if the Library is going to be a cultural center it should go on record as being very interested and wishes to pursue this. Estate sales might be a source for obtaining a fine instrument at less than the original cost. Rabbi Weiner said the situation is to examine whether to promise that the Library is going to have a piano. Rental costs are quite high. Suggestion was made of using the money from the book sale toward the purchase of a piano and that the Library can expend the money and ask for donations to offset the expenditure. It was also questioned whether Mr. Einstein was aware of the fact that the Commission's commitment could be to the tune of \$2,500. Motion by Dr. Wozniak, seconded by Dr. Telingator.

Motion: That the Skokie Public Library purchase a suitable piano contingent upon the contribution of one-third of the cost by the Fine Arts Commission and the balance to be secured by the Library from its own funds or by contributions.

Voting was as follows: Mrs. Merritt, yes; Mr. Lindberg, yes; Dr. Telingator, yes; and Dr. Wozniak, yes. Motion carried.

Copies of eight press releases were distributed. Other items for the Board's information included Program for Feature Film Series, June 6 to August 29, Great Books Newsletter, June, 1974; June Calendar of Events; and Selected List of Recent Acquisitions, May, 1974.

Advance expense checks for members planning to attend the ALA Conference in New York City, July 7 - 13 were distributed with an explanation of the necessity of keeping records.

Meeting adjourned at 10:20 p. m. on motion by Dr. Wozniak.


John M. Wozniak - Secretary