

July 10, 1968

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Skokie Public Library held July 10, 1968 in the Conference Room of the Library at 7:30 p.m.

Members present: L. O. Green, Mrs. W. C. Griffin, Howard V. Hummer, Donald Kraft, Mrs. Daniel Petty and Rabbi Karl Weiner.

The president, Rabbi Karl Weiner, presided.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved on motion by Mrs. Griffin seconded by Mr. Kraft. All ayes.

Financial statements for the General Operating Budget for May, 1968 and June, 1968 and for the Reserve Fund for the Purchase of Sites and Buildings for the month of June, 1968 were approved and accepted on motion by Mr. Green seconded by Mrs. Griffin. All ayes.

A reconciliation and statement of the investment in property at June 30, 1968 was accepted and ordered to be placed on file.

Motion by Mr. Hummer, seconded by Mr. Kraft:

Motion: That the list of bills in the amount of nine thousand seven hundred thirty-nine dollars and four cents (\$9,739.04) be paid.

All ayes.

Circulation Report for the month of June, 1968 was accepted and ordered to be placed on file.

Copies of letters of appreciation addressed to the Board from Miss Sandra J. Stroner and Miss Marjorie Johnson, both staff members, were distributed and the original letters attached to these minutes.

Discussion was held of the result of the experiment of having the Library open on Sunday. A recap of the attendance was listed on the agenda and the Librarian, in her absence, presented a written statement commenting on the use by stating, "Evidence of the public library's use for school work represents approximately 90 percent of its use. Further evidence is reflected in the drop-off of service the last two weeks of the experimental period when school assignments were decreasing just prior to

examinations and commencement of the school year." Mr. Kraft suggested for consideration closing the Library Friday night and substituting those hours for Sunday afternoon hours. After further discussion, Rabbi Weiner recommended that this be put on the agenda for making a decision at a later date when Miss Radmacher is present, and suggested getting an opinion of the value of Sunday hours from libraries having Sunday hours or planning to do so. The question was tabled until August at which time some figures and data should be presented to enable the Board to make an intelligent decision.

Mrs. Selma Petty reported on the ALA Conference held in Kansas City June 24 - 29, 1968. The Conference next summer will be held in Atlantic City, N. J.

Rabbi Weiner in discussing the fact that the Oakton Street site has been cleared told the Board they must decide on the next steps to be taken. He also requested that a statement of the cooperation given to the Library by the Mayor who has spared no effort and has used all of his political acumen to work things out, be included in the Library records. He read a letter received from the Mayor and mentioned that although the Library will have three feet less than originally asked for, there will be no argument about this. The Library should start negotiating to pay the Village the balance owing on the land. Also, planning should be started between the architect and the various departments of the Village where we have a joint interest. Plans are necessary before going into a referendum. The question was asked about what should be done concerning the property to the west on which negotiations have begun. The answer was that out of despair the Board had given consideration to the purchase of the property and had felt there was and is justification for this purchase, although to do so means selling the property in the north to School District 68. The Library is not in a financial bind and can pay the Village for its land but a referendum will be needed for the building.

A discussion was held about purchase of the land to the west, including the question of the number of cars which could be parked in that space; the concept of

the Library as a cultural center and the Mayor's idea of having a fine arts center here; whether the Library could legally negotiate with other groups for the use of its facilities; and whether the building should be used for Technical Services Department. Opinions expressed were: (1) If the Library does not purchase that land there is no place to go in the future; (2) the land should be purchased as a future safety; and (3) purchase of the land by the Library will keep high buildings from towering over it. Rabbi Weiner stated that any arrangements with the art groups can be worked out as plans unfold.

Mr. Louis Pfaff of Armond D. King, Inc. joined the meeting. Mr. Pfaff, who has been negotiating for the Library on the purchase of the property to the west, stated that the owner, Mr. Rath, originally asked \$100,000 for his property. The Library had mentioned \$74,000. Mr. Rath now is willing to compromise and will take \$85,000 and he will pay the realtor's fee. This is \$11,000 more than the Board offered. Mr. Pfaff suggested, for the Board's consideration, to try to get him to give an additional compromise and split the difference. In other words, offer \$80,000. The last verbal offer from him was \$85,000 and he would pay the brokerage fee which, at \$85,000, amounts to \$4,500. This is equivalent to an \$80,000 net sale to the owner. Mr. Pfaff advised Mr. Rath he was having a meeting with the Library Board and that consideration might be given to \$80,000 providing Mr. Rath pays the realtor's fee. Mr. Green recommended negotiating at this price of \$80,000 with the seller paying the realtor's commission and all members present were in agreement. Mr. Pfaff was instructed to continue negotiating on these terms.

Mr. Pfaff retired from the meeting.

Discussion was held of a fair price to ask School District 68 for the property at Kenton Avenue and Gross Point Road. Figures in the \$90,000's were discussed. Rabbi Weiner appointed a sub-committee consisting of Howard V. Hummer, Donald Kraft and L. O. Green, to do the negotiating. Mr. Hummer suggested that as Vice-President, Mr. Kraft be chairman of this committee. Rabbi Weiner asked the com-

mittee to consult with Mr. Louis Kahn, Village Finance Director, to ascertain what he would consider a fair earning on the money if it had been invested.

Rabbi Weiner stated that at this point the Library could use more professional legal counsel. Legal advice may be needed when the Board is in session. Can or will our attorney handle this and, if not, another attorney may have to be retained on another basis. An attorney is needed on the Board. Rabbi Weiner will talk with Mr. Scott McDowell to see if he wants to sit in at the meetings.

Mr. Kraft suggested getting started on some plans for a referendum. He felt the meeting should not be adjourned until some things were settled, including when the Library Board is going to pick up the property to the east. Rabbi Weiner stated that this would depend upon negotiations with School District 68 and he will await word from the Sub-committee.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:50 on motion by Mrs. Petty seconded by Mrs. Griffin.


Selma Petty *of* Secretary