

July 18, 1967

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Skokie Public Library, held July 19, 1967 (up-dated from July 12th because of the ALA Conference) in the Conference Room of the Library at 7:30 p. m.

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

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

Rabbi Karl Weiner, President of the Board, presided.

Minutes of the previous meeting held June 14, 1967, were approved as read on motion by Mrs. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Donald Kraft. All ayes.

Financial statements for the General Operating Budget and Reserve Fund for the Purchase of Sites and Buildings were accepted and approved on motion by Mrs. Petty seconded by Mrs. Griffin. All ayes.

Motion by Mrs. Griffin seconded by Mr. Kraft.

Motion: That the lists of bills in the amounts of two thousand two hundred ninety-three dollars and forty-three cents (\$2,293.43) and seven thousand five hundred seventy-six dollars and sixty-five cents (\$7,576.65) be approved for payment.

All ayes.

Circulation Report for the month of June, 1967 was accepted and ordered to be placed on file.

The Report on the Investment in Property to date produced discussion on expenses which could or should be charged to School District No. 68 when the property is sold to them. The report was accepted and ordered to be filed.

The Librarian announced the receipt of a gift of the New Catholic Encyclopedia from his Eminence John Cardinal Cody and of a check for

\$25.00 from the B'Nai Brith Women, Old Orchard Chapter.

A copy of the printed annual report was distributed to each member. The Librarian informed the Board that a copy of the report had been mailed to each residence in Skokie. There were 19,718 pieces mailed. The Board requested that an acknowledgment and thank-you be sent to Mr. Harold Levie for his contribution in assisting with the preparation and layout of the annual report, also that a copy be sent to each member of the Citizens Advisory Committee and the League of Women Voters by first class mail.

Copies of Mr. Hummer's statement of recommended procedure for public relations were distributed to the members. Discussion was postponed until the next meeting when Mr. Hummer will be present. In line with the public relations topic Miss Radmacher reported that Mr. Kraft had suggested a former employee of SRA might be considered for working with the Library in this capacity. Rabbi Weiner suggested that since Mr. Hummer was willing to take public relations as his specialty he should be consulted on such things as the need to employ someone in this capacity. Mr. Hummer might prefer to handle public relations himself, if his time permits, at least until time for the referendum.

The Librarian, reporting on the progress of having someone make a survey, stated that prior to going to San Francisco, she had talked with Dr. Herbert Goldhor who said he does not have time to make the survey, but suggested contacting Mr. Guy Garrison, Director of the Library Research Center at the University of Illinois. An appointment has been made to talk with Mr. Garrison so there will be a report for the August Board meeting.

Rabbi Weiner requested permission to step out of the regular order of the agenda to discuss the building program. He reported he had called Mr. McDowell to ask him to explore the open space grant from the Federal Government and also the Library's possibility of purchasing all of the land that was originally acquired by the Village. Mr. McDowell informed him

the Village had finally located the Washington office in Chicago that handles the open space grants and their representative plans to talk with the Village very soon. Miss Radmacher reported Mr. McDowell's suggestion that the Library Board President write the President of the Village Board with regards to the Library acquiring all the property between the Library and the Village Hall parking lot.

Rabbi Weiner stated that for the next referendum there should be more grass root support such as groups like Friends of the Library, League of Women Voters, P. T. A. 's and Civic Clubs. The immediate program should include: (1) instruct the architect to work on the assumption we will get the land and to consider the possibility of a second floor above the ground; (2) a letter to be sent from Rabbi Weiner to the Village President requesting clarification of the real estate situation and adding our proposal to purchase all of the land with the assurance that we want to use this land not for building but for green purposes; (3) to have a prepared speech on the Library and the Librarian and Board members arrange to be available as program resources for organizations in the community.

Miss Radmacher stated that since final payment has been made on the Gross Point and Kenton Avenue property, Mr. Scott McDowell has had the deed recorded, titled to the Library Board of Trustees. The papers should be received within the week.

Reports were heard from delegates to the ALA Conference. Rabbi Weiner stated that he was impressed with the vitality of the Library today. It is in the very forefront of the educational explosion. The libraries are no longer repositories for books but real and vital with information that today has become a matter of necessity to most people. Looking at the people who spoke and those he met in the corridors he was impressed by their being up-to-date and aware not only of the latest things but the very important function they have in serving people who no longer can be without

information. He said, "If we want to keep up with our children, the events in the world, and with our own work, where else are we going to find the information but in the electrified library with the coaxial cables. The library has become something very vital and we must share with our community this awareness that the library is as important to them as public health, gas, and electricity. Nobody can live any more without the library."

Mrs. Petty stated she has been asked to serve on the ILA Steering Committee for National Library Week. Rabbi Weiner stated the Board is very proud and gratified to have one of its members chosen. Mrs. Petty will accept.


Miss Radmacher stated she wanted to make particular mention of the art exhibit in the Lecture Room of Serigraphs by Sister Mary Corita, an art teacher in Los Angeles who has had national recognition. The exhibit came to the Skokie Public Library from the Fairweather Hardin Gallery in cooperation with a patron of the Library.

Two booklists were distributed to the members, "The World of the Adolescent" and "Selected List of Recent Acquisitions", June 1 - June 30, 1967"

The Librarian suggested the Board review the points of the recommendations of the League of Women Voters and the following points were discussed. Point 1 - The Board is in agreement on their whole-hearted approval of expansion of the main library. Point 2 - Sunday Library services. After examining the economics of doing this, the cost is prohibitive without additional money. Point 3 - Branches in rented quarters. This item has many ramifications - one being the school libraries. Reference was made to the statement on a school-housed public library which Miss Radmacher prepared several months ago. The Librarian stated that as far as working with an individual school, she offered to loan Mr. McCracken books which he said he did not need at that time. It would be impossible for Skokie Public

Library to staff school libraries since we do not have sufficient staff. This point should be stressed to wipe out the whole idea. If the schools want to keep open they should do so. Point 4 - Election of trustees. That is a legal matter but in line with this, the last Legislative Session passed a provision for seven trustees instead of six. The Library Board can do nothing but follow what is written in the law. Point 5 - Liaison between the public library and schools. Quoting from the report "we think school libraries should be more available for use before school and after school" - it is not up to the public library to demand this - maybe the League could take this matter up with the schools. Point 6 - Establishing a rapport with the schools. The Skokie Public Library has a history of doing this, has done as much as it can and will continue to do so. A letter of reply will be sent to the President of the League of Women Voters on the basis of these points.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 p. m. on motion by Mrs. Griffin seconded by Mrs. Petty.


Selma Petty, Secretary