

March 4, 1964

Report on the special meeting of the Board of Directors of the Skokie Public Library held March 4, 1964 at 7:30 p. m. in the Conference Room of the Skokie Public Library.

Members present: C. V. Erickson, L. O. Green, Mrs. Daniel Petty, and Miss Mary Radmacher, Librarian. Also present: Charles Levy, President of the Twin Oaks Home Owners Association, de Lafayette Reid, Assistant State Librarian, and Mrs. M. Sarver for the purpose of recording the minutes.

Mr. L. O. Green, President of the Board, presided.

It was explained that the purpose of the meeting was to see what can be worked out between Skokie Public Library and the Twin Oaks Home Owners Association, Inc. for library service to that area, involving State or Federal aid. Mr. de Lafayette Reid, Assistant State Librarian, attended the meeting to contribute ideas or help make plans whereby this service could be given by Skokie Public Library through Federal Service Funds.

Mr. Reid stated that in a way he was at a loss to give anything concrete because his office had received word rather recently that the new library services act, which is an expansion of the old library services act, has been signed but there is no appropriation at this time, nor any regulation for it. The assumption is that it will be similar to present regulations because the new bill is similar to the present bill, and also that the appropriation is apt to be at least as much since it authorizes more, but there is a possibility of its being considerably more than the present funds. The present share of the Federal appropriation amounts to about \$230,000 per year. This has been ample for the various projects the State has had, but if there is a complete appropriation of everything that is authorized for the expanded Library Services and Construction Act, Illinois' share would be in the neighborhood of a million dollars for Title I and almost a million dollars for Title II. Chances are that

the first year there will not be this much. It is a three year program, as it now stands, and as the states implement their programs, they may get the total appropriation. Organized under the Library Services Act, a plan had to be presented to the library services branch of the office for approval and once this was approved the Federal funds were received.

A question was asked whether the State ever had a project similar to Twin Oaks. Mr. Reid answered they had - Elgin took in two unincorporated areas. The areas do not have to be contiguous.

The following questions were asked and the answers given:

Question: Is there a requirement that there would have to be some action by the area being serviced to provide their own library service eventually?

Answer: Yes, we have had this regulation every time - not that they provide their own service, but make some means for continuation of their being served or provide a library of their own.

Question: In that circumstance, the requirement would be that there would have to be some indication of a plan to continue this service after the Federal supported project ends. What kind of guarantee does there have to be of this?

What is satisfactory evidence? Answer: In this instance it would have to be that the organization would be the one that contracts and they would have to give some evidence of good faith that they would attempt either to raise tax monies or in some other way raise the money to continue the service. One of the reasons for using the Federal funds is that you do not know what the cost will be. About the most we can hope to get in this circumstance would be some kind of formal notification from Mr. Levy's group that once the cost pattern was established they would poll their members on the establishment of some way to continue.

Mr. Reid explained that there is a little different situation existing right now. The Illinois Library Association has worked out a plan for library

development in Illinois which includes the establishment of systems throughout the state to provide library service to unincorporated areas as well as unserved areas. In the Illinois Plan, Chicago would be a system. The basis of the systems proposed in this plan is that there would be some sort of state support for the systems, not for the individual libraries within the system, but for the system itself. There would be a small equalization grant for those areas not served by a system, but this would be based on their willingness to tax themselves, too.

Question: What portion of Twin Oaks' service would be carried through Federal or State funds? Answer: It would depend upon the size of the project - it is possible it might be done completely with these funds.

Mr. Reid questioned Mr. Levy: How many family units are involved? Answer: In the association or the immediate area which they represent, 300 families. It will be expanded within the next year to approximately 500 families in just the Twin Oaks area. If the reference is to the entire area, there would be approximately as many as 2,000 or 2,500 families. There are a combination of single and multiple dwellings.

After referring to page 14 "Contractual Service" in the Illinois Library Code, the recommendation was made to Mr. Levy to form a Library Association with elected or appointed officers.

Mr. Reid stated his certainty that some sort of a budget would have to be submitted to Washington. The normal procedure at the state office is to start working on their budget the first of May. What they have done in the past is to work with a group to set up a budget and work these figures into a total budget. His office plans to have a meeting in Chicago on the 21st of March to discuss regulations. If it is possible to supply some figures by that date they could be included.

Mr. Levy inquired whether it would be more advisable to speak for a larger or a smaller group? Mr. Reid replied that his thinking was about service to the larger group. There would have to be some nucleus such as Home Owners Association responsible for organizing a library group as well as Skokie Public Library to supply the service. At this point work should start toward developing a budget and to determine what can be done for the amount budgeted.

Question by Mr. Levy: With Bookmobile service how large a family group can be serviced if the plans are to go beyond the Home Owners group? What size of group should be considered? Answer by Mr. Reid: If another Bookmobile were obtained it would be possible to service a larger area. Then 2,000 to 2,500 families could be included. That is the reason for trying to think in terms of how rapidly the area will develop. Certain things can be done by the State. For example, the State might be able to lend a Bookmobile from their stock and stock it with books. This could act as an experiment from which actual experience can be had.

Question to Mr. Reid: When you are talking in terms of budget they can afford to pay, are you thinking in terms of the end of the demonstration? Answer: Yes.

Mr. Reid explained that his office had found from experience that a year is not long enough - it usually takes two years before the service can be carried on independently. In this instance he would think in terms of maintaining the contract for an additional one or two years because it is possible in the extension of the arrangement a System would develop that could take over the service.

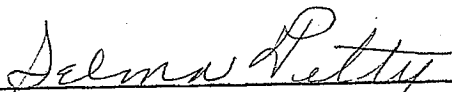
The first thing necessary is to prepare a budget plus an outline of the service that the budget would cover, to be submitted by May 1. This should be discussed with Mr. Levy to determine the kind of arrangement his people would be most interested in using.

Mr. Reid was asked if anything could be done for these people in the meantime. Discussion followed about some immediate service but it was agreed that anything makeshift might be detrimental in that it would "sour" people on the whole idea. Mr. Levy stated on the basis of the discussion at this meeting if they could think of library service by next fall they would be willing to wait until that time.

Mr. Levy offered to assume the responsibility for taking surveys to record the number of families; number of children in each age group; and accumulating all necessary information and statistics.

Mr. Reid stated that these figures should be sent to him in three weeks, if possible. He mentioned that the State has consultants who will be of assistance.

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p. m.

  
Selma Petty, Secretary