

February 18, 1970

Minutes of the special meeting of the Skokie Public Library Board of Trustees held February 18, 1970 at 5:30 p.m. in the Lecture Room.

Members present: Mrs. Diane Hunter, Richard Lindberg, Mrs. Selma Petty, and Rabbi Karl Weiner, Miss Mary Radmacher, Chief Librarian.

Also present: Miss Charlene Lewis, reporter for THE LIFE, Mrs. Anita Book and Mrs. Verna Beaver of the League of Women Voters.

Rabbi Weiner presided and explained the reason for the special meeting was to face the task of whittling services to meet the present income. He called on the Chief Librarian to give her recommendations.

Miss Radmacher referred to the materials and recommendations she distributed. Such recommendations include: 1) closing entire Library Friday evenings 5:30 - 9:00 in addition to closing Young People's and Children's Room Thursday evening 5:30 - 9:00 during the school year;; 2) eliminate bookmobile service; and 3) close in summer on Saturday, June 6 to September 5, inclusive. Three professional positions are vacant and no replacements will be made for them in order to save that salary money. If these positions are not filled next year \$22,500 will be saved. By transferring \$40,000 from the Reserve Fund for the Purchase of Sites and Buildings and by saving approximately \$11,000 by eliminating bookmobile service, \$70,000 would be saved. The Librarian continued by saying it is perhaps a little more favorable to the community to curtail gradually rather than do something drastic. The Department Heads will try to do everything they can.

Mrs. Hunter stated she thought it was necessary to think in terms of two years and the amount transferred from the Reserve Fund would have to be divided in two. The Librarian replied that Mr. Kahn said there will probably be a 4 o/o to 4.8 o/o increase.

Rabbi Weiner summarized Miss Radmacher's proposals.

Miss Radmacher mentioned in all probability the furniture line of the budget could be decreased. Mrs. Hunter would not consider voting for the sale of the bookmobile until after the May referendum.

Rabbi Weiner stated the proposal under consideration is for closing Children's Department on Thursday night and the entire Library Friday night. Along with this it is proposed to eliminate the service of the bookmobile except perhaps consideration of summer service.

No agreement was reached on the sale of the bookmobile. Rabbi Weiner reminded the members that without the sale of the bookmobile the Library is short the \$10,000 anticipated from its sale.

Another point recommended was to cut out more service in the summer by closing all day Saturday, beginning the Saturday after Memorial Day and reopening the first Saturday after Labor Day.

The question was asked if the bookmobile service was supplied just in the summer could a driver be hired and would it present a problem in running it. Miss Radmacher answered that it very definitely would, but the moment we begin again to think about service in the summer, the \$11,000 anticipated saving will be cut down.

Rabbi Weiner asked for a motion on the closing of the Children's Department. Mrs. Petty made the following motion seconded by Mr. Lindberg and, on roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Motion: That by closing the Young People's and Children's Department Thursday at 5:30 p.m. and all of the Library Friday at 5:30 p.m., the four pre-school story hours can be continued for the balance of this budgetary year.

Motion by Mrs. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Lindberg which, on roll call vote, carried unanimously.

Motion: That the Library Board authorize transferring \$40,000 from the Reserve Fund for the Purchase of Sites and Buildings to the General Operating Budget for use in operating expenses.

Motion by Mrs. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Lindberg which, on roll call vote, carried unanimously.

Motion: That the Library continue with its pattern of being closed Thursday night in the Young People's and Children's Department and Friday night the entire Library will be closed at 5:30 p.m., and in the summer close on Saturdays from the Saturday after Memorial Day until the Saturday after Labor Day.

The Librarian recommended closing the entire Library a night other than Friday in the summer since we would be closed all day Saturday.

Motion by Mrs. Petty, seconded by Mr. Lindberg.

Motion: That starting May 1, 1970 and until the Library receives the proceeds from the winning of a winning referendum, it must abandon bookmobile service and other vital services such as pre-school story hour, etc.

On roll call voting was as follows: Mrs. Hunter, no; Mr. Lindberg, yes; and Mrs. Petty, yes. Motion carried.

Mrs. Hunter asked for discussion on hiring Jackie Gorell to guide the referendum in May. Rabbi Weiner asked if the Board would be willing to appoint somebody now to head the drive who is empowered to take the responsibility for it. Mrs. Hunter consented to do the job in Rabbi Weiner's absence with the specification that she has 100 o/o support of the Board.

Meeting adjourned by 8:45 p.m. by President Weiner.

Selma Petty, Secy  
Selma Petty      a      Secretary