

February 8, 1967

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Skokie Public Library held February 8, 1967 in the Conference Room of the Library.

Members present: Conroy V. Erickson, L. O. Green, Donald Kraft, Mrs. Daniel Petty and Rabbi Karl Weiner, Miss Mary Radmacher, Librarian.

Mr. L. O. Green presided.

Minutes of the previous meeting held January 11, 1967 were approved as read on motion by Mr. Erickson, seconded by Rabbi Weiner. All ayes.

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

The cash condition was discussed since no taxes will be collected from the Village until after June 1, 1967.

Motion by Mr. Erickson seconded by Rabbi Weiner.

Motion: That the list of bills payable in the amount of sixteen thousand three hundred forty-two dollars and four cents (\$16,342.04) be approved for payment.

All ayes.

Circulation Report for the month of January, 1967 was approved and ordered to be placed on file. Recommendation was made that a notation should be made on the Circulation report that the Library was closed from 4:30 January 26 through January 30 because of the record snowstorm.

After discussion of an editorial from THE LIFE and a letter from Mr. E. G. Kramer to Mayor Smith, Rabbi Weiner read a draft of a suggested letter to Mr. Kramer, Chairman of the Downtown Re-development Committee of the Downtown Merchants Association. Motion by Mr. Erickson seconded by Mrs. Petty.

Motion: That the Library Board of Directors adopt Rabbi Weiner's draft of the letter to Mr. E. G. Kramer as a statement from this Board to Mr. Kramer.

All ayes.

Mr. Scott McDowell, attorney for the Library, informed Miss Radmacher by telephone he had received a letter from Mr. Gordon Thorn stating the Village was ready to deed the property on Oakton Street over to the Library. The Library has already paid \$90,000 on the property. The President instructed the Librarian to advise the attorney that before the Library takes any property there must be clearance on all of the property land grants and the deed must specifically state that the property is free of any open space encumbrances. Observation was made that no interest is being paid on the Library's investment of \$90,000.

Miss Radmacher was instructed to work with Mr. James Hammond, Architect, to get comparative costs of building to the east or west. Recommendation was made that the Library get an appraisal, parcel by parcel, for the property to the west from the Library to the next street west.

Delivery of the book drop was reported. Discussion followed of the most convenient spot to place it. A definite spot was not agreed upon at this time.

Rabbi Weiner gave a short report on what had been done on the Committee for Library Branches. He stated the Librarian is compiling a report of the advantages and disadvantages of the various types of location suggested.

Mr. Green reported on the North Suburban Library System and stated that the System may have a new director by the first of the month. The basement of the Evanston Public Library is being used for a temporary headquarters.

The Secretary, Mrs. Petty, read the proposed revisions to the present by-laws. In addition to the changes read, it was further suggested that Article III, Sec. 1 read,

The officers of the Board shall be chosen at the regular annual meeting of the Board or at such time as a vacancy may occur and shall consist of a President, a Vice President and a Secretary, each of whom shall hold office for two years. In the case of a vacancy in one of the offices, the Board shall elect an officer to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term.

Article IV, Sec. 1, should be changed to read:

The President, or in his absence, the Vice President, shall preside at all meetings, appoint all committees, certify all bills approved by the Board, authorize calls for any special meetings, and generally perform the duties of a presiding officer. In the absence of both President and Vice President, the Secretary shall preside.

Motion by Mr. Erickson seconded by Mr. Kraft.

Motion: That the amendments and changes to the by-laws as presented by the Secretary be adopted.

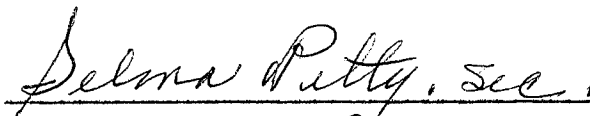
All ayes.

Copies of the Book Selection Policy as adopted by the Library Board were distributed to each member.

The Librarian requested discussion and recommendations by the Board on awarding holiday time to part-time salaried personnel. It was the consensus of the President and Board this is an administrative problem and the Librarian's decision would be the final word.

The Librarian reminded the Board of the American Library Association Conference to be held in San Francisco June 25 - July 1 and requested that she be notified of those planning to attend so reservations might be made for accommodations.

Meeting adjourned at 9:55 p. m. on motion by Rabbi Weiner.


Selma Petty *SP* Secretary

Downtown Skokie Merchants' Assn., Inc.

8322 LINCOLN AVENUE ■ ORCHARD 3-0240

January 25, 1967

Mayor Albert J Smith and
Village Board of Trustees
Village Hall
5127 Oakton Street
Skokie, Illinois 60076

Gentlemen:

Your attention is called to the January 9, press conference held by the Skokie Library Board of Trustees as reported in The Life, Thursday, January 12, 1967. The following statements in the newspaper article, were of particular interest to the Downtown Re-Development Committee of The Downtown Skokie Merchants Association and were discussed in their meeting of January 19, 1967.

"The main library will be extended to the east, although the board members have no idea at this time as to how far east it will go, nor how large the building will be.

Although the citizen's committee recommended expansion to the west, the board received assurances from Mayor Albert Smith that Laramie Avenue will not be extended through the property between the library and the village hall."

It would seem obvious that any plans for use of the land between the village hall and present library would violate the open space dedication required to obtain the federal grant used to purchase the properties. It is just as obvious that the library will be able to maintain a landscaped set-back with their present property east of the building as open space. We would have to believe that this was the original intent in acquiring the open space grant.

Furthermore, if the open space dedication should be set aside for some future improvement, such improvement should in no way jeopardize the future extension of Lincoln Avenue to Oakton Street opposite Laramie Avenue. This extension has been proposed and re-affirmed by the village traffic and planning departments for over four years. The traffic problems on Lincoln and Oakton currently being discussed by the trustees suggests priority to consideration of this matter. It would seem entirely feasible to us that any plans for use of the land in question, can and should accomodate both the extension of Lincoln Avenue and additional space for the central library facility.

SHOP
IN
SKOKIE

"THE WORLD'S
LARGEST VILLAGE"

The above statements are not intended to challenge the libraries right to expand nor to limit their expansion. Just as other property owners, whether residential, commercial or industrial are enjoined to act responsibly toward the total communities interest and development, so should those governmental bodies requiring facilities of the community. Any project enhancing the modernization, beauty and re-development of this downtown area can count upon our active support as long as it is integrated with the goals and proposed land use plan currently being finalized by the Community Development Department. We recommend the following as being helpful to this objective.

1. The library trustees and any firms engaged by them to prepare a plan for library expansion should study the re-development plan and work with the Community Development Department.
2. The report of the Citizens Library Committee to be made available for study by the Village Trustees and village departments involved in planning and traffic.

It would be hoped that through each parties understanding of the objectives and plans of the other, an integration of plans would be possible before approaching the citizens of the village for their participation.

Sincerely,



E. G. Kramer, Chairman
Downtown Re-Development Committee of the
Downtown Merchants Association

Committee Members:

Irwin Helfand
Norman Schack
Albert Lies
Maxwell Skenazy
Charles Keim
Larry Brod

EKG:bk

CC:

Chairman, Library Board of Trustees
All trustees Village of Skokie
Manager, Community Development Dept.
Transportation Consultant
Chairman, Skokie Goals Commission
Re-Development Committee Members

Mr. E. G. Kramer, Chairman
Downtown Re-development Committee of the
Downtown Merchants Association
8322 Lincoln Avenue
Skokie, Illinois 60076

Dear Mr. Kramer:

The copy of your letter to Mayor Albert J. Smith and Village Board of Trustees of January 25 was received. We note that much of its content appeared to be addressed to the Library Trustees via the Mayor.

It would have been much appreciated if the Trustees of the Skokie Public Library had rated a letter addressed to them directly. If we are truly looking for the cause of our present lack of cooperation we might find the explanation right here.

The Downtown Skokie Merchants Association and the Village Traffic and Planning Department evidently have been in communication, perhaps even in consultation. We learn, in fact, from your letter of January 25, 1967 that "an extension (of Lincoln Avenue to Oakton Street opposite Laramie Avenue) has been proposed and reaffirmed by the Village Traffic and Planning Department for over four years." The Board of Trustees of the Library was never approached on these plans. After we learned from our own Citizens Committee that there appeared to be very definite plans we established the conversations with our peers, namely, the Village Trustees. These conversations led us to believe that the extension plans were not as definitive and in any way developed in specifics nor as "reaffirmed" as your letter makes them appear.

It does not become quite clear from your letter, Mr. Kramer, whether your committee is in possession of the correct information about the Library's site arrangements. We would certainly be glad to make this information available to you and would have been at any time if approached.

The Skokie Public Library happens to be part of Downtown Skokie. We would like to think that our presence there makes a difference -- perhaps like the Village Hall -- we are a public building which the Downtown Merchants would prefer to have in their area. We are quite willing to be partners in all deliberations concerning the welfare of Downtown. It is not very useful to ignore us when plans are being discussed and then accuse us because we pay no heed to these plans which at best we learn about second-hand.

Because we have no other desire but to act responsibly toward the total community's interest and development, we wish to invite you to sit down with us and the Village in the spirit of cooperation at the very earliest possible time. We are looking forward to your favorable response.

Sincerely,