

April 13, 1977

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Skokie Public Library held April 13, 1977, at 7:30 p.m. in the Library.

Members present: Walter Flintrup, Diana Hunter, Richard Lindberg, Shirley Merritt, Karl Weiner and Norma Zatz, also Mary Radmacher, Chief Librarian.

Also present: Robert J. Di Leonardi, Counsel for the Library Board.

President Weiner called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. with a quorum present.

Congratulations were offered to Shirley Merritt and Norma Zatz for their election to a new term of office as Library Directors.

Minutes of the meeting held March 9, 1977 were examined and Mrs. Hunter asked for a correction on page 3, fourth line, the words "agreed and" be stricken; also on page 4, fourth paragraph, line three the word "not" be inserted as the second word in that line. Motion by Mr. Flintrup, seconded by Mrs. Hunter, which, on roll call vote, carried unanimously.

MOTION: That the minutes of the Skokie Public Library Board of Directors meeting, held March 9, 1977, be approved as corrected.

Motion by Mr. Flintrup, seconded by Mrs. Zatz, which, on roll call vote, carried unanimously.

MOTION: That the financial statements for the General Operating Fund, Reserve Fund for the Purchase of Sites and Buildings, Library Construction Fund be accepted, subject to audit, and the lists of bills for the General Operating Fund in the amounts of \$621.94 and \$27,308.33 and North Suburban Library System Coordinated Acquisitions Program in Literature, in the amount of \$692.41, be approved for payment.

The Construction Fund has a balance of \$12,552.61, including the final payment on the LSCA Grant. Some corrective work is being done on the building. Mr. Di Leonardi stated it would be appropriate and legal to use this balance to pay for this work being done and close out the Library Construction Fund. Motion

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

MOTION: That the Skokie Public Library pay bills for the corrective measures on the building from the balance remaining in the Construction account.

Mr. Di Leonardi recommended withholding total payment from Frank Stowell and Sons until the corrective work is completed. Rabbi Weiner explained the motion was authorization for Miss Radmacher to use the balance in the Construction Fund when it is appropriate to spend it.

Miss Radmacher expressed her concern about the sidewalks outside the building. This was previously discussed and the walks examined by Mr. Carl Hoglund who thought they were structurally all right. A hollow sound has developed again and could be indicative of a tendency to cave in.

The theme of the program for this year's National Library Week observance is the Treasures of Tutankhamun, appropriate since the display at the Field Museum will soon be opening. All fourth graders in Skokie are invited to attend one of six programs for which Mrs. Gerda Frank from the Field Museum will give an illustrated lecture.

Circulation Reports were examined and discussed. The Reports and Statistics on Reciprocal Borrowing were accepted and ordered placed on file.

Mrs. Hunter suggested some summer activity in the parks should be considered. The Board was informed this Library for many years has worked with the parks in the summer presenting programs at several parks. The opinion was expressed that the Park District should be asked to give the Library's programs some publicity in its news letter. Also, an item should appear in the Skokie Village Report stating that the Skokie Public Library, in cooperation with the Park District, offers certain activities for the summer.

Mrs. Hunter suggested to promote the sale of book bags there should be an item in the Village Report about the bags and Mr. Matzer should be asked to put something in the Village news letter. Miss Radmacher said the Village Reports gets a copy of all the Library news releases. The Skokie Public Library's Community Services Librarian has been delivering posters and plans to deliver book bags next week to Village Trustees, etc. Mrs. Hunter suggested all members of the Skokie Public Library Board going to Detroit for the ALA Conference have one of this Library's book bags to carry around. She plans to take twelve to Washington to distribute to Illinois legislators.

The Library received a gift of \$5.00 from the Afton family in honor of a 61st wedding anniversary of friends. This is such an excellent idea, it should be publicized by posting a list of donors on the bulletin board or printing this list on bookmarks for distribution.

Reporting on current building problems, Miss Radmacher noted the most recent pertains to the floor on the west side of the Board Room. Three or four blocks of the parquet floor have lifted in line with the place where the two buildings are joined. The area behind the supply grill, next to the glass, had been damaged previously by water and was repaired and refinished. Even though additional work was done the roof is still not right. During heavy rain water has come in between the new and old building causing damage in various places. Mr. Di Leonardi recommended a letter from this Library be sent to Mr. Norton with carbon copies to Mr. Di Leonardi and to Hammond, Beeby and Associates.

Mr. Flintrup reported the one thing of interest that occurred at the NSLS Board meeting was the System's disposal of an art collection it has located at the Niles Public Library. At a specified time representatives from

system libraries can meet there and select any prints or frames they would like to have. This will be on a first come, first served basis. Selections will be indicated by tagging the print or frame with the library's name.

Wednesday, April 20, a legislative workshop will be held with two identical sessions - one in the afternoon and another in the evening.

NSLS announced Library Legislation Day to be held Wednesday, May 4, 1977, in Springfield. Cost will be \$10.00 per member.

Mrs. Hunter mentioned the theme of two speakers she heard at a meeting held by the Cook County Council of Governments was the effects of hearing the voice of local governments on financial matters. Local officials were urged to organize to be heard and lobbying recommended. The second speaker talked of cooperation between agencies such as Park Districts and libraries. In Mrs. Hunter's opinion libraries are undercut because they do not have lobbyists. Mr. Flintrup said at one time there were discussions about having a legislative specialist at Springfield. He is in favor of this.

An announcement was received about the opening of the System's 41st member library, the Round Lake Area Public Library District.

A request was received from the NSLS asking for donations of books for the Lincolnwood Demonstration Library.

Jean J. Baron has been appointed the System's public relations counsel.

Legislative Notes No. 77-5 and 77-6 were received from the System and copies distributed.

The System prepared a list of 44 items on its Long Range Plan and asked librarians and trustees to list 20 of first importance. One reaction of the list is an item not included: for the system to provide publicity to help educate the public to realize its responsibility of assisting in maintaining the collection being developed for its use and being destroyed by irresponsible patrons. Mr. Flintrup, as our System representative, has submitted his list

and in his opinion the response now should be made by the staff.

Mr. Di Leonardi was asked to read the statement prepared by Mr. Juergensmeyer, Counsel for the North Suburban Library System, regarding return of overdue library materials and draft a suitable statement for the Skokie Public Library's use in collecting overdue.

Mr. Lindberg is of the belief civil or criminal procedures will not do the job. His thought is that every member borrower becomes a member of a class. An agreement is signed whereby if restitution is not made or the books returned, by this agreement, the individual has confessed judgment against him. When you get a number of these it is nothing more than a judgment against a number of members of a class. Mr. Lindberg's proposal is that the Library reissue all library cards so that the borrower knows he has signed an agreement. Mr. Lindberg is not very much in favor of small claims individually.

Mr. Di Leonardi thinks it is an uncertain thing to rely upon class theory but believes the application form could still contain the confession of judgment. It does do away with the need to give the delinquent party notice that you are about to go to court. Just go to the court with the document signed. After the borrower gets notice about the judgment, he has a right to vacate in favor of a good defense. Mr. Di Leonardi agreed Mr. Lindberg's suggestion is a good approach. If the patrons sign the application and the confession of judgment that could be a way of getting quicker action in the courts.

Reference was made to the Village of Skokie's parental responsibility ordinance. Consensus was Mr. Di Leonardi should meet with the Village attorney to draft the ordinance.

Motion by Mrs. Hunter:

MOTION: That the Skokie Public Library Board authorize its attorney, Robert Di Leonardi, to meet with the Corporation Counsel of the Village of Skokie or his designate to draw up an ordinance framed upon the ordinance to state failure to return library materials constitutes a misdemeanor or a statement conveying such a message.

Mrs. Zatz seconded the motion and voting was as follows: Walter Flintrup, yes; Diana Hunter, yes; Norma Zatz, yes; Karl Weiner, yes; Shirley Merritt, abstain. Motion carried.

Motion by Mrs. Zatz:

MOTION: That the Chief Librarian proceed with filing suits against people who have books out for more than \$100 value and overdue in excess of 60 days.

In discussion, Mr. Di Leonardi asked that designation be made of minors.

Mr. Flintrup seconded the motion and voting was as follows: Walter Flintrup, yes; Diana Hunter, yes; Norma Zatz, yes; Karl Weiner, yes; Shirley Merritt, abstain. Motion carried.

Mr. Lindberg mentioned the need for some kind of an alarm or detector system. The ease of taking books out of the book drop by anyone passing by was discussed. Miss Radmacher agreed the book drops are inadequate and deficient.

Motion by Mrs. Hunter:

MOTION: That the Skokie Public Library provide input into the drafting of a parental responsibility ordinance for Skokie along with the Park District and Village of Skokie.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Flintrup and voting was as follows: Walter Flintrup, yes; Karl Weiner, yes; Diana Hunter, yes; Norma Zatz, yes; Shirley Merritt, yes. Motion carried.

Discussing the Library's input in the parent responsibility ordinance, this Board wants to reconsider the whole area of material return. Mr. Flintrup thinks the total policy relative to the conditions of borrowing should be reviewed. Mrs. Hunter proposed before proceeding on the input, this Board's attorney should assist in drafting the application for privileges. At present, the library card is renewable every three years. Mr. Di Leonardi approved of the three year term and monitoring where the privilege is abused. Miss Radmacher asked if a non-transferrable statement could be included. If a member of a family

is delinquent, should the other members be permitted to use their cards and should the delinquent person be permitted to use his brother or sister's card? Mr. Di Leonardi said the position should be taken that their privileges are revoked and cannot retract that by using someone else's card. Revoke the card belonging to the person he borrows from.

The Library has had a series of bomb threats.. On the most recent one, the Police Department said they did not think the Library should be evacuated. Originally when the threats began, the police said the Library has the obligation to evacuate the building when there is a bomb threat. This time they suggested not evacuating. The Library has a written policy directing evacuation, and Miss Radmacher asked what the Board considers her obligation. Mr. Di Leonardi said the policy or rules must be followed for the protection of the patrons, and the Library Board has the responsibility for protection of the Library. Unless the police show very good reasons why not to evacuate, the building must be evacuated following the rules. Mr. Di Leonardi suggested revising the policy stating that when there is a bomb threat and the circumstances, in the judgment of the Librarian, or whoever is in charge in her absence, are such to indicate that there is a likelihood of a bomb, the procedure is to evacuate. If other circumstances lead the person in charge to believe there is no likelihood of the presence of a bomb, do not evacuate. Rabbi Weiner suggested the policy be changed which puts more responsibility on Miss Radmacher's judgment. The alternative is the Police Department can bear the decision-making responsibility. It was recommended this be discussed with both the Fire Department and Police Department calling attention to the advice given on one occasion that evacuation was not required. Motion by Mr. Flintrup, seconded by Mrs. Hunter which, on roll call vote, carried unanimously.

MOTION: In the case of a bomb threat to the Library, permission is given to the discretion of the person in charge to either evacuate or not, depending upon the circumstances of the moment.

Miss Radmacher will discuss this procedure with the Fire Department.

On revenue sharing, Rabbi Weiner talked with Mayor Smith who said the Village has done nothing to date on this, but will notify the Library when it comes up for discussion. Mr. Flintrup said at the System meeting, Mr. Hodes stated he was successful in getting \$10,000 in revenue sharing funds from Maine Township for the Niles Public Library.

Mrs. Hunter had nothing new to report for the Sculpture Committee. She will meet with Mr. Flintrup soon to plan strategy. She hopes to hear from Mr. Hunt by the next Board meeting.

The Mildred L. Batchelder Award was held in the Skokie Public Library. It is an ALA award made for a children's book written in a foreign language and translated to English. Until this year the award was presented in New York. Since it was honoring Mildred Batchelder, an Evanstonian, it was decided to have it here. It was a big affair and many out-of-towners were present. It was an honor to have the program held at the Skokie Public Library.

Mrs. Zatz asked if it would be possible in the future, to make the Board calendar from Board meeting to next Board meeting.

Miss Radmacher asked for names for reservations for members wishing to attend the LACONI Trustee-Librarian Dinner, April 29, 1977. Mrs. Zatz asked for two reservations and Mrs. Merritt one.

Mrs. Merritt will attend the One-day Workshop for Illinois Public Library Trustees, Friday, July 8, 1977 at Urbana, Illinois.

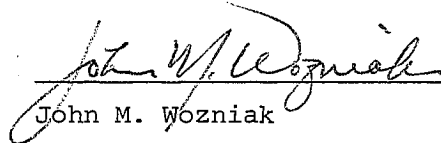
Rabbi Weiner referred to ILLINOIS LIBRARIES, copy for Trustees and said when he looked at it, the thought occurred to him of whether there is anything in it for the trustees to take action. He asked the Trustees to look it over



and report to him their decisions.

Next week, National Library Week, six programs will be held in the Skokie Public Library, three on Tuesday and three on Thursday. All fourth grade children in Skokie will be brought to the Library by their respective schools to hear a program on the Treasures of Tutankhamun.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:30 p.m. on motion by Mrs. Hunter.

  
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John M. Wozniak Secretary