

May 17, 1967

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Skokie Public Library held for the purpose of electing officers for the coming year.

Meeting convened at 7:25 p.m.

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

Mrs. Jerome Lamet, observer for the League of Women Voters.

Mr. Green was asked to preside for the election of officers.

Nominations for President were opened and Mr. Kraft nominated Rabbi Karl Weiner, Mr. L. O. Green seconded the nomination. Mrs. Griffin nominated L. O. Green who declined stating his doctor requested that he not serve for the sake of his health. Nominations were closed.

Nominations for Vice President were opened and Mrs. Petty nominated Donald Kraft, Rabbi Weiner seconded the nominations. The nominations were closed.

Nominations for Secretary were opened and Mrs. Griffin nominated Mrs. Petty, Mr. Kraft seconded the nomination. The nominations were closed.

Mr. Kraft made the following motion which was seconded by Mrs. Petty.

Motion: That the Secretary cast a unanimous ballot for Rabbi Karl Weiner for President; Donald Kraft for Vice President and Selma Petty for Secretary.

All ayes.

Mr. Green requested time to say good-bye and also that his remarks be put on the record even though they were personal.

Mrs. Petty moved and Rabbi Weiner seconded the motion that anything Mr. Green wishes to say be recorded in the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Green stated that what he wanted to say he would try to make brief. He stated that he has been very busy because of a merger of his company with

another. He said, " I have a personal and very profound feeling that if an elected officer has been elected by the Board -- is nominated and is elected he must serve (perhaps this is my personal integrity) until his office expires. Talking about integrity, I have been faced with the decision of whether I should resign from the Library Board. Mrs. Green thinks I should and so does my doctor, but I will not resign until next election. What is the meaning of a word? Some people do not interpret it the same way. I want to take it out of the realm of this Board because anything said can be misinterpreted by this Board, although it may appear that anything that may be said about any one of the Library Board was well intended. We deal in books and often books can be misunderstood. Fortunately this Library has a policy of not censoring any book regardless of anything. My secretary deals with a library in a suburban town which has a record of censorship. It is most sad to have any library become engaged in any public scandal. This Board has delegated the responsibility of book selection to the Librarian. The Library Board should not censor books and when we sign the booklist, I, as a Board member, approve the books. This Library Board in this town is liable to suit by any individual. We all know this. If I appear to be saying things we all know, I am constantly reminded of what is on the record. I have been reading in the magazine where Mr. Everett Dirkson is misquoted. I happen to personally think and, please do not anyone say anything, that my president is going to have to change his policy which permits any employee to serve on any public body so long as his actions do not involve directly or indirectly the reputation or financial income of the company. We are going to have to change it. How are we going to build bricks without straw? In other words, if we cannot get honest men who have business experience to serve because they carry their fear of what may appear to be unjustified criticism. I think any writer understands this and I think the Rabbi understands this. I would not take the job even though I want to. I would not have served because I would hate to resign, but I can still resign from this Board. This is my privilege and I

may have to if my doctor says so."

Mrs. Griffin asked the Chairman, Rabbi Weiner, whether there was to have been a report at this meeting of anything regarding the vacancy on the Board.

Rabbi Weiner asked the Board's indulgence to make a short statement. He said that the members of the Board who have served for many years have known each other a long time. He said, "When I was asked seven years ago to fill the vacancy on the Library Board I was honored because Skokie has a new library, had a very competent librarian, and because I had a deep respect for the Library Board and I felt if there was one public office I could accept in the community this was it because it was non-political, and it was proper for me to accept. Little did I realize that ultimately would be added the burden I would have to face at this point. I take this responsibility in the full awareness of the fact that to fill Mr. Green's shoes is going to be very difficult if not impossible. I do appreciate what I have learned by sitting in at meetings conducted by Mr. Green. Without that apprenticeship I would not dare have accepted the office. The next few years are going to be ones of intensified work with much to do. I am looking forward to contributing my share to building the new library, looking forward to continued association with the members and new vice president and cooperation with Miss Radmacher, looking forward to the time when, with a strengthened Board, we shall be able to make the turn and proceed with our plans. In accepting this office I do so with the feeling that I have not shirked my duty when it came. I am looking forward with a certain joy to the challenge and to the time when I can step down from the office and have another member take over."

Mr. Green commented that the Rabbi had said what he wanted to say but had said it better, also that he wanted Rabbi Weiner to understand why he would not accept the office.

Rabbi Weiner stated that since the last meeting he had discussed informally the possibilities of a replacement with the Manager of the Skokie Chamber of Commerce.

Commerce. Three names had been submitted. Mrs. Griffin who had been requested to check with the Skokie Valley Industrial Association reported that all of the men have very good backgrounds, and are men of integrity and good standing. Rabbi Weiner was asked to interview them.

The Librarian reporting on the North Suburban Library System, stated that representative from Skokie Public Library must be elected at this meeting. Rabbi Weiner asked Donald Kraft, Vice President of the Board, to represent this Library for the coming term. Mrs. Petty moved and Mr. Green seconded the motion that Mr. Donald Kraft be unanimously elected to represent the Skokie Public Library on the System Board. Voting was as follows: Mrs. Griffin, yes; Donald Kraft, yes; Mrs. Petty, yes; Rabbi Weiner, yes; Mr. Green, no.

The meeting adjourned on motion by Mrs. Griffin at 9:40 p.m.

Selma Petty

Secretary

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May 17, 1967

Board of Library Directors
of the Village of Skokie

Attention: Mr. L.O. Green, President

Dear Mr. Green and Members:-

You have requested that I review for you the status of election of members of the Board of Directors of the Library of the Village of Skokie.

Under Chapter 81 of Illinois Revised Statutes - 1965, State Bar Association Edition, under Article 2-2, provision is made for the election and establishment of a Public Library for the Village at a regular election of the Village. Six persons to be elected, two to serve for two years, two to serve for four years and two to serve for six years.

Under Article 4-3.1, provision is made for nominations for the position of Library Director by Petition signed by 50 legal voters residing within the Village and providing for the election on a separate ballot with the names listed in alphabetical order and without designation of any political party, platform or political principle. The cost of such election shall be borne by the Village.

Article 4-4, provides that if a vacancy occurs, the vacancy may be filled by the remaining directors until the next Library election at which election a Director shall be elected to fill the vacancy.

Since the Village of Skokie is governed by a President and a six-member Board of Trustees for a term of four years, the last election having occurred on the second Tuesday in April, 1965, the next regular Village election will not be held unless the Village chooses to do otherwise under a new House Bill No. 299 enacted into law on April 11, 1967, until the second Tuesday in April, 1969. That being the case, there is no provision for holding an election for Library Directors.

It would therefore appear that the vacancies occurring in the Library Board would need to be filled by appointment by the remaining Directors.

Very truly yours,

W. Scott McDowell

W. Scott McDowell

WSM:bk