

November 10, 1965

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Skokie Public Library held November 10, 1965 in the Conference Room of the Library at 7:30 p. m.

Members present: Conroy V. Erickson, Mrs. W. C. Griffin, L. O. Green, and Mrs. Daniel Petty, Miss Mary Radmacher, Librarian.

Also present: Observers for the League of Women Voters, Mrs. Milton Estes and Mrs. Seymour Chaplik.

Minutes of the previous meeting held October 13, 1965 were approved as read by Mr. Erickson, seconded by Mrs. Griffin. All ayes.

Mrs. Daniel Petty moved and Mr. Erickson seconded the motion that the financial statement for the General Operating Fund for the month of October, 1965 be accepted and placed on file. All ayes.

Mr. Erickson moved and Mrs. Griffin seconded the motion that the financial statement for the Reserve Fund for the Purchase of Sites and Buildings for the month of October, 1965 be accepted and placed on file. All ayes.

Motion by Mr. Erickson seconded by Mrs. Petty.

Motion: That the list of bills payable in the amount of eleven thousand fifty-seven dollars and forty-eight cents (\$11,057.48) be approved for payment.

All votes were affirmative.

The Board approved the Circulation Report for the month of October, 1965 and ordered that it be placed on file. Miss Radmacher called the Board's attention to the inclusion of the reference statistics with this report, as requested by the Board at the previous meeting. These figures will become a part of the monthly report. The Librarian pointed out that the total reference questions answered for only one month (as shown on this report) is almost equal to the total amount asked for one fiscal year - 1960/61.

The Board was advised of resignations from and appointments to the Library staff.

The Librarian recommended that the Board consider establishing a 37-1/2 hour work week for regular full-time staff personnel. Many libraries have adopted this shorter hour work week and in industry and other areas this has been accepted. After discussion the following motion was made by Mr. Erickson seconded by Mrs. Petty.

Motion: That the Skokie Public Library Board accept the 37-1/2 hour work week for library personnel on the basis that additional cost is expected to be limited to three hours of overtime per week for janitorial personnel and in view of the fact that the work load on library personnel is constantly increasing.

All votes were affirmative.

The Librarian also asked the Board's consideration of deputizing the men who do evening guard duty, Messrs. Heino Sikkut and Harry Hippenmeyer, since this would render them a certain amount of immunity from liability. In discussion it was suggested first to determine the advantages. This information might be obtained from the Skokie Police Department since this would be a local service and not state. The following questions should be answered: which way does the liability work; inquire why Mr. Hippenmeyer suggested it and have him state his basis for the recommendation. A legal opinion should be obtained from the Board's attorney. The consensus was that it should be looked into and Mr. Green stated he would talk with the Chief of Police of Skokie and Mr. Scott McDowell. He requested Miss Radmacher to get the needed answers from Mr. Hippenmeyer.

Miss Radmacher stated that judging from the results of the referendum vote it is obvious there will be a delay in acquiring more space to shelve more books, but asked the Board's opinion of putting two ranges of shelving in the area where recordings are. The seats would have to be removed from the area and stored in the basement. The shelving now being used might be moved to the south side of the department in one of the lounge areas and records possibly shelved in part of the 6' 10" shelving. The President and Board instructed the

Librarian to proceed with her plans to relocate the shelves.

The Librarian announced to the Board the meeting of the Library System Development in Illinois to be held at the Skokie Public Library November 22, 1965, for trustees and librarians, at 8:00 p.m. Mr. Donald Wright, Associate State Librarian, will be the speaker.

In the discussion about non-resident fee cards, President Green suggested that the Skokie Public Library should increase the present rate of \$10.00 to what the taxpayers are paying. The increase might be set at \$15.00 and announce this to be effective with the fiscal year beginning May 1, 1966. Consideration should be given to this before May, 1966 and some action taken so notice can be given. Action will be taken at the next meeting.

The Librarian invited discussion on holding coffee hours at the Library by inviting PTA's in on Wednesday mornings during the story-telling hour. The Board thoroughly approved and encouraged her to proceed with these plans.

Mr. Erickson referring to the bond issue referendum stated it would appear some sort of case for expansion has been made. Perhaps three major factors worked against us - (1) total cost was too much; (2) conflict with the school referendum; and (3) immense amount of controversy stirred up by the branch proposal and selection of site. There were other relevant factors such as misinformation, etc. A proposal was submitted and it was very unpopular. The fact remains that something must be done about expansion. One thing that has been learned from this experience - it is necessary to establish some channels for communication with the public - we must listen and keep our minds open until we have heard from the people. The Library must try to get some sort of organization established - such as "friends of the library." Mr. Green proposed having civic groups or the League select someone to sit on such a committee. Mr. Erickson further suggested to take the Village precinct by precinct and set up a series of small informal talks with local PTA's, Property


Owners Groups, etc., on the basis of finding out what their viewpoints are and telling them ours. Mr. Green stated should have a committee of not over 15 people. It was agreed this citizens committee should be the next step and should be sufficiently committed to really study the problems of the library. Suggestion was made of forming a PTA Coordinating Council, such a group is bound to have weight. Mr. Erickson stated that in each precinct there is a PTA, School Board or property owners group from which a representative could be sent to form a committee. If meetings were arranged with these groups - there could be ten or fifteen present and they should be invited to express their viewpoint, etc. The consensus was that something must be done quickly. Mrs. Petty urged President Green to authorize Mr. Erickson to proceed with this plan. Mr. Green officially appointed Mr. Erickson chairman of a Citizens Advisory Committee. Mr. Green further stated that from this nucleus it might be possible to select a Citizens Committee - Advisory to the President. The Board was cautioned to be open-minded about the opinions and suggestions from this committee.

Miss Radmacher reported the Village Clerk had asked the Skokie Public Library to prepare checks to pay judges and for use of polls for the November 9 election. Recommendation was made that a written opinion be obtained from the attorney whether it should be done. Mrs. Griffin made the following motion seconded by Mrs. Petty.

Motion: That the Head Librarian be authorized to issue vouchers to the election judges and other election expenses in the November 9 referendum contingent upon receipt of written legal opinion from the Board's attorney stating this is permissible under the Illinois statutes.

All votes were affirmative.

Meeting adjourned at 9:50 p. m.


Selma Petty - Secretary