

June 9, 1965

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

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

Also present: Mrs. Rita Bonem and Mrs. Joseph Beaver, observers from the League of Women Voters and Mrs. Victor Rasmussen from the East Prairie School District.

The meeting was opened at 7:30 by the Secretary, Mrs. Petty.

Minutes of the previous meeting held May 12, 1965 were approved as read.

Motion by Mrs. Griffin seconded by Mr. Erickson.

Motion: That the financial statements for the month of May, 1965 for the General Operating Fund and the Reserve Fund for the Purchase of Sites and Buildings be accepted.

All votes were affirmative.

Motion by Mr. Erickson seconded by Mr. Weingart.

Motion: That the list of bills payable in the amount of eleven thousand three hundred ninety-eight dollars and thirty-five cents (\$11,398.35) be approved for payment.

All votes were affirmative.

The Circulation Report for the month of May, 1965 was accepted by the Board and ordered to be placed on file.

The Librarian submitted to the Board for official signatures the renewal contract for the Twin Oaks Project and discussed in detail conditions concerning the renewal. She also explained to the visitors that this service is extended at no expense to the Skokie Public Library or Skokie taxpayers. It is paid for by the State and Federal government.

The meeting was turned over to Mr. L. O. Green, President.

Motion by Mr. Weingart seconded by Mr. Erickson.

Motion: That the renewal contract between the State and Skokie Public Library for bookmobile service to the Twin Oaks area be approved, proper signatures be affixed thereto and returned to the State.

All votes were affirmative.

At this time the President ordered that the Board dispense with the regular order of business and introduced Mrs. Victor Rasmussen who had asked for time to present a problem to the Board.

Mrs. Rasmussen stated she has heard a lot of talk about a library to be erected at Sharp Corner. This is all right, but she is aware that it has not been definitely voted upon and when she hears a past school board member talking about it as though it were she feels he should be told to "shut up". In the beginning she asked for more books to be available -- and now you are putting a library among three schools all of which have good libraries. It is not fair to put the branch in one community knowing the financial burden goes on all taxpayers.

Mr. Green replied that the Board has made an extensive study and has been studying particularly the problem of a branch. We were not in the present building a month until we had a delegation visit our meeting asking for a branch in the north. This location on Oakton Street is not in the center of Skokie, and the traveling distance is quite extensive from the northern side. At that time we were not large enough - either the community or library to consider a branch. The community has doubled in population since building this library. Miss Radmacher made an extensive survey of the needs and standards for library service and reported that a branch is justified in a community in excess of 75,000. A number of years ago, before Old Orchard Junior High School became interested in building an addition, we asked our real estate man to make a survey of property which might be available and could be used to erect a branch. He used a map which clearly indicated this piece to be the only one sufficiently located in the north area. We considered at that time making a deposit on that property. That was long before the School

District was concerned about the property. The land is desirably close to a main highway and easily accessible. The Library Board was in the process of talking to the Masons who wanted to dispose of the property on Kenton Avenue when we discovered builders had proposed to build a high-rise apartment next to the Library. Now, it has long been our dream that the property between the Village Hall and the Library should be open space. We realized if this builder had options on the property we would be faced with high-rise apartments, thereby spoiling the beauty and utility of this building and the inability to expand to the east because of insufficient property. At that point we temporarily abandoned the proposition we were carrying on with the Masons and by working with the Village encouraged them to deny permits and rezoning. We proceeded with the Village to work out a proposition by which the Federal government joined with the Village and the Library Board on an Open Land Grant which enabled all of us to obtain the land between the Village Hall and Library. The Library then proceeded with plans to build an addition to this building. It is obvious this building is overcrowded. At the time of building the plans were that it would provide for all the Library needs for a community of 70,000. We are now in excess of that figure. It is completely under the standards as set up by the American Library Association. The collection has now reached 130,000 volumes. The Board was confronted with the question as to whether we should continue our project and plans as started some years before to establish a branch to relieve the load on this Library or whether to make this building large enough to serve the entire community. We obtained architects, discussed it with the Village and received their endorsement for an addition to this building and to build a branch on the property in the north end of Skokie. At about this time a builder attempted to purchase the property at Kenton Avenue and Gross Point Road and proceeded with the plans for erection of a high-rise apartment. School Board No. 68 then realized they would need to expand. The Village thought it would be

desirable to keep that area of Skokie in the hands of the Village rather than high-rise apartments. We then had the architects prepare preliminary plans providing for an attractive building and, after some month of discussion, at a recent meeting the Board adopted a Resolution to proceed with the erection of the branch on the land originally contemplated at the Kenton Avenue and Gross Point Road property, expand this building and ask for an increase in the tax levy. The Library Board cannot levy their own taxes since they must be approved by the Village Board. The same is true of bonds - they must be issued by the Village but paid for by the Library. The Board has adopted Resolutions which we must forward to the Village Trustees. They may see fit to deny the recommendation of this Board - they may concur with the actions of this Board. If they approve the actions then there will be an election by the Village. If the people of the community wish to have the expansion and branch they will vote "yes", if they do not want it they will vote "no". In any event the Board has fulfilled its obligations of what would be in the best interest of the people of the community and the decision will be in the hands of the voters. If the Village Board approves the Resolution we will be guided by its decision.

Mrs. Rasmussen stated she was speaking for a lot of people from the Cleveland and East Prairie Schools and their objection is that they hear a man talking about and repeatedly saying there is going to be a branch, even before the public has had a chance to vote on it. The man is a member of the Village Board.

Mr. Weingart stated a member of the Village Board has nothing to say for this Board but if your group objects to any kind of a branch library that is one thing, but if you object to having it elsewhere than in your district we would be glad to listen to a group of representatives.

Mrs. Rasmussen stated the objection is mostly to the statements by the Village Board member.

Mr. Weingart made the suggestion that a petition be gotten up and signed by the objectors.

Mr. Erickson gave his opinion that it would be better for them to go directly to the Village Board member than for the Library to enter the conflict.

Mr. Weingart stated it would be impossible for the Library to participate and recommended that Mrs. Rasmussen qualify that she had attended a Library Board meeting and, in the presence of the Board wanted to know what is being done in the way of providing a branch. The reply from the Library Board was that a Resolution had not yet been presented to the Village Board to have a Referendum.

Mrs. Rasmussen was further informed that the Library Board has never been pressured into the purchase of property but space will be needed for building and the Library Board will listen to any group.

Mrs. Rasmussen retired from the meeting and the regular order of business was resumed.

The Librarian reported briefly on her appearance before the Attorney General and asked the Board's opinion on the Attorney General's request for original documents rather than photocopies. It was the consensus it would be wise to bow to his judgment. However, photocopies should be made of the documents, notation of where the originals are going, a receipt obtained for their delivery and each labeled "original document". Mr. Weingart expressed the view that it would be better to have Attorney McDowell pass on the surrendering of the originals. Mr. Weingart made the following motion seconded by Mr. Erickson.

Motion: If, in the opinion of the Library Board's Attorney we should deliver original documents to Attorney General of the State of Illinois, we so do.

All votes were affirmative.

The Librarian reported on her visit to automated libraries - which included University of Missouri and Southern Illinois University, and made the recommendation that if and when we go into automation, we employ the services of Dr. Ralph

Parker, Head of the University of Missouri Library, for a few days.

The LACONI meeting in DeKalb was attended by the Librarian, Miss Mary Radmacher and Mrs. Petty, Trustee. The Trustee expressed her pride in the Skokie Public Library's Head Librarian and told the Board of the splendid speech made by the Librarian on our Twin Oaks Project.

The President informed the Board that in the previous Budget Recommendations presented and accepted there had not been included any item covering the expanded library buildings if, and when they are built, and, according to the Illinois Library Law, if you do not appropriate you cannot spend. Therefore, a new budget recommendation was presented for acceptance. Mr. Erickson moved and Mrs. Petty seconded the following:

Motion: To approve the revised appropriation ordinance.

All votes were affirmative.

Mr. Green reported that in a conversation with Mr. Kaplan the statement was made that the Village Board has a very interesting suggestion - the Village has been contemplating building an additional building to provide private space for one of the Village Offices and it seems like a real good idea to save money for the Library and Village by putting another floor on the library building to provide office space for the Village. The following questions were asked by the Board - (1) who would enter the building?; (2) what would it do to the architectural design of the building?; and (3) does the Village want this as a permanent headquarters? The Librarian reported the architect stated it would be feasible but he would question the advisability of it. The Village plans would be for permanent quarters. After discussion the Board decided to do nothing until a formal request is received from the Village.

At this time the President read the Petition attached hereto and stated the Petition needed no action by the Board but that copies be placed where they can be signed.

President Green read the Resolution to ask for a Referendum to increase the Library tax rate, a copy of which is attached hereto. Member Erickson moved the Resolution be adopted and Member Griffin seconded the motion. All votes were affirmative and the President declared the Resolution adopted, passed and approved.

President Green read a Resolution approving plans for improvements to be made to the Library Facilities in and for the Village of Skokie, Cook County, Illinois, and estimated costs thereof, a copy of which is attached hereto. Motion for adoption of the Resolution was made by Member Erickson and seconded by Member Petty. The Voting was as follows: Ayes, Members Green, Griffin, Erickson, and Petty; Nays: Member Weingart.

A copy of the letter sent to the Borgia's was distributed to each Board member.

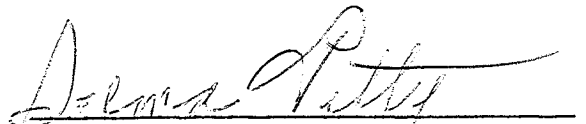
A discussion was held on the amount of money the Board might want to invest in the plans if the Referendum does not carry. Miss Radmacher will find out from Mr. Hammond how long it will take to prepare necessary data.

The Librarian reported to the Board the establishment of a Special Service Desk, Reader's Advisory, in the area immediately before the Recent and Rental Book shelves.

A Selected List of Recent Acquisitions for the month of May, 1965 was distributed to each Board member.

The Librarian reminded the Board of the ALA Conference in Detroit in July, 1965.

The meeting adjourned at 10:15 p.m.


Selma Petty - Secretary