

September 11, 1968

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Skokie Public Library, held September 11, 1968, in the Conference Room, at 7:30 p.m.

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

Also present: Mrs. Milton Estes, Observer for the League of Voters and Mr. James Hammond, Architect.

Rabbi Weiner presided.

Minutes of the previous meeting held August 14, 1968 were approved as presented on motion by Mr. Howard Hummer, seconded by Mrs. Selma Petty.

All ayes.

Financial statements for the General Operating Budget, Reserve Fund for the Purchase of Sites and Buildings and Statement of Appropriation and Expenditures to date were approved on motion by Mr. L. O. Green seconded by Mr. Hummer.

All ayes.

Motion by Mrs. Griffin seconded by Mrs. Petty.

Motion: That the list of bills in the amount of seven thousand four hundred twenty-nine and fifty-six cents (\$7,429.56) be paid.

All ayes.

Circulation Report for the month of August, 1968 was accepted and ordered to be placed on file.

Personnel appointments and resignations were discussed by the Librarian.

Copies of the fuel oil bids as received from the Village of Skokie were distributed and after discussion the following motion was made by Mr. Hummer seconded by Mrs. Griffin.

Motion: That the Skokie Public Library accept the fuel oil bid for the No. 5 Fuel Oil from Bell Oil Company.

All ayes.

Miss Radmacher reporting on the property to the west read a copy of

Mr. McDowell's letter to Mr. Struck, attorney for Mr. Rath, a copy of which is attached hereto. Rabbi Weiner reported he had talked with Mrs. Rath, a tenant, and indicated to her the Library certainly would not touch the house before January or February or until after a referendum and would be pleased if she were to stay. He stated that the other three tenants should be so notified in writing. Discussion followed of amount of rental, who pays for the heating and water, and whether it is the Library's responsibility to clean the walks, etc. Miss Radmacher was requested to call Armond King, Inc. to find out what responsibilities are involved.

Rabbi Weiner read a letter sent by the Mayor to Mr. William Davis, representative of HUD, and the Resolution which was passed on September 3rd, which will move the grant of the open space land 30 feet east so the Library can get its 30 feet. A letter will be sent to the Village Board thanking them for their consideration.

The Librarian reported that it is Mr. Scott McDowell's opinion that negotiations on the property at 5219 Oakton Street cannot be finished until the 20th of September due to small unpaid assessments.

Rabbi Weiner reporting on expansion plans stated that he had contacted the Acting Chairman of the Fine Arts Commission, Mr. Jerome Robbins and arranged for a joint meeting of his Commission and our Board on September 12. The intention is to establish a rapport with the Commission by explaining the Library's plans to create an art center as part of the Library. It must be determined whether legally this can be done and what kind of subsidy the Library can get from the Fine Arts Commission. It is necessary to find out from the Commission what kind of functions they would project to take place in this Art Center, in order to serve their needs. The Library is on record not to build anything that the Village has already. The plan is to provide space for painting, sculpture, designing of stage sets, etc., a rehearsal space for music and drama, and perhaps an auditorium just large enough to be adequate for chamber music and chamber

theatre. It must be understood this auditorium is ours and to be used for Library programs as they now exist. It will be the Library's responsibility to define the legal aspects. Also, investigation should commence as to whether there are some subsidies we do now know. The purpose of the combined meeting incorporates all of this.

Miss Radmacher said that Mr. McDowell pointed out that there are unlimited ways of defining what you want to do under the caption of Library Service. Rabbi Weiner stated there may be an obstacle in leasing space.

Reporting on securing a successor for Mr. McDowell who wishes to be relieved of his duties as attorney for the Library Board, Mr. Green stated that Mr. Harvey Schwartz would like to do the job very much and thinks he can without conflict of interest. Although he handles the Village's cases, and is paid a retainer by them, he is allowed to have his own practice. Suggestion made to investigate the possibilities of having the Village raise his retainer and the Library would reimburse the Village for the difference. Mr. Green will pursue this further and mentioned that Marvin Glink and Mr. McDowell's son are also interested in doing the job.

Mr. James Hammond, architect, was asked to speak to the Board. Mr. Hammond stated that he had been asked to make a very rough sketch as to what could be produced in the south end of the lot in the way of total area requirement for Technical Services and also estimate the cost to see if something could be done within \$120,000 or \$125,000. This he did and exhibited rough sketches stating that it should be determined how far to the south of the lot the Library can go. He further stated that after considering all suggested plans, this was chosen because it is the safest for not making any wrong commitments. The building produces 7600 square feet of space. Originally a basement was not included but after giving the idea consideration it was agreed to expand the basement under the whole area. The estimator's figures, based on the same standards as this building, same floor same light level, etc. comes

out at about \$25.00 per square foot. Some things which must be decided are: whether to leave a passage or driveway open in the event it might be wanted later; tear the building back; and consider having space later for storing the bookmobile, at which time a car port could be made; or this space might be found to be a good location for cooling towers. Definitely a basement would be built. Since it would be unwise to carry a line out here from the present boiler, a new one would be a necessity. This basement might house the new mechanical equipment. If we are to build 3,000 square feet on the upper floor, 3,000 square feet below will give us a boiler room and possibly some space for fine arts. This could be built within the budget - \$105,000, plus some money for contingencies and fees, and some for rerouting the driveway. By operating on a crash program we could perhaps have something available in the middle or late spring of next year.

Mr. Green asked the question of where do we have the \$125,000? Miss Radmacher explained that Mr. McDowell reported the Library cannot get a mortgage. In discussion, anticipation warrants, or a possibility of mortgaging the house next door were suggested. Mr. Hammond suggested the building could be cut down to 2500 feet but further reduction in size would not be economical.

Mrs. Petty recommended that if the building is erected for Technical Services it would be a good idea to build it permanently. She further stated that, in her opinion, employees should not be in the basement. That area should be used by anyone who wants to come in and practice music or whatever for two or three hours.

Rabbi Weiner said that the next step is to determine where we can get the money. The Village must be contacted about title to the property which we are using for parking and then explore means of acquiring funds.

Discussion followed of why the additional room was needed. Miss Radmacher explained the crowded condition of the Adult Services Department and Childrens Room and the overcrowded situation in the basement of available material that

cannot be put on the shelves for patrons to see and use; deletion of more and more of the lounge areas and the need for open reference area, to mention a few reasons. Doing away with the Conference Room and Lecture Room was discussed; also, moving book shelves into the lobby (which has never proven to be a desirable arrangement).

Mr. James Hammond suggested that of all the alternatives the least expensive was the use of mobile classrooms and this still can be done. He explained how they could be made usable by putting in a heating and cooling area, but further explained this would be expenditure of money that would not be recovered. Discussion of the cost of the alternatives and whether the contemplated building would be wanted as a permanent building.

Mr. Kraft continued the discussion about using the Lecture Room for the library needs and use of the house next door for programs. Mr. Green stated some money might be spent to sound proof and air condition the rooms. Mr. Kraft asked how long 1500 square feet would last if Technical Processes could be moved into the Lecture Room and expand Children's Department and Adult Services into Technical Processes present space. Another question asked was whether programs could be held in the courtyard and a feature could be made of this. Discussion followed.

Mr. Green, referring to the plans for a Fine Arts Center mentioned there is a legal way whereby a municipal corporation could be created by the Village to build the Library and Fine Arts Center. The Library then would lease the building. The corporation holds and builds the property and the Library would pay back the money in the form of rental over a period of 99 years. The Library nor the Fine Arts Commission would own the building. This is worth exploring. The Village could erect the building and float the bonds against it.

Rabbi Weiner stated that we need some legal advice at this point and more concrete planning. Another meeting with the Village Board may be necessary. He asked if the Board was ready to make a decision. Consensus was that more

facts are needed. Mr. Green suggested maybe the lobby should be taken over. Rabbi Weiner stated that, in his opinion, the advantage of doing that would be the Library does not have to worry about money it does not have, but is not precluding any plans later on that included the total program. The disadvantage of building would be that the money would have to be found to do the job and taking whatever small risk there is. The advantage would be that there would be adequate space for Technical Processes and for the functioning of the Library, and from the Library point of view this is certainly the more desirable thing. The question is a matter of finding the money now, but does the Board feel strongly enough about wanting to provide the best possible functions all along the way so that it would not give up the thought of getting the money or is this not worth the trouble? Mr. Hummer stated that, in his opinion, there is no other way than to build. Mr. Hammond again said that this is quite a safe plan and specified why it was the more feasible since the proposed building would be perfect for all the services.

Rabbi Weiner stated that a point has been reached where it must be determined how the first stage of the future expansion can be financed.

Meeting adjourned at 1-:05 on motion by Mrs. Petty seconded by Mrs. Griffin.

  
Selma Petty      *Sec.*  
Secretary