

May 13, 1970

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Skokie Public Library held May 13, 1970 at 5:30 p.m. in the Lecture Room.

Members present: Howard Hummer, Mrs. Diane Hunter, Richard Lindberg, *Donald Kraft* - Mrs. Selma Petty and Rabbi Karl Weiner, Mary Radmacher, Chief Librarian.

Also present: Mrs. Jackie Gorell and Attorney Robert Di Leonardi.

A correction was made in the minutes of the April 8 meeting. On page 3, line 15, the name should be changed from Mr. Kraft to Mrs. Hunter. The minutes were approved after correction.

Mrs. Hunter asked about the money the Board proposed to transfer to the General Fund from the Reserve Fund. The Librarian explained this will not be done unless it becomes a necessity.

General Operating Budget, Reserve Fund for the Purchase of Sites and Building and the NSLS Coordinated Acquisitions Program on American Literature financial statements were approved on motion by Mr. Hummer seconded by Mrs. Hunter. Motion carried.

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

Motion: That the lists of bills for the General Operating Budget in the amount of \$6,019.55 and \$4,995.28; for the Reserve Fund in the amount of \$10,189.78; and the Coordinated acquisitions Program in the amount of \$1,573.52 be approved for payment.

Circulation Report for the month of April, 1970 was approved and ordered placed on file. In commenting on the decline in juvenile circulation, Mrs. Hunter asked about the amount of space to be utilized in the new building for Children's Department, especially after reading the articles stating that the use of the Children's Department in the public libraries is going down. Miss Radmacher said that this has been taken into account in the new building by making the space very flexible.

Mr. Ed Simon, a member of the Speakers Bureau for the Citizens For the Library joined the meeting at 6:40 p.m.

The Librarian distributed copies of a letter sent to Mrs. Petty from the Civic Woman's Club of Skokie in which they advised her of a contribution to the Library in the amount of \$100.00. Miss Radmacher acknowledged the gift on behalf of the Board. Also, the Junior Women's Club of Skokie presented a \$25.00 check to the Library and this was also acknowledged by the Librarian.

Personnel was discussed. Karlotta Mathews, Children's Librarian, resigned to take a job with Glenview Public Library. Mrs. Ailsa Levick was appointed to work in Children's Department.

Annual reports for the fiscal year May 1, 1969 to April 30, 1970 for the General Operating Budget, Reserve Fund for the Purchase of Sites and Building, Investment Report for the General Operating Fund, and Reserve Fund, and the Circulation were distributed, accepted and ordered placed on file.

A recommended budget based on the 12¢ levy for the current year was submitted by Miss Radmacher. A recommended budget for the following year perdicated on an anticipated 16¢ rate has also been prepared by the Librarian. The following motion was made by Mr. Hummer, seconded by Mrs. Petty, which, on roll call vote, passed unanimously.

Motion: That the Skokie Public Library Board of Trustees authorize Miss Radmacher to get in touch with the Village and ask them if submission of the budget can be delayed until after passage of the successful referendum on May 26.

The Librarian stated that a decision must be made as to definite space allocation for the Fine Arts groups in the new building plans. The 200-seat auditorium will be available to them on advance arrangements. If the current Technical Processes Department is allocated to the Fine Arts group, they could have easy access to the existing Lecture Room and yet be separated from the rest of the Library. After discussion, the Board was in total agreement to assign the Technical Processes area to the Fine Arts group.

Mrs. Jackie Gorell reported to the Board on the progress of the promotional work for the May 26 referendum. She announced the plans for a reception to be held Sunday, May 17, at the Library as an open house. The purpose is to give the community an opportunity to come into the Library and ask any questions. The Steering Committee will be present and the Board was asked to attend. An ad will be run in the local newspapers to publicize the open house. She reported Illinois Bell has offered the facilities of 40 telephones for workers for the evening before the referendum. Press releases have been sent to the papers. Mr. Flintrup will contact all local papers to ask for editorial support. Copies of the brochure and bookmark used were distributed to each member.

Also, Miss Radmacher, Mrs. Gorell and Mrs. Miller attended a luncheon of the Civic Woman's Club as Mrs. Petty's guest and spoke for the referendum.

At this point there appeared to be no indication of organized opposition.

Mr. Ed Simon of the Speakers' Bureau of the Citizens For the Library, gave a report including some pertinent points reflecting the attitude of the groups he had addressed. He said there is no doubt about a taxpayers rebellion. He mentioned a dilemma - the Library ran a deficit of \$60,000 which indicates the Library is in financial trouble this year and will be next year. The question is asked if 8¢ is passed, how much the Library plans to spend this year and how much money is the 8¢ going to generate. People are looking for answers. He urged to the best of the Board's ability a decision be reached of how much the Board plans to levy and a statement released of how judiciously the funds will be used. It will be helpful if a decision could be made now.

Rabbi Weiner thanked Mr. Simon for attending the meeting and said that the Library Board has gone on record through Miss Radmacher's draft of the budget that we have taken our levy of 4¢ and not more than that. It is this Board's intention to levy only 4¢ more and to reinstate the type of service we had until now. The part the Library was most anxious about was our book purchase selection.

Rabbi Weiner asked if it was the will of the Board to follow up on the formulation of a statement and the Board agreed.

Mr. Lewis Kahn, Village Finance Director and Mr. Barce of Paul D. Speer Associates joined the meeting. The two men reviewed the situation with regards to the sale of the bonds and pointed out the fact that there had been no bidders on April 20 when the bonds were offered for sale. Mr. Barce's recommendation was to sell as soon as there is an improvement in the bond market. It was pointed out to Mr. Kahn that the Library must adhere to its time table for building program.

Mr. Di Leonardi reviewed the Library's negotiations for the Schroeder property at 5223 Oakton Street and reported the Schroeder's appraisal from George Anton of Evanston at a figure of \$42,500 and the Library's appraisal from James P. Foley Associates at \$35,000. The sellers indicated they would not take less than their appraisal figure. Discussion was held as to whether to continue negotiations and if so, how much more than \$35,000 would the Library pay.

Meeting temporarily adjourned for a meeting with the Evanston Public Library Board.

The meeting with the Evanston Public Library Board and the Skokie Public Library Board was held at 8:00 p.m. in the Lecture Room.

Rabbi Weiner thanked the Evanston Board for meeting with our Board to discuss a reciprocal lending policy. Although these two libraries have been reluctant to enter into the System program, the Skokie Board thought it may be of mutual benefit to Skokie and Evanston to consider such a program.

Discussion followed and it was suggested that the two libraries try it out and some statistics be accrued on the use of each library.

Mr. Gorby expressed his approval of a trial and stated it might be the answer to some questions. It could, in effect, assist Evanston Business District in its program to attract shoppers to Evanston. Mr. Gorby also

mentioned that quite a number of Skokie books come to Evanston on inter-library loan.

It was decided the two Boards, at their next respective meetings, would discuss the issue.

The Evanston Board retired from the meeting at 9:40 p.m.

Discussion continued on the property at 5223 Oakton Street. Because of the narrowness of the lot \$42,500 would seem to be an unrealistic figure. A decision to go back to the Schroeders and suggest a third appraisal be made. Motion by Mr. Lindberg, seconded by Mrs. Hunter which, on roll call vote, carried unanimously.

Motion: That the Skokie Public Library Board secure the services of a third man to appraise the property at 5223 Oakton Street, not to be binding on anybody, with the consent of the Schroeders, and the expense be shared equally.

The Librarian discussed the summer schedule, and recommended the Library be open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Friday and closed all day Saturday June 6 through September 5. The Board decided to follow through on this recommendation since they had accepted it earlier.

The Librarian reported on vandalism. At 7 o'clock one evening a small homemade firecracker was ignited in the window at the court side of the Library under the drapery. Mr. Hippenmeyer smothered the fire in the drapery with his hands. The insurance company will replace the drapery but the Librarian recommended collecting the money from the insurance company but not replacing the one drapery panel at this time.

Rabbi Weiner advised Mr. Kahn the Library budget will be forthcoming following the outcome of the referendum.

Rabbi Weiner asked that all members of the Board attend a special meeting at 2:00 Sunday, May 17, to work out the statement requested by Mr. Ed Simon.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

  
Selma Perry Secretary