

July 12, 1978

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Skokie Public Library.

Members present: Rabbi Karl Weiner, President; Walter Flintrup; Shirley Merritt; Dr. John Wozniak; Richard Lindberg; Diana Hunter; Mary Radmacher, Chief Librarian. Mrs. Zatz was not in attendance.

Visitors present: Lou Pfaff, Anita Baker-Book from the Improvement Beautification Commission, Skokie. Verna Beaver, Skokie Historical Society, present for part of agenda relating to plans for the Village Green.

The meeting was called to order at 7:45 p.m. by President Weiner with a quorum present.

The agenda was changed to accommodate visitors from the Improvement Beautification Commission who presented a plan for the Village Green using the Ross log cabin. This cabin, formerly located on Harms Road, 150 feet north of Lincoln Avenue, dates back to the 1860's or 1870's. Mr. Pfaff from the Commission discussed the placing of this log cabin on the Village Green in the far southeast corner surrounded with some shrubbery and a possible additional walk. The Commission would like to place this cabin in a location where vandalism would not be a major problem. Members of the Historical Society and the Skokie Garden Club will also work with this Commission in making these plans to place the log cabin on the Village Green. The log cabin space can be traded off for the space at the southeast corner of Park at Galitz as a required trade off for the open space for the Village Green. The sculpture, already acquired, will then be placed at the north end. Pfaff presented a plan showing the placement of the building, the sculpture and the shrubbery.

Discussion was held as to the desirability of this project. Mr. Flintrup was most concerned about the landscaping of the Green; not only

interested in the positioning of the log cabin. He strongly felt that this plan is not at all in accordance with the original idea for this space. A new plan has been suggested at this meeting but it still does not appear to be following through with the initial conception of the Village Green. Even though much attention has been given to landscaping the lot at the southeast corner of the intersection of Lincoln and Oakton, the earlier commitment to the Village Green has been ignored.

Mrs. Hunter reviewed the history of this space. The Library put up the initial seed money for the Village Green; paid for the landscaping design. The Beautification Commission was not pleased with this initial modest plan and set up a far more elaborate plan. The Library Board felt this plan was too expensive and not in keeping with the Library structure. No work was done at that time. To date the commitment still exists. The Library did agree to the placement of the sculpture with some landscaping around it.

Mr. Pfaff was not aware of any commitment for the land; only that the open space must be replaced within a certain distance, according to Federal government requirements. Nor was he aware of any landscaping plan provided by the Library in 1972.

President Weiner discussed the present lack of involvement of the Library in the process of planning the Village Green. If the Village Green is considered as part of the Skokie Civic Center, the log cabin may not be appropriate for this important space; nor be appropriate for the best aesthetic use of the Green. It is not a question of replacing the space but rather it is a question of the original intention of the nature and character of the site. The understanding from the beginning was that the Village would make this a Civic Center of Skokie and the Library decided

to stay on Oakton Street to preserve this location.

Mr. Lindberg stated that the only plan offered by the Village was quite grandiose. He discussed the fact that the sculpture has also been thrust on the Library. Past history of Skokie was discussed.

Mr. Flintrup added that the Federal rule defines this space merely to be used as "passive recreation." Tonight a new idea seems to be introduced; different from what had been originally planned.

Mr. Pfaff expressed an interest in what the Library wants.

Mr. Flintrup again stated that the concept was to be a beautification of this area; an aesthetically pleasing area with grass, trees, benches where people could sit and read, and some shrubbery. The sidewalks built were to be part of a total design. The Board would like the Green to be improved and the members are uncomfortable with the proposal presented by Mr. Pfaff and suggested the original design by the landscape architect, Mr. Alfred Caldwell, be reviewed.

Motion by Mr. Flintrup, seconded by Mr. Lindberg, which on roll call vote carried unanimously.

MOTION: That the Board of the Skokie Public Library call on the Village to enter into a conversation with it with regard to the total plan of the Village Green. We wish to consider the possible placing of the Ross Log Cabin at the time of consideration of the total plan.

Mr. Pfaff asked for the name of the architect to acquaint him with the plan (Jim Hammond, Library's architect). He stated that he is most interested in seeing the Village Green completed.

Minutes of the past board meeting, June 14, 1978, were approved as written. Motion by Dr. Wozniak, seconded by Mr. Flintrup.

Motion by Dr. Wozniak, seconded by Mr. Lindberg, which on roll call vote carried unanimously.

MOTION: That the financial statements for the General Operating Fund, Reserve Fund for the Purchase of Sites and Buildings and the Library Construction Fund for the month of June, 1978 be accepted and the lists of bills for the General Operating Funds in the amounts of \$18,245.99 and \$2,238.31 be approved for payment.

Mrs. Merritt requested rates of interest being received be listed in the financial statement.

Circulation Reports for the month of June were examined and ordered placed on file.

Mrs. Hunter suggested having demonstrations of crafts work at the Library to attract people in the summer. In attracting interest in the Library reference was made to the Japanese tea ceremony in May. The upcoming Farmers' Market might spur some interest in a canning demonstration. This should not merely be a lecture, but an actual "doing."

Motion to this effect was made by Dr. Wozniak, seconded by Mr. Flintrup, and unanimously carried that this be looked into by Miss Radmacher and be reported on at the next board meeting.

The book bag sale report was reviewed.

Rabbi Weiner told about the meeting of the Board with the Village Board to be held Monday, July 24, 1978, at 8:00 p.m. at the Village Hall. This is the night set aside as the Informational Meeting. Mr. Flintrup will not be present as he has a North Suburban Library System Board meeting and election of its officers that night. A general board notification will be sent to all members.

Letters from Gail Frank, Marilyn Komie, Florence and Reuben Revsen, Mrs. Ronald Friedman reviewed. These letters were in praise of the Library for its many fine activities and services rendered.

Letter from Johnson Controls relating to quotation of items of repair was reviewed.

CETA - Personnel report given by Miss Radmacher. She discussed the need to reapply for these funds. This was agreed on and she was instructed to go ahead with these plans and apply.

Mrs. Merritt spoke of the recent ALA convention she had attended. She spoke of the need for Board members becoming more acquainted with each facility and department of the Library. She suggested Department Heads come to the Board meeting to acquaint each member particularly as to what part they have in the total running of the Library; to make a short presentation and to be open to questions as to their participation and their role in the Library.

Mr. Flintrup suggested that the meetings be held in the particular department that was being discussed. This presentation will be scheduled for the first part of the Board Meeting. Miss Radmacher will arrange to have this done.

Mrs. Zatz sent a report on her attendance at the ALA conference. In summary it stated: library policies should be reviewed and modified every five years, and staff input is most necessary for this; it is important to know our legislators and to be able to lobby for necessary legislation; it is necessary to have good rapport with director and staff; trustees are public relation for library to community; and it is important that staff and services of library be made known to the public.

The Village and Library's new health insurance policy was discussed by Miss Radmacher. This year the Village negotiated with several insurance firms for health insurance and selected Blue Cross-Blue Shield of Chicago. The Library will continue its affiliation with the Village; it is advantageous because of larger group coverage. The staff was notified that there would be some small increase because of the new policy.

Mr. Ted Reese, Blue Cross-Blue Shield representative wrote a letter July 12, stating that \$5,000.00 life insurance is mandatory with the hospitalization policy. The premium is \$2.10 per month. This would be an added cost of \$1.05 a month for the Library.

Motion was made by Mrs. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Lindberg and unanimously passed.

MOTION: That the Board pay half of the life insurance premium mandatory with the Blue Cross policy for those who are participating at a cost of \$1.05 per month per employee.

North Suburban Library System report given by Mr. Flintrup. Funding from state did increase by 7% but salaries were increased 10%. The System is operating on a deficit budget of \$210,000.00. Conclusion that it is necessary to reduce the budget. Suggested that all programs under contractual services should be reduced to last year's expenditures. This was voted on by the Board but turned down. This budget will be presented again to the new Board. Mr. Flintrup has been nominated for President of NSLS for the coming year, but additional names are likely to be nominated from the floor.

The firm of E. J. McCormick and Associates has looked at the roof, but has not sent a report or recommendations.

The window lite has not been replaced.

The loss of books is always a problem. Mr. Lindberg suggested that the Board take action for a security system. Mrs. Zatz sent comments stating that she felt we need more information from Sentronic before a decision can be made. She is concerned as to the safety aspects of this system.

Mr. Lindberg mentioned the two types of security systems, electrical magnetic field (EMR) and the Checkpoint (radio entry signal, higher frequency). Neither system seems to present any danger of electrocution; rather danger in buildup. Vendors were asked to furnish insurance policies regarding any damage. They have not agreed to this.

Mrs. Merritt referred to a report from the "Comparator" where Sentronic listed as only magnetic, not electro-magnetic. The cumulative effect of EMR is questionable.

Mr. Lindberg will review this material more thoroughly. Discussion postponed for next month on this report.

Mrs. Zatz was successful in securing some contributions for the Sculpture Fund: \$100, Mr. William Horowitz; \$100, Mancuso Chevrolet; \$100, Mr. Albert Heisler. Mrs. Zatz recommended that we do not have a luncheon; that mass solicitation be done; and that certificates be given to those donating.

Mrs. Hunter received a call from Mr. and Mrs. Edward Fellin, who also wrote a letter to the Board, stating they will donate six (6) additional paintings to the Library with the only stipulation that they all be accepted and that the Fellins be notified of this by August 31, 1978. These paintings are:

SCULPTRESS-KAY HOFFMAN
WALLED CITY
ABSTRACT

Carl Schwartz
Hilda Rubin
Kwok Wai Lau

I TOUCHED BUT COULD NOT SEE,
I LOOKED BUT COULD NOT HEAR
IRON MOUNTAIN, MICHIGAN #3
FARM LAUNDRY

J. J. Milam
Carl Schwartz
Irene Fisher

These works, valued at \$5,250.00, represent work by local artists of the 50's and 60's.

Motion by Mrs. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Flintrup, and passed unanimously.

MOTION: That the Skokie Public Library Board accept with gratitude the paintings offered by Mr. and Mrs. Fellin.

A thank you letter will be sent for this nice gift.

In the past a luncheon has been held to honor the donors and to invite other possible donors. August 23, 1978, Wednesday, was the date suggested by Mrs. Hunter for this luncheon. This will be catered by the Party Makers to honor the Fellins, to introduce Elliott Balter (sculptor) who will also be invited to the luncheon. A representative from the Illinois Arts Council and people in the community will be invited. People attending the luncheon would be named a Committee of the Whole to help raise the \$4,000.00 needed by January 1, 1979.

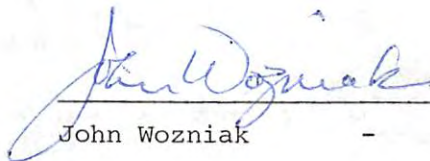
Motion made by Dr. Wozniak, seconded by Mr. Lindberg, and unanimously passed.

MOTION: That a luncheon be held under the Chairmanship of Trustee Hunter to honor the Fellins and Elliott Balter and to invite other prospective donors.

The following lists, etc., were distributed to the Board members: Congressional Report from Congressman Abner Mikva; copy of NCLIS Charts Course Toward the Next Generation of Federal Funding" Hotline, Vol.VII, No. 24, June 19, 1978; Adult Services Department Summer Book Discussion

Schedule; July Calendar of Events; "Summer Feature Films" list; list of exhibits; five (5) copies of press releases; "Historical Fiction - United States" list; and "Selected List of Recent Acquisitions, June, 1978."

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "John Wozniak", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is cursive and stylized.

John Wozniak

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Secretary

SUMMARY STATEMENT FROM THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD MEETING OF JULY 12, 1978

RE: VILLAGE GREEN

In summary there was an expression of disappointment of the Library in the long delay in the formation of an overall plan of the Village Green. Secondly, there was a disappointment over the failure to involve the Library Board in decisions on and dispositions of the site of the Village Green, the disappointment was in fact, over the fact that the Library Board was not regularly informed about decisions affecting the Village Green.

The background was reviewed in which the Library was instrumental in providing the required funds for the purchase of the Village Green. The understanding was that the partnership between the Village Board and the Library Board be continued in the planning and developing of the Village Green. The Library provided and paid for a landscaping plan which was then set aside by a far more elaborate and expensive plan on behalf of the Beautification Commission, but this plan was not followed up either.

The Library Board expressed the desire that an overall landscaping plan for the Village precede any discussion whether the log cabin should be placed on that site or elsewhere. The Library Board made the request that the disposition of the Village Green remain consistent with the initial intentions for which the open space grant was made: namely, as an open, quiet, recreation area with bushes, trees and benches where people could sit and read or enjoy a brown bag lunch.

This summary picked up by
Mr. Pfaff, August 3, 1978