

July 12, 1965

Minutes of the combined meeting of the Village Board of Trustees and the Skokie Public Library Board of Trustees, held in the Lecture Room of the Library, July 12, 1965 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Skokie Public Library Board, L. O. Green, President, Members Mrs. W. C. Griffin, Mrs. Daniel Petty and Mr. Louis Weingart, Miss Mary Radmacher, Librarian. Also present: Mr. James W. Hammond, architect for the Library Board.

Present for the Village Board of Trustees: Albert Smith, President, Members John T. Banghart, Walter B. Flintrup, Bernard M. Kaplan, Robert J. Morris, Herman Schmidt, Calvin R. Stuker. The Village was also represented by Village Manager Bernard L. Marsh, Assistant Village Manager Richard E. Kaegi, Village Attorney Harvey Schwartz, and Village Clerk William E. Siegel.

Also present: Mrs. Jean Doney and Charlene Lewis, newspaper representatives and Mrs. Joseph Beaver from the League of Women Voters.

Mr. L. O. Green, President of the Library Board, presided.

Mr. Green opened the meeting by stating that all present were familiar with the background of the Library Board's study of the needs for expansion of the library - pointing out the crowded conditions on many occasions, especially during the weekends. The plans for the present building were that it would survive the Village needs until 1975 but it is outgrown by 1965. The Village is continuing to grow - it will surely reach 75,000 without considering high-rise apartments. The predictions are that the population will increase beyond that figure. Assuming we have a community of 75,000, we should certainly have library facilities adequate for their needs. Miss Radmacher who has just come back from the American Library Association Conference will tell you of the requirements for advanced library needs.

Miss Radmacher addressed the meeting by stating there are two factors to consider - knowledge explosion and population explosion. While a few years ago the American Library Association thought 2 books per capita for a community of 50,000 to 100,000 population was adequate, now they state it should be 3-1/2 books per capita. When built this library was predicated on the entire need for a 75,000 population which we thought Skokie would grow into many years hence. At the present we are close to that figure. Another standard ALA has come up with recently is the need for five seats per 1,000 population. Skokie is far above the average as far as use of the library is concerned for a community of this size. The fact remains that we need more space. In a very short time we will not have enough space to house the books we will need and certainly cannot house 3-1/2 per capita even with what the Skokie population is now. That brings us up to the fact that we need expansion here and a facility in the north end of Skokie.

Mr. Green resumed by stating that based on ALA standards we would need 375,000 books. We have 110,000 volumes but this building can shelve only 150,000 books. So, we must have more space. The question arose whether it was right to concentrate all facilities in one location and started the Library Board thinking it would be right and in keeping with good library facilities to establish a branch to the north and expand to the east of this location. Some years ago - long before Old Orchard Junior High School was ever located on the property where it stands, the Library had looked at that land and selected this site as one of the few open lots sufficiently large and properly located for a library. We were on the verge of making a payment on the property when a situation developed to the east of a high-rise apartment being erected. The Library Board used the money we had to effect the purchase of the property to the east, at least to tie it up. We let the plans lapse on the purchase of the property to the north and when we heard that site was being considered for apartments we were concerned, as was the school. We had some funds left over and, with the changes in the Illinois Library Law,

were able to use the money for a down payment on the property north of the Old Orchard Junior High School. We would like to have it clearly understood that there was no thought of putting a library branch alongside of any particular school. Based upon the study of the need for expansion, the Board had studies made for the expansion of this Library and for the North Branch. Hammond and Roesch, architects, were asked to do this and have drawn preliminary plans for the proposed needs.

Mr. James Hammond was introduced. He presented slides of the statistics for needed space and the renderings for both expansion and branch.

Recommendation was made by Mrs. Jean Doney that the name of Kenton Avenue was incorrect and should be changed to Niles Center Road.

Mr. Green quoted the following figures: expansion of the present building, \$830,000, equipment, \$87,000 (purchase of the land was made from money saved from current operating budget), making \$917,000 for the addition to the present building which will be immediately to the east or a cost of about \$22.50 per square foot. Estimated figures for the North Branch are: cost of building \$640,000, equipment \$40,000, acquisition of site about \$278,000. The total bond issue would be \$1,875,000.

Mr. Bernard Kaplan mentioned he had read that the present Congress has just enacted some laws where Federal funds are available for library use and inquired if there was a possibility of getting some of these funds. Miss Radmacher replied that the State of Illinois is getting some of this money and Mr. Green stated that we certainly will ask for it. He also informed the meeting we are currently receiving Federal funds for the bookmobile which we are supplying to Twin Oaks.

Mr. Green stated the Library Board had a meeting last fall with about 100 leaders of the various civic organizations in the community. No objections were expressed to the expansion of the present library - in fact the comments were very favorable. There was some discussion of where to put the branch but it would

be impossible to put one in every area so the Library Board proceeded on a careful study of the entire Village, have selected this site and will stay with it.

Mr. Kaplan mentioned at one of the Village Board meetings when discussing the budget it was brought out that the administrative facilities of the Village will need expansion. Suggestion was made - as long as the library is building an addition it might be wise to explore the possibilities of adding a second floor to house some administrative offices of the Village - on an equitable basis - especially since it is contiguous to the present structure. Mr. Green replied he had talked with the architect and the Village Trustees about this and will continue to explore the possibilities.

Mr. Marsh suggested the expanded building might allow space for automation. Mr. Green replied that it might be possible to combine the operation - Library Board has been thinking of information retrieval but at present this is out of our budget. However, in the meantime have been thinking of simple computers for payroll. Mr. Marsh stated his thinking was that one installation might be possible to serve both the Village and the Library.

Mrs. Doney inquired if there was any thought of turning the Lecture Room over to music.

Mr. Kaplan inquired if the Library had set a date, and was informed that the referendum would not be held until October 26, 1965. Discussion revealed that October might be a bit early since schools do not start until September and the PTA is later starting - recommend setting a date in November.

Mr. Schwartz asked how much land was involved in the north site, and was told a little over two acres.

Mr. Kaegi inquired if an increase in tax levy had been included in the one referendum and was told that in the same referendum the Library will ask for an increase in operating tax from .12 % to .20 %. The budget showing the contingency fund has included the increased levy.

Mr. Schwartz inquired whether the library had thought of going to condemna-

tion. The Library Board informed him this has been considered but they are hopeful will not have to use this method and have been awaiting the outcome of the School Board condemnation suit.

Mr. Kaegi further inquired about how much land the library was going to use to the east and the answer was 135 feet.

The Village Board inquired whether the appraisals of the property at the north end will be available for their inspection. President Green stated he would have Mr. McDowell deliver them to Mr. Schwartz.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p. m.

	
Selma Petty	Secretary