

August 3, 1977

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Skokie Public Library held August 3, 1977 at 5:30 p. m. , in the Library.

Members present: Walter Flintrup, Diana Hunter, Shirley Merritt, Karl Weiner, John Wozniak and Norma Zatz, also Mary Radmacher, Chief Librarian.

Also present: Mrs. Verna Beaver, Observer for the League of Women Voters, who joined the meeting at 7:45 p. m.

Meeting was called to order at 6:40 p. m. by President Weiner, with a quorum present.

On behalf of the entire Board, Rabbi Weiner congratulated Mr. Walter Flintrup on his election to President of the North Suburban Library System Board.

At the top of page 6 of the minutes for July 13, 1977, there is a motion regarding securing another opinion on the legality of Library Directors participating in the group health insurance plan. Mrs. Hunter recommended the second opinion be gotten from the North Suburban Library System Counsel, Mr. Juergensmeyer, whose opinion would apply to all libraries and his advice would be free of charge. Rabbi Weiner interpreted the motion to mean "up to three" and stated one more opinion should be sought.

Another point made by Mrs. Hunter concerned page 7 of the minutes where this Board was recommending nominations for the White House Committee. All nominations were Skokie residents excepting Mr. Blase. She feels his nomination should be made from the Niles Public Library. Rabbi Weiner asked if the Board wished to reconsider this recommendation but no action was taken.

Minutes of the July 13, 1977 meeting were approved on motion by Mrs. Zatz seconded by Mr. Flintrup. Motion carried.

Discussion was held on percentage of interest earned on the Library's savings account and investments, including use of a savings and loan institution versus a bank. The point was made of whether legally this Library could use a savings and loan because those institutions insure savings up to only \$20,000. (This figure corrected in October 12, 1977 minutes to \$40,000.)

Investments for the Library have been made by Miss Radmacher, in all cases, on the recommendation and advice of the Village Finance Director. Rabbi Weiner asked Miss Radmacher to get an opinion from Mr. Hibner on the legality of depositing funds in a savings and loan versus a bank.

The following motion was made by Dr. Wozniak, seconded by Mr. Flintrup, 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, Library Construction Fund be accepted and the lists of bills for the General Operating Fund in the amounts of \$11,699.03, \$916.09 and \$3,326.11 be approved for payment.

Circulation Report was examined and discussion centered around the middle age group now being in the majority in Skokie. Attention should be focused on programs for this group such as the summer Park District programs. Other suggestions were stressing a second language in English for ethnic groups and news releases informing the public of the books this Library has in many different languages.

There seems to be a mix-up in when the children participating in the summer program are given the book bags. Supposedly it was to be the last day of participation, but some children have been asked to return to receive their bags. Miss Radmacher will check on this.

Circulation Report and Library Use Statistics were ordered placed on file.

Personnel appointments and resignations were discussed.

A letter was received from Mayor Smith thanking the Library for helping in the Village's July 4th celebration.

Mr. Flintrup reporting on the North Suburban Library System Board meeting said the general election was held. The bulk of the evening was spent on discussion of the budget. There is a growing concern about the removal of the Coordinated Acquisitions Program from the budget and the fact that the money for the Systems is not going to be increased. Looking at the other programs,

such as reciprocal borrowing, some revisions will have to be made. There is a strong feeling 50¢ is not enough for reciprocal borrowing and there is an effort to increase that. Those kind of dollars are meaningful and they are now talking about \$1.00. That one program will eat into other programs.

Mr. Flintrup said most of the evening was spent going through the budget and having individual Board members question the treasurer about what could be done to alleviate the trouble. The motion was made, seconded and passed that if and when monies were to become available to the System, CAP be reinstated.

Mr. Flintrup met with Mr. McClarren who feels there should be more of an involvement of the representatives of the member libraries. In that spirit he suggested a news letter be issued to each trustee of every library telling them what has occurred at the System meeting, what it means and what program it is about. Taking a specific program on a monthly basis, highlighting it and asking for their criticisms and suggestions could be a way of getting them involved in participating in the System. There is some concern the System may diminish instead of growing and borderline libraries are thinking of other systems. Now there is concern about holding the System together.

Rabbi Weiner said there is a tendency of every bureaucracy to build its own system and when a system is built it wants to supersede the entities that make up the System. Locally there is a strong sense of responsibility to our own constituency and concern about decisions being taken out of our own hands. Representatives stay away when everything is cut and dried when they think it makes very little difference if they are there. Mr. Flintrup said something similar to Mr. McClarren that the emphasis should be the System is there to serve the members and without the members there is no System. Representatives get the feeling the System is doing them a favor and the System's approach must be on the basis that without the member libraries there is no "you." It is hard for a System to accept this.

Mr. Donald Wright, as President of RLAC, is attempting to compile some statistics and reaction to the discontinuation of CAP, in order to prove this program is more beneficial than the System thinks.

Mrs. Hunter discussed with Miss Radmacher getting together with legislators such as Aaron Jaffee and Allan Greiman to draft a piece of legislation to be presented at the next Assembly in Springfield. She feels certain Tom Heinz would sponsor a piece of library legislation. Mrs. Hunter will follow up on this. Miss Radmacher was asked to check with Mrs. Kathryn Gesterfield about the legislation proposed for a rate increase and to secure a copy of the legislation to see how it is framed.

The Sculpture Committee reported no new developments at this time.

No information has been received on the Ordinance.

The Library carpet has been cleaned and the job is satisfactory.

Mr. Matzer referred Mr. Flintrup to Mr. Brady, Assistant Village Manager, concerning loss to this institution if the Library was involved in civil disorder damage. Mr. Brady said the Village's insurance would not cover us and any damage would be the Library's responsibility. The Village called in police for coverage and State Police were also called in. When that occurs there is some liaison with the State and if something occurs the State is more inclined to (1) outright pay for the damage to municipal property or (2) make low interest loans on long term basis. This is settled as each individual case presents itself. As long as the Library is housing policemen for the Village, any personnel harm would fall on the Village shoulders under Workmen's Compensation. Mr. Flintrup is composing a letter advising the Library of these facts.

Miss Radmacher contacted Mr. Roy Proctor, a senior partner of Boyle, Flagg & Seaman, who advised her the Library is covered for riots and civil disorders. The Library's Comprehensive coverage includes damage by riots and civil disorders.

Mr. Brady did state, if the Library made a special appeal to the Village to request maintaining as low a profile as possible and minimum visibility could be maintained by the police from this building, that would be respected and accommodated.

Recommendation was made by Miss Radmacher to use the Lecture Room in the west building for reference material. Reference area is extremely tight now. Although the Planning Department will be out of the Library within the next year and a half, shelving is needed now. The immediate need is for three ranges, six sections long. The basement has no more room. Shelving could be put in that Lecture Room, doors kept locked as now; so instead of going to the basement the material would be available from there, making it handier. Shelving can be used anywhere and there would be no loss on the investment in it. Motion by Mrs. Hunter, seconded by Mr. Flintrup, which, on roll call vote, carried unanimously.

Motion: That the Board accept the recommendation of the Chief Librarian to use the so-called designated old Lecture Room for reference materials and make the purchase of the necessary shelving to fit the area accordingly.

Following a discussion of use of reference material, Miss Radmacher offered to compile another list of reference questions asked by patrons, for the Board.

Skokie Public Library is to be included in the self-guided "Walking Tour" a Village project, proposed by Mrs. Verna Beaver.

On revenue sharing, Dr. Wozniak asked if the Library had some research data on which libraries have received revenue sharing. Miss Radmacher previously prepared and distributed a list but will have a list prepared for the next Board meeting September 8, at 5:30 p. m. The meeting with Nil es Township Board is scheduled for 8:00 p. m. September 8, following the regular meeting. One list will be on revenue sharing received by NSLS member libraries and one for the State of Illinois.

Discussion followed on revenue sharing and Mrs. Hunter voiced her disappointment that this Library had not received some advice from Niles Township that its request was being denied. Mrs. Zatz requested putting on the agenda for the meeting something about use of the funds for a needed security system. When the question was asked if the Library should amend the reasons given for use of the money to include purchase of a security system, Mrs. Zatz replied that the Library should show its many problems and need for the money because of the financial set-up. Revenue sharing is where additional dollars should be received. The Library's tax dollar is being stretched for every day problems and because libraries are a valid recipient, Skokie Public Library should be included in revenue sharing.

Rabbi Weiner reminded the Board the Library's request has been made for the purchase of books in the area of mental health. The Library has stated a specific reason for the money, but there is a consistent refusal on the part of the agencies distributing the money to understand libraries are a bonafide recipient.

Mrs. Hunter thinks focus should be to air the position revenue sharing has been established by the Congress and the Library fits into its list of priorities. According to the newspaper this institution did not get any funds because we are another tax body. Concentration should be to establish our right to claim some of these funds without having to specify how they will be used. The list of libraries receiving funds should be updated to show this institution is being excluded from the funds. Mrs. Hunter thinks a recommendation should come from the staff to show areas in which the Library could be doing more.

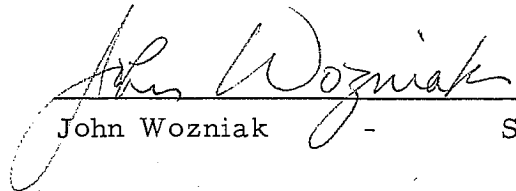
Mr. Flintrup suggested after establishing why we are eligible to very simply ask in what areas they will be willing to contribute. This locks them into an area and perhaps would make them more willing to give us money.

Rabbi Weiner asked the Board to decide if the request should be more structured or simply state the Library should get the money? Does it wish to

focus on any one area? Mrs. Merritt asked if the staff could furnish a list of areas for use of the money. Miss Radmacher will prepare the list and send to the members prior to September 8.

Rabbi Weiner asked for postponement of the question of insuring library directors against liability suits. Mr. Flintrup recommended Mr. Di Leonardi be consulted as to just how liable library directors are.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 p. m. on motion by Mrs. Hunter.



John Wozniak - Secretary