

March 13, 1963

The regular meeting of the Skokie Public Library Board of Trustees was held Wednesday evening, March 13, 1963, in the Conference Room of the Library. The following members were in attendance: L. O. Green, Mrs. W. C. Griffin, Mrs. Daniel Petty, Rabbi Karl Weiner, Louis Weingart, and Miss Mary Radmacher, Librarian. Also present. Mrs. M. Sarver for the purpose of recording the minutes.

The president, Mr. Green, presided.

The minutes of the February 13, 1963 meeting, which had previously been distributed, were approved as submitted.

The financial report of the general fund was accepted and placed on file upon motion made by Mr. Weingart and seconded by Mrs. Petty. All ayes.

The list of bills from the general fund, in the amount of \$12,217.33, as attached, was approved for payment upon motion made by Mrs. Griffin and seconded by Mr. Weingart. All ayes.

The financial report of the construction fund was accepted and placed on file upon motion made by Rabbi Weiner and seconded by Mrs. Petty. All ayes.

The circulation report was approved and ordered filed upon motion made by Mrs. Petty and seconded by Mrs. Griffin. All ayes.

Miss Radmacher advised the Board of a request she had received from Mr. Paul Box, Traffic Engineer for the Village of Skokie, for permission to prohibit parking in front of the Library. Following a discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that the benefits to be derived were so small compared to the hazards which would be encountered by those persons who would park on the other side of the street and cross over through moving traffic, that it would be wrong to deprive the public of parking in that area. Therefore, the space should not be forfeited. The Librarian was instructed to inform Mr. Box by letter, under Mr. Green's signature, of the decision.

A letter from Mr. A. Weinbrecht of the Tax Committee of the Skokie Homeowner's Council was reviewed at this time. The President will plan to attend the April meeting of this committee. A copy of the budget, pamphlets on personnel (range and comparison of salaries with other areas of employment and problems incidental to the hiring of competent personnel), and statement (by comparison with other communities) of amount spent on books, are to be put in readiness for Mr. Green's use at that meeting. When the budget is prepared the President would like to be advised so that a copy can be sent to Mr. Weinbrecht prior to the date of the meeting.

Pleasure was expressed by the members present on the Skokie Public Library receiving The First Honor Award in the first Library Building Award program designed to encourage excellence in the architectural design and planning of libraries sponsored by The American Institute of Architects, The American Library Association and The National Book Committee.

A sample of the labels to be attached to reference books was given to each member of the Board.

The brochure for distribution to teachers is nearing completion, Miss Radmacher told the Board. It contains vital points clearly stated in the hope that teachers will follow through on the suggestions. The front bears a guarantee label of satisfaction assured - if followed for one year.

The brochure to be prepared by Miss Radmacher for distribution to members of the PTA, will be broader in scope and will cover the responsibility of the public library as differentiated from the school library. If possible, Miss Radmacher will submit a rough copy at the next Board meeting.

National Library Week. Miss Radmacher reported she had received an answer from all but one superintendent in reply to her letter requesting a statement of their interest in arranging a one-hour visit to the Library during that week for fourth grade students. All replied were favorable. The program for this hour, as presently planned, would include a twenty-minute talk on "Art through Painting" by someone from the Art Institute; a twenty-minute talk by an illustrator on "Art through Books"; and a twenty-minute visit to Technical Processes Department.

Plans for the big program for the week are still indefinite.

Rabbi Weiner suggested that National Library Week celebration might include a coffee hour for the PTA, affording an opportunity, through informal discussion, to explain to parents the Library's procedures and policies. A further thought was added that PTA coffee hours did not have to be confined to National Library Week but could be scheduled at various times during the year. Since the PTA State Meeting will be held the latter part of National Library Week, the suggestion was made that it would be necessary to plan this hour for the preceding or following week. The recommendation was for a round table discussion with someone representative of the elementary, high school and school library, who is familiar with their problems and someone conversant with the area of responsibility of the public library. Miss Radmacher suggested that the new supervisor of school libraries in District 68, Miss Louise Anthony, from Alton, Illinois, would be excellent to represent the schools, and Dr. Herbert Goldhor, Assistant Director, University of Illinois Library, to speak for the public library. The Board recommended inviting both of them on a basis of paying for their time and expenses. The presence of Dr. Goldhor would relieve Miss Radmacher of participation in the discussion.

The Board directed Miss Radmacher to use such monies as necessary, from the appropriation originally stipulated to be for Mr. Erickson's use in connection with National Library Week, for expenses as incurred.

Suggestions for speakers for the big meeting for National Library Week were requested; also a decision to be made as to where the meeting would be held, - at the Library or elsewhere. Suggested speakers: Laura Fermi, Sidney Harris, Stuart Brent, Bruno Bettelheim, and Studs Terkel. Studs Terkel was the first choice and Stuart Brent second. The panel should include both reviewers and publishers. Miss Radmacher introduced the name of Harper Lee, author of To Kill a Mockingbird, as a speaker for the evening. The Board

concurred that the meeting should be held at the Library.

Miss Radmacher was requested to check with Mr. Erickson to see if he has any ideas not submitted and to ascertain if he is going to be free to handle the publicity. If he cannot, someone else must be found to do it. Martha Bennett King, who is handling publicity for the Art Institute was mentioned as a substitute. Mr. Green and Mrs. Petty agreed that Mrs. King should be asked if she would consider doing the job.

Mrs. Petty read a letter received by Mr. Weingart from Mrs. Rusty Kessler, which registered a complaint about the distribution of rental and free fiction. Mr. Green asked Miss Radmacher to prepare a letter of explanation in reply, which will bear his signature.

A copy of the proposed 1964-1965 budget was given to each member for his examination and study. Mention was made that a copy of the budget must be submitted to the Village of Skokie by May 1.

Miss Radmacher reported that she had met with Mr. Denning of the Skokie Valley Industrial Association Monday morning, March 11, 1963. He had supplied her with some current and projected figures.

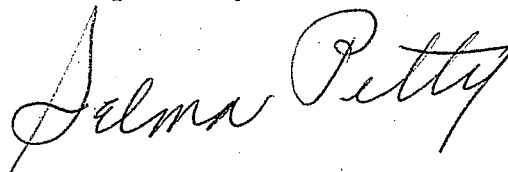
In a discussion regarding available property, suitable for a branch library, Mrs. Griffin suggested the Masonic property, located in the vicinity of Sharp Corner, near Old Orchard Junior High School. Two branch libraries are needed - one in the northeast and one in the northwest part of Skokie. Mr. Green stated that sometime this year a bond issue should be floated to cover the cost of the branch libraries. A suggestion was made that the property immediately adjacent to the Library, on the east, could be included.

Long range planning could include expansion of the main library by an addition on the property to the east.

It was agreed that Dr. Clyde Parker, Superintendent of Niles Township High Schools, should be invited to attend the April meeting.

Mr. Green adjourned the meeting at 9:20 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Selma Petty". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

Selma Petty, Secretary