

August 9, 1967

Minutes of the regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Skokie Public Library, held August 9, 1967 in the Conference Room of the Library at 7:40 p. m.

Members present: Mrs. W. C. Griffin, Mr. Howard Hummer, Mr. Donald Kraft, Mrs. Daniel Petty, and Rabbi Karl Weiner, Miss Mary Radmacher, Librarian.

Also present: Mrs. Milton Estes and Mrs. Verna Beaver, observers for the League of Women Voters.

Rabbi Karl Weiner, President of the Board, presided.

Minutes of the previous meeting held July 19, 1967, were approved after changing the statement that "a copy be sent to each member of the Citizens Advisory Committee and the League of Women Voters by first class mail" to "a copy be sent to each member of the Citizens Advisory Committee and the President of the League of Women Voters by first class mail." The motion was made by Mrs. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Kraft. All ayes.

Financial statements for the General Operating Budget and Reserve Fund for the Purchase of Sites and Buildings were accepted and approved on motion by Mrs. Petty seconded by Mrs. Griffin. All ayes.

Motion: That the lists of bills in the amounts of one thousand four hundred five dollars and eighty-one cents (\$1,405.81) and seven thousand eight hundred forty-two dollars and thirty-three cents (\$7,842.33) be approved for payment.

Policy regarding issuance of library cards was discussed. Requirement of borrower to present some identification showing a Skokie address is logical but sometimes exceptions must be made seemed to be general consensus of opinion.

The Circulation Report for the month of July, 1967 was accepted and ordered to be placed on file.

Mr. Hummer gave his report on Public Relations of the Library.

Rabbi Weiner's statement in regard to the land adjacent to the east side of the Library is attached hereto.

Mr. Hummer moved that we adopt the resolution to accept Rabbi Weiner's report in total. Mr. Kraft seconded the motion. All ayes.

Rabbi Weiner read a letter addressed to him from G. Raymond Jackson, Chairman of the Skokie Plan Commission. It was recommended that the invitation be declined at this time.

A discussion of the expansion plan followed with the decision, upon motion made by Mr. Hummer and seconded by Mrs. Griffin to have the architect, Mr. James W. Hammond, prepare alternate estimates for (1) to design and construct a library for present expansion needs and (2) to design and construct additional space, a large shell, which could be used by some art or cultural groups, until such time that the library services would require the space. All ayes.

Mr. Donald Kraft will serve as liaison when representation from the Skokie Public Library Board is needed on the Fine Arts Commission.

The survey to be made by Mr. Guy Garrison, Director of the Library Research Center at the University of Illinois should be completed six weeks before the referendum.

The meeting was adjourned on a motion made by Mrs. Petty.

Approved - Sept 13 - 1967

Selma Petty *Sec.*

Selma Petty *af* Secretary

The Library and the CBD Plan of August, 1967.

(1) On August 3, 1967, the Plan Commission of the Village of Skokie held a hearing on the "Comprehensive Plan, Report No. 1" dealing with "Downtown Skokie, A Proposal for Continued Growth." At that time I was called upon to make a statement for the Library Board. Not having anticipated this, I could only reiterate the stand we have taken in the past; namely, that our plans called for the use of the land between Village Hall and its parking lot, on one side, and our building expansion, on the other side, for nothing but an open, green area. I pointed out that we would consider the revival of the "Lincoln Ave. Extension" plan as injurious to the Skokie Public Library. According to it the library would become an island which is cut off from access on three sides: namely, the intended through traffic on Lincoln Avenue, Extension to the East, the same through traffic on Colston Street to the North, and Morton Grove to the West. (It is difficult, even, to visualize how our patrons other than those in walking distance, would travel to the library from the South).

(2) We need to be certain, in our own minds, that our objection is not to the total plan of the CBD (Central Business District), but only to that part which affects us, as outlined above. In fact, our intention to expand the library in our present location in Downtown Skokie is best proof of our faith in its future. Our objection, then, is not based on obstructionism, or on a legalistic tunnel vision that would make us see only our contract with the Village Government, without regard for the overall good. We are justified in our persistence, if our assumption is correct that access to the library by bicycle or by family car would be considered dangerous, and that the proposed pedestrian overpass would be difficult to negotiate, or even useless, for a large proportion of the

access of the library, because it would have to be too high and too steep in order to clear through traffic. Elderly people, handicapped people, mothers with young children, and everybody with fear of heights would be effectively cut off from getting from the village hall parking lot to the library. To put it succinctly: while Downtown Skokie is of great significance in the life of the Village, it is only a very small area of geographic Skokie. If a large portion of the citizens are disadvantaged by the CBD plan, then we are obligated to defend their interests, and to call for a modification of the CBD plan accordingly.

(3) If the above premise is correct, we are entitled to point out that the CBD plan had to make other compromises. Compromises even between the planner's ideal of separating through traffic and shopper traffic. Presumably, these compromises were in deference to existing realities and interests. The most obvious example is Oakton Street. The plan recognizing that Oakton Street is a major through street from Evanston through Downtown Skokie to areas 7 east; but the plan has no answer to this dilemma. The plan does not mention, at all, the traffic hazard and bottle neck at the Skokie Swift crossing on Oakton and Skokie Blvd, despite the fact that many potential shoppers will not, or will only reluctantly, come into Downtown Skokie from that direction. It appears that the CBD plan is primarily concerned with relief for Lincoln Avenue, and is uncompromising only here. The merchants on Oakton Street, apparently are to continue to put up with shopper traffic and through traffic being unseparated.

The Public Library of Skokie, with its 42,000 registered card holders and belonging to all of the taxpayers of Skokie, is convinced that the CBD interests and the interests of all the people of Skokie should not be in conflict. For the sake of our Village and for a freer, a safer and greater Downtown Skokie we request and a larger degree of flexibility by the planners towards a more universally beneficial plan.