

November 11, 1970

Minutes of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Skokie Public Library held November 11, 1970, at 8:30 p. m. in the Conference Room of the Library.

Members present: Howard V. Hummer, Mrs. Diane Hunter, Donald Kraft, Richard Lindberg, Mrs. Selma Petty, John Wozniak, and Rabbi Karl Weiner, Miss Mary Radmacher, Chief Librarian.

Also present: Mrs. Milton Estes, observer for the League of Women Voters and Mr. James W. Hammond, architect. Attorney Di Leonardi also attended.

Rabbi Weiner presided.

A correction was requested in the minutes of the previous meeting held October 14 to include the following discussion which should appear on page two as paragraph three.

Mrs. Hunter again expressed her concern about the provision for parking. Mr. Hammond replied the parking provided by the Library and the use of the Village parking lot will yield at least 168 spaces. Mention was made that parking close to the Library should not be used by the staff. Mr. Hammond also explained that a space of approximately 30 feet has been left from the curblineline to the building where it would be desirable to have a small green area around the building. This is important for a building of this consequence in the Village and from a standpoint of the visual setting. Mrs. Hunter stated she did not want parking to be the next "Achilles heel," and felt the Library could sacrifice aesthetics for more parking space. Rabbi Weiner stated the discussion was very legitimate since land is available now without the necessity of acquiring it and a decision must be made as to what use it should be put. He asked the Board to consider it once more and make a decision.

Also, on page 2 to become the third full paragraph: Mrs. Hunter asked the attorney to investigate the refund on property taxes paid to the County Treasurer but withheld by him in the same way that the Niles School District was able to recover funds through its attorney, Mr. Ancel.

Minutes were approved as corrected on motion by Mrs. Hunter seconded by Mrs. Petty. All ayes.

Mr. Hammond gave a brief report on the building program. He distributed a list of general contractors who have taken drawings and specifications for bidding. He mentioned that only one is a local contractor who is well recommended. Mr. Hammond mentioned that Mrs. Hunter had been extremely helpful in obtaining names and information concerning contractors. The architects are encouraged that the contractors appear anxious for work which may augur well for low prices. Optimism must, however, be guarded.

Mr. Hammond explained that the procedures outlined at the last meeting to take all possible steps to limit bidding lists have not been possible to follow due to Mr. Di Leonardi's advice after his final review of important specification documents. Mr. Di Leonardi has stated that the Board may refuse to award the contract to a low bidder whose qualifications do not reasonably suit the Board and its advisors' requirements. The architects stated that restrictive bidding procedures as initially set forth are followed by the State of Illinois and the Village of Skokie. Mr. Hammond explained that after extensive discussion and delineation of all the background reasons, it had to be concluded that the Board's lawyer's judgment must be final. Mr. Hammond went on to describe some of the detailed activities during the bidding period including practices relative to the issuing of drawings on deposit or for a nominal cost.

Mr. Hammond reported that Commonwealth Edison has, within the past ten days, indicated that it may modify its expressed intention concerning free electrical service. Current interpretations indicate that while using waste heat from lighting fixtures will be technically advantageous and economically favorable, the economics may not be as liberal as initially set forth. Mr. Hammond has brought this entire matter to the attention of Mr. Thomas Ayers, President of Commonwealth Edison, who has referred it to the Vice Presidents for their special review. Consulting engineers indicate that should Commonwealth Edison modify the rate structure it may be advisable to revise certain equipment now designed for electrical power to gas. He cautioned that no mention must be made of the use of the Library by the Fine Arts groups.

Rabbi Weiner asked about having Board members present December 1, at 2:00 p.m. Mr. Hammond said that there should be a quorum of the Board present and Attorney Di Leonardi should be there. The following members will endeavor to be present: Mrs. Hunter, Mr. Lindberg, Mrs. Petty, Dr. Wozniak and Rabbi Weiner.

Rabbi Weiner reported on a meeting with Mayor Smith at which Dr. Wozniak, Miss Radmacher, Mr. Kahn and the Village Manager were present. Dr. Wozniak was asked to sum up the results which were: The Mayor expressed complete cooperation in the following: (1) final agreement on \$43,150.05 as being the balance due on the property to the east; (2) on the matter of the Village reimbursing the Library for the December 9, 1969 election expense; (3) the Village will permit the Library to use the Village Green for contractors' equipment; and (4) the building permit money will be refunded. Mr. Matzer saw no difficulty or objection and has assured the Village the Library's beautification project will add to the Village Green. Also, the Village does not want the two-flat building at 5219 Oakton Street, so it will be up to the Library to demolish it. Mr. Hammond said because the Board asked him to include demolition as a separate item, he is getting a price on it.

Rabbi Weiner asked about progress on opening the alley to Park Avenue. Mr. Di Leonardi will continue his investigation of its use. Mr. Hammond told Mr. Di Leonardi they will be sending out an addendum in about a week and would like to include information on the alley to have everything as complete as possible.

Mrs. Hammond retired from the meeting.

Financial statements for the General Operating Fund, Reserve Fund for the Purchase of Sites and Buildings, Library Construction Fund and NSLS-CAP were approved on motion by Mr. Lindberg seconded by Dr. Wozniak. Motion carried.

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

Motion: That the lists of bills for the General Operating Fund in the amount of \$8,267.50; Library Construction Fund in the amount of \$29,331/85; and NSLS-CAP in the amount of \$1,031.87 be approved for payment.

Circulation report for the month of October, 1970 was accepted and ordered

placed on file.

The Librarian distributed a report comparing the Skokie - Evanston reciprocal borrowing project. Consensus was that it had not been publicized sufficiently in the Evanston area and Rabbi Weiner offered to call Mrs. Thorpe and see if she would use her influence in getting publicity. Dr. Wozniak suggested sending a letter to School Districts 65 and 202, asking them to announce it at school; also, to write to the Presbyterian Home and churches, asking them to make an announcement.

The Librarian announced the new bookmobile schedule would include stops at Nursing Homes in Skokie. The Board was highly in favor of this and Miss Radmacher said the ladies at the Nursing Homes were enthusiastic. Her plan is to take books with large type, ones with colored photographs, light reading, cookbooks and travel films. The bookmobile will visit homes on alternate weeks. It was suggested that the letter to the school districts should carry an announcement about the Drake and Emerson stop. The Librarian informed the Board that two stops were deleted from the bookmobile schedule, one at Niles Center Road and Conrad and the other at Estes and LeClaire.

Dr. Wozniak asked if the Library did anything for the Skokie Valley Community Hospital and was informed a collection had been set up there several years ago and was still functioning.

Mr. Hummer reported briefly on the NSLS stating that soon there will be a vacancy on the Board. Another important item was that the System had hired a public relations firm.

Miss Radmacher reporting on special activities announced an open house will be held for all faculty and administration of all the Skokie elementary schools. The calendar of events will continue to be the first page of the list of recent acquisitions.

Rabbi Weiner made the following statement, "As we all know we have been notified and tonight took note of it in an informal fashion, it is not surprising but a source of great satisfaction that our Chief Librarian, Miss Mary Radmacher, has been recognized by the Illinois Library Association and, at its Conference in Chicago, named as the Outstanding Librarian of the Year. Official announcement was made at

at the Friday night banquet. We have always known how outstanding she is and rejoice with her in her rejoicing in this honor which is so fully deserved. We are excited because of that and perhaps derive some satisfaction for ourselves since, when this honor is given to her, it reflects on our Library and what we know to be great. We have cause to be proud of our Library and the excellent and professional leadership our Librarian has given us."

Mrs. Petty expressed her pleasure that she was present when Miss Radmacher was designated as not only the Librarian of the Year but the Librarian of the Decade.

Mr. Di Leonardi reported on his efforts to investigate recovering of the refund on property taxes paid to the County Treasurer but withheld by him and said he spoke with Mr. Ancel who is the attorney for Niles Township School District who was able to persuade the County Treasurer to release what Mr. Ancel and others thought was an excessive amount withheld for tax obligations. They felt it was too high. He was able to get \$6,000,000 for the school and assured Mr. Di Leonardi the next step would be to obtain another large sum of money on behalf of cities and villages and that project is in the works and could be done without too much work. He is doing it gratuitously.

Meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m. on motion by Mrs. Petty.

Selma Petty Rec. Sec. -
Selma Petty - Secretary