

May 16, 1990

Minutes of the special meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Skokie Public Library held Wednesday, May 16, 1990, for the purpose of considering renovation and improvement of the Library building.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. by Diana Hunter, President.

Members present: Diana Hunter, President; Dr. John M. Wozniak, Vice President; Walter B. Flintrup, Secretary; Dr. Herman S. Bloch; Zelda Rich; Eva Weiner; Norma Zatz; and Carolyn A. Anthony, Director.

Observers present: Barbara A. Kozlowski, Associate Director for Public Services; Camille Cleland, Assistant Director for Technical Services and Automation Coordinator; Gary Newhouse, Head, Adult Services; Brenda Murphy, Head, Youth Services; Tobi Oberman, Supervisor of Circulation Services; and Hal Dickens, Page Supervisor, Adult Services.

Mrs. Hunter stated that the concept of space reallocation has been discussed for nearly two years by the Board and by the staff in a very comprehensive process. According to previous decision this meeting will be limited to two hours. Mrs. Hunter asked each Board member to voice an opinion, whether they have reached a conclusion on the project, in part, or as a whole, and that comments be limited to ten minutes.

Dr. Bloch began, noting that recently he has looked at the space utilization concept in terms of the effect the next ten years will have on the Library, the staff and the community. If the present percent of increase in circulation continues over the next ten years, by the year 2000 the Library's annual circulation will be over one million, additional staff will be needed to handle this volume, as well as additional space.

He suggests we move ahead since there is agreement among the Board that the Library needs to be recarpeted and that the circulation desk be renovated. Dr. Bloch made several suggestions projecting future needs of the community and library staff and how to accommodate those needs. For future long range planning, it may be advisable to consider an

addition of a third floor to the Library building and a parking deck. Financing as presented would not appear to be a problem.

Dr. Wozniak agreed we should not stand still and noted that throughout the history of the Library we have continued to move ahead, with computerization, office automation, improved microfilm machines and photocopiers, and telefacsimile equipment, etc.

Dr. Wozniak is in favor of building renovation with Youth Services Department remaining on the second floor.

Mrs. Weiner also sees the need for renovation and the reorganization of space within the Library. She favors whatever is best for the whole of the Library and also feels that service to adults should remain on the first floor.

Mrs. Zatz said she agrees with most of the things discussed, however, she is of the opinion that we can go into the next century without taking out walls.

Mr. Flintrup agrees that most of the problems we now have in the building have been precipitated by the many changes in technology and the changing needs of the community. He said the Board must continue to be concerned with the future of the Library and we will need to keep up with changes.

Our Library has enjoyed a prestigious reputation both in space and service; we should not lose either by standing still. He sees no gain in square footage in any of the renovation plans presented thus far. He favors a third floor addition to allow room for growth and the reallocation of present space within departments as necessary to improve functions with an eye towards future growth and development.

Mrs. Rich said the Library has maintained its reputation throughout the various internal changes within the building in the last five years and has continued good service. She agrees that the space presently allocated to Youth Services could be better utilized, and that the Board must plan for the future.

Mrs. Hunter said she remains concerned with the overall project and is extremely unresolved. She said that since we are not in a desperate situation we should move slowly and

prudently. Mrs. Hunter acknowledged there are things that need immediate attention in the Library and these should be improved.

After lengthy discussion Mrs. Hunter called for a recess at 8:45 p.m.

The meeting resumed at 8:50 p.m.

After further discussion Dr. Bloch made a motion, seconded by Mrs. Weiner:

MOTION: THAT THE SKOKIE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVE RENOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE LIBRARY BUILDING AS OUTLINED IN ONE OF THREE PLANS SUBMITTED BY ROBIN A. JOHNSON, ASSOCIATE, HAMMOND, BEEBY AND BABKA, INC., IN HER MEMORANDUM OF MAY 7, 1990 TO CAROLYN A. ANTHONY, OR A MODIFICATION THEREOF ACCEPTABLE TO THE BOARD. THE TOTAL RENOVATION AND IMPROVEMENT TO COST APPROXIMATELY \$1,000,000., PLUS OR MINUS 15%.

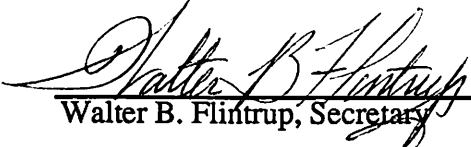
The roll was called. Dr. Wozniak--yes; Mrs. Zatz--no; Mrs. Rich--yes; Dr. Bloch--yes; Mrs. Weiner--yes; Mr. Flintrup--yes; Mrs. Hunter--yes. The motion passed.

Three Board members commented that the Youth Services Department should remain on the second floor. Mrs. Hunter suggested audio visual services be relocated to the second floor utilizing and rearranging under-used space.

Dr. Bloch suggested each Board member submit a wish list noting concerns and ideas and if particular functions appear to be better suited in a specific area this should be noted.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:20 p.m.


Walter B. Flintrup, Secretary