

Minutes

Finance and Properties Committee

October 19, 1982

The meeting was convened at 4:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Library. Present were Mr. Marshall, Chairman, Mrs. Rossiter, and Mrs. Moore, ex officio. Also present were Mr. Dumas, City Librarian, Mr. Plotzke, Executive Director of the Rolling Prairies Library System and his assistant, Mr. Johnson.

Mr. Marshall opened the meeting by remarking that the purpose of the meeting was to discuss shared maintenance costs for the new upgraded computer but first he would appreciate, as a matter of information, being briefed on the status of the upgrade. Mr. Johnson responded, noting that the system had been down for two weeks and that the installation of the new computer had not proceeded well because of a number of unrelated problems rather than one large problem. Some of the problems related to the company sending a controller that was mismatched with the disc drives, to parts being received in broken condition, and to an unexplained power surge that blew out several control boards.

In moving to the question of maintenance sharing the general basis of shared costs was discussed, the initial proposal of RPL that maintenance be based on circulation was noted, and then discussion centered on the proposal that maintenance costs be shared on the basis of ratio of ports each library had in use. RPL has proposed that this ratio be based on the total number of ports in use (21) rather than the total number of ports available (32). The equity of this proposal was discussed and the question raised whether DPL and other libraries assuming the primary burden for unused ports did not relieve RPL of a sense of urgency in the assignment of these ports. Mr. Plotzke felt that assignment of the ports rested with the question of a library needing them rather than with the desire of RPL to "sell" them. Mr. Marshall inquired into the long-term plans of RPL to use the ports and whether, in return for DPL assuming a larger share of the maintenance cost, a number of ports might be reserved to the use of DPL. Mr. Dumas noted that if the Library should proceed to an electronic catalog that a minimum of eleven ports would be needed to support that program. In addition there is an immediate need for two more ports to service terminals for Extension Dept. and the Children's Dept. This makes a total of thirteen ports. The computer has 32 ports activated and can be augmented to a total of 48 in racks of eight at a cost of \$10,000 per rack. There are eleven available unassigned ports at present. According to Mr. Johnson, perhaps four or five will be needed by other libraries in the system. It was suggested that of the eleven currently available ports that five be reserved to Decatur and of the sixteen port remaining potential that one rack be reserved for activation by DPL if and when it proceeds to public access terminals for catalogs. Mr. Plotzke indicated his general agreement and would draw up some proposals that would serve as a basis for future discussions with the Committee. The meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

