

Finance & Properties Committee Meeting

May 10, 1989 4:00 p.m.

Mr. Akin called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. Members present: Mr. Akin, Mr. Gaumer, Mr. Lockmiller, Mrs. Ohlsen, Mr. Sorensen, Mrs. Lutovsky, and Mrs. Shade. Staff present: Mr. Seidl and Mrs. Gibson. Citizen present: Claudia Quigg.

Mr. Akin explained that the committee would discuss a request to fund the Baby TALK lapsit program. Mrs. Lutovsky explained that Baby TALK was started in Decatur and that DPL sponsored the program in 1987/88 through a \$35,000 LSCA grant. Rolling Prairie Library System is currently sponsoring the program, also through an LSCA grant. However, all LSCA funding for Baby TALK will end in July 1989.

Baby TALK assistants visit new mothers in area hospitals and explain the importance of talking to infants. A boardbook is presented to each child and the mother and child are invited to quarterly programs at the library. The lapsit program for which funds are being requested is for children 13 months and older. Parents are encouraged to return to the library for special programs (twice a month). These visits encourage parents to talk to their children and to use library resources.

A similar program is also done at the library with the Visiting Nurse Association for low income parents and families at risk.

These two programs directly benefit the library and are held at Decatur Public Library. In addition, all of the Baby TALK publicity sent locally and nationally includes a statement that Decatur Public Library is a major supporter of the program.

The committee reviewed the 1989/90 budget and recommended that \$1,500 be taken from the contingency line item to support the Baby TALK lapsit program.

Mr. Seidl informed the committee that he is working with the City to purchase the computer equipment listed in the 1989-90 budget. The Library has joined the City in the past to benefit from the larger group purchasing power.

There was no further business. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,