

DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY
Decatur, Illinois

Minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting, July 27, 1962

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Decatur Public Library was held in the Board Room of the Main Library, 457 North Main Street, July 27, 1962 at 3:45 P.M.

Members Present:

Mr. Jack Burnett, President	Mrs. Erich Stern
Mr. David Pilcher	Mrs. Harold Pogue
Mr. Francis Hart, Vice President	Mr. James Sommer

Members Absent:

Mr. Harold Koslofski
Mr. John Cheeks

Others Present:

Mrs. Mary Howe, Secretary-Librarian
Mr. John Sweetnam
Mr. Robert Kirchgraber-Assistant Librarian
Miss Sandra Salenski-Reporter Herald
Mrs. Susan Arisman, Staff Member

Mr. Hart called the meeting to order at 4:30 P.M., and presided until Mr. Burnett came.

The Properties Committee report was made by Mr. Hart, Chairman. Bookmobile II was being painted and Bookmobile II was used to cover B2 stops.

The Public Schools requested the use of B3 at Lakeview High School until the school library was completed. After much discussion Mr. Pilcher moved to authorize the Properties Committee work out the problems involved. Mrs. Stern seconded the motion. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Hart reported the progress made on painting and repairs. The hand rail is on order for the back stairs and the painters are working on the window sills.

The grass at Dill Branch is being mowed. Bids for the black topping will be opened August 6, 1962. Action has already been taken by the Board.

The insurance company of the man who hit the station wagon, has refused to pay the costs. All information is in Mr. Merris' hands, but we haven't heard from him. The library insurance company will pay all costs except the \$100 deductible. Mr. Burnett suggested turning this over to Sanks Insurance and go ahead with the repairs. Mr. Pilcher moved to pay the \$100 deductible and go ahead with the repairs but try to recover the \$100 from the other insurance company. Mr. Sommer seconded the motion. Roll call was taken: Mr. Burnett, Mr. Pilcher, Mr. Hart, Mrs. Stern, Mr. Sommer and Mrs Pogue voted aye. Motion carried.

Mr. John Sweetnam, architect, reported on the plans for the Main Library.

His letter concerning the present building was read into the minutes. The building is 59 years old. The older the building and the materials in it, the more in the way of repairs and replacements will be required. The area at present is only about $\frac{1}{2}$ of what it should be according to areas of other cities of like size. Additional building could be done in two stages by building a wing to the south over the top of the present city parking lot with in the next 5-6 years with the idea that this would be the first step in a program for a new building.

Mrs. Howe said the second addition could be built on the north with additional parking space. The service area would start on the second floor with the stack areas in the middle. If the Board approves this plan, we would then present it to the City Council.

Mr. Sommer asked for a drawing by John Sweetnam that would show the building facts a little clearer than the long hand notes.

Mrs. Howe said we have to be sure to copy the right Illinois Statute that pertains to cities and villages under 500,000 population. She questioned whether to ask for .08 or .0833 tax rate, but felt that .0833 was a good basis to start with. Mr. Hart said \$200,000 could be raised each year if .0833 was used. The Library could be completed in 6 years from the date of the first levy.

Mr. Burnett asked if it would take 6 years? Mr. Hart said it would take 6 years to complete the financing. Mr. Sommer said the south wing could be started then by the time it is completed construction could begin on the center section. Mr. Burnett said that after 6 years, we might have only 75% of what it will take to complete the building especially with building costs going up all the time. Mr. Sommer said they had talked about that. The increased valuation would more or less offset inflation. The property value would go up.

Mr. Burnett asked if we could say that we are raising this much rate rather than so many dollars. You have to appropriate funds and then you levy a tax to raise the funds.

After much discussion, it was decided to have the Properties Committee meet with Corporation Counsel, Byron Merris, and bring more facts to the Board Meeting. Mr. Hart asked permission to proceed with the study. It was agreed to go ahead.

Mr. Burnett asked for a patron count and additional facts for the September Board meeting unless a special meeting is called for August.

The Finance Committee report was made by Mr. Pilcher who had checked all of the bills. Mr. Pilcher moved the bills for July be paid.

Salaries	\$ 15,333.20
Janitors Salary	<u>348.33</u>
Total Salaries	\$ 15,681.53
Operating Expenses	<u>7,162.68</u>
TOTAL	\$ 22,844.21

Mr. Hart seconded the motion. Roll call was taken: Mr. Burnett, Mr. Hart, Mrs. Pogue, Mr. Pilcher, Mrs. Stern and Mr. Sommer voted aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Pilcher made the motion to give the Finance Committee authority to approve the bills for August subject to the September Board Meeting.

Mrs. Stern seconded the motion. Roll call was taken. Mr. Burnett, Mr. Hart Mrs. Pogue, Mr. Pilcher, Mrs. Stern and Mr. Sommer voted aye. Motion carried.

The minutes of the meeting for June 29, 1962 and July 19, 1962 were approved as received.

Mr. Burnett congratulated the Board for making a quick decision in regard to the increase in pay for the staff to bring them in line with their classification.

The members of the Board asked for the full program at the University of Chicago be sent to them. The Board agreed to process city bills and have Mrs. Weidner, supervisor of Data Processing, compensated for her overtime by asking the City to pay the same rate as she is now receiving from the Library.

Mr. Hart reported that he and Mrs. Howe would speak before the American Business Men's Club August 7, 1962 in the Elks Club.

Mr. Pilcher moved the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Hart seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Mary T. Howe,
Secretary.