

Decatur Public Library
Decatur, Illinois

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING, FEBRUARY 28, 1964

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, Decatur, Illinois, February 28, 1964.

Members Present:

Mr. Hart
Mr. Burnett
Mr. Sappington
Mrs. Pogue

Mr. Pilcher
Mr. Koslofski
Mrs. Stern
Mrs. Nelson

Members Absent:

Mrs. Russell

Others Present:

Mrs. Hansen
Mrs. Edith McNabb
Mrs. Howe
Mr. Rex Spires

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 PM by Mr. Francis Hart, president.

The minutes of the January 31, 1964 meeting were considered. Mr. Burnett moved the minutes be accepted as mailed. Mr. Sappington seconded the motion. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Burnett reported the Finance Committee met on February 26, 1964 and examined the bills presented for payment. He moved the bills for February be approved for payment. Mrs. Stern seconded the motion. Roll call was taken. Mr. Hart, Mr. Burnett, Mr. Koslofski, Mr. Sappington, Mrs. Stern, Mrs. Pogue, and Mrs. Nelson voted aye. Motion carried.

February bills presented for payment:

Salaries.....	\$16,163.99
Operating Exp.	<u>5,108.24</u>
Total	\$21,272.23

The librarian gave the report for February. She noted the year-to-date increase in circulation over last year was 18,000 books. She called attention to the new Decatur Reads in which Mrs. Erika Schedel's exhibit was listed. At the request of Mr. Hart she secured verifaxed copies of the article on Vandalism of library books which was published in the January 1964 issue of Reader's Digest. Several examples of mutilated books in the Decatur Public Library were shown.

A general discussion of vandalism and the need for an ordinance to recover books overdue and recover damages for mutilated books was held. It was pointed out that the policy committee had been trying to secure such an ordinance for several years. The librarian was instructed to secure reprints of the Reader's Digest article and help the policy committee draw up an ordinance to be sent to the City Council.

Mrs. Howe showed examples of published writings from former members of the Creative Writer's group.

Mr. Burnett presented the matter of the 1964/65 budget and reported the Finance Committee had decided we would submit the budget as originally passed. Mrs. Howe said there was a possibility of receiving other funds to make up the total amount

asked: \$310,278. She said Mr. Dever complimented Mr. Sappington and Mr. Pilcher on the budget presentation at the City Council meeting.

The librarian reported no books had been ordered since December 1963 and about \$8,000 worth of orders were waiting to be placed May 1st. The \$10,000 unexpended book funds were needed to cover operating expenses.

A discussion was held on the possibility of cutting services if the full amount of the budget was not given in the new appropriation. Mr. Pilcher thought we should just stretch the budget and not cut services. Mr. Burnett pointed out the increased costs today over 3, 5, 10 years ago and yet the budget had been reduced. This increased appropriation the library is asking is the only way we can ever get the levy up. He further pointed to the fact the City Council could appropriate the money if we can raise the additional amount from other sources. The City Council must give us permission to spend it. The library may have up to 2 mils tax levy. Mr. Pilcher said that what we have to do we will have to do but not out of spite.

Mr. Hart noted the Library Services Act was signed and we must be prepared to go out with "hat in hand". March 21, 1964 the Washington officials will meet with the State Library officials and instruct them as to how the new Library Services and Construction Act will be implemented.

Mrs. Nelson reported she had turned over a request to the League of Women Voters to have the library studied during 1964/65. Mrs. Edith McNabb's plan for a Library Committee was approved by the Policy Committee and the Committee recommended the Board approve the formation of this citizen's group. Mr. Sappington seconded the motion. The original organization of such a committee was given to Mrs. McNabb. All members of the Board present voted aye. Motion carried.

Mrs. Howe noted that Mrs. McNabb should be commended for the expert way she was able to prepare the tape for WSOY's Decatur Reads. It took her four hours to splice the tape for five weeks of broadcasts.

Mrs. Stern asked to defer the report of the Personnel Committee.

Mr. Pilcher reported the head of Decatur Window Cleaners met with Mrs. Howe and himself and found the Library is getting a real good deal. The service comes to under \$2 an hour including supplies. He also said Mr. Ball would like another \$500 for doing the same thing next year. We have a verbal contract for \$10,000 per year and the Cleaners are willing to do the same next year. Mr. Pilcher said there was no question in his mind but that the Cleaners should have the additional amount if the money was available. He said he would see Mr. Ball unofficially and tell him unless there is a change in what he reads in the paper there will be no money.

Mr. Sappington moved adjournment at 5:40 PM. Mr. Pilcher seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned. An informal meeting followed.

Mrs. Stern, chairman of the Personnel Committee reported on the subject of Mr. Kirchgraber's continuance in the position of assistant librarian. After discussion by the Board members it was agreed that Mr. Hart should talk with Mr. Kirchgraber and possibly arrange for him to meet with the Board.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Howe
Secretary