

DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY
Decatur, Illinois

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING, MARCH 29, 1963

The regular meeting of the Board of Directors of the Decatur Public Library was held in Board Room of the Main Library, 457 North Main Street, Decatur, Illinois, March 29, 1963.

Members present:

Mr. Jack Burnett, president
Mr. Francis Hart, vice-president
Mr. W.A. Sappington
Mrs. Roger Pogue
Mrs. Dwight Nelson
Mrs. Erich Stern
Mr. Harold Koslofski

Members absent:

Mr. John Cheeks
Mr. David Pilcher

Other Members present:

Mrs. Mary T. Howe, Secretary
Mr. Ralph Sanders, newspaper reporter
Mrs. Judi Hansen, staff member
Mr. Robert Kirchgraber, assistant librarian

Mr. Jack Burnett called the meeting to order at 4:15 PM. Mrs. Howe read the minutes for the February 23rd meeting. There were no additions or corrections. The minutes were approved as read.

Mr. Harold Koslofski, chairman of the Finance Committee gave the report of the meeting held March 28th to check the bills for March. He moved the bills for March be paid. Mr. Hart seconded the motion. Roll call was taken. Mr. Burnett, Mr. Sappington, Mrs. Stern, Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Pogue, Mr. Hart, and Mr. Koslofski voted aye. No abstentions or noes were recorded. Motion carried. *

The Librarian reported on the financial picture. She said the levy for 1962/63 was for \$247,000, and the appropriation was for \$271,000. The difference had to be collected from fines, fees, and the balance on hand May 1, 1962. There will be a very small cash balance at the end of the present fiscal year. The April Board meeting will include a motion to give authority to the Finance Committee to approve bills that come in on the last few days of the fiscal year.

Mr. Hart moved the authorization of Murphy, Jenne & Jones to do the audit for 1962/63. Mrs. Nelson seconded the motion. All present voted aye. Motion was carried.

Mr. Hart, chairman of the Properties Committee, reported no meeting held during March. However, he requested consideration of the Main Library building problem. In view of the fact that Dr. Herbert Goldhor has made his survey, even though we do not have our legal advice, he thought the Board had progressed to the point where it should pass a resolution regarding our intention toward a new Main Library.

* Bills for March 1963:
Staff salaries\$15,028.20
Operating Expenses..... 7,581.15
Total Expenditures\$22,609.35

Mr. Burnett requested a discussion of the proposal. He reported that as chairman of the ~~Library sub-committee of the~~ Association of Commerce, Education Committee, he made a report on our plans. The committee was quite receptive and there have been some good reactions from the meeting. It is hoped that the Association of Commerce will back the Board when it goes into the building program on a formal basis. Other organizations may be approached to back the library such as the League of Women Voters and the unions.

It was observed that the library board has not gone on record as being in favor of the building program.

Mrs. Nelson said the League of Women Voters would have their annual meeting next week at which time the agenda is set for the next year. They might be willing to support a study group because of the amount of money involved. She cautioned the League might not come out in favor of the building project.

Mr. Hart said, "The Properties Committee recommends to the Board that it pass a resolution that the Board is in favor of a new Main Library building. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Pogue. All members present voted aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Burnett proposed the following resolution: "BE IT RESOLVED WHEREAS: The Board of Directors of the Decatur Public Library, having considered and investigated the need for a new ~~Main~~ Library building and other facilities, and having considered the need to be evident; HEREBY RESOLVE that the Board immediately begin all necessary action to procure such library building and facilities.

The motion to accept this resolution was made by Mr. Hart and seconded by Mrs. Stern. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Mr. Hart reported on the report from Dr. Goldhor. He said Mrs. Howe and Dr. Goldhor talked about the report on the telephone today. Twenty-five copies are being forwarded to the Board. His summary paragraph reads as follows: "Assuming that the Board of Directors is interested in giving the community good library service, a more nearly adequate building is needed now. This need will become ever more pressing in the next 10 to 15 years. Of the various alternative lines of action open to the Board, the one which is clearly indicated is to erect a new building on the present site. The investment will pay off in 20 years."

The Board members discussed the building program and the various alternatives open to them. Mr. Burnett said most of these details had not been settled and the matter of site, type of building, etc. is still open.

Mr. Hart explained that he was a member of a speech class at the company and as such had made a talk on the library's building needs. He used slides from the American Library Association and the Decatur Public Library. He asked permission to give this same talk at various club meetings. A copy of the talk was passed around to the Board Members to read.

Mr. Burnett thought this was an excellent idea. He said we used this talk in essence at the Association of Commerce meeting. Clubs should ~~contacted~~ be contacted early for inclusion in their next year's program.

A letter from Mr. deLafayette Reid, assistant state librarian was read. He was urging support of two pieces of library legislation and said he hoped to have all statutes concerning public libraries brought together under one chapter.

Mrs. Howe gave the Librarian's report. She said Mr. Rodgers, father of Mrs. Mary K. Weidner, supervisor of Data Processing, has identified and sorted the glass negatives and prints bequeathed to the Public Library by Mr. Wasson. We hope to have these indexed and ready for use during the summer. This was a generous contribution by Mr. Rodgers and gave him a great deal of pleasure. He should have our thanks.

On April 11, Professor Wm. B. Hesseltine from the University of Wisconsin, the last professor in the country who really knows Lincoln and Civil War history, will be in town for a dinner meeting of the Civil War Round Table and the Friends of the Library. The meeting begins with a social hour at 6 PM. Cost of meal is \$4.00.

The International Fair is "winding up to a grand and glorious finale. The committee met with representatives of 17 countries last night and concluded the final arrangements. The program will be held April 24th in the Masonic Temple, large dining room. It will start at 1 o'clock and continue until 10 PM.

The library honored Miss Frances Priddy at a reception on March 25, 1963. She talked to about 100 high school students in the Boyd Room. This was the publication date for her sixth book: Challenge for Angel.

The Decatur Social Studies Council met in the library, on Wednesday. The librarian explained the resources of the library and showed a film, City of Gold. There were 26 teachers and librarians present.

An experimental program is being tried for the Magic Carpet Room. Some complaints received objected to the noon hour closing. Therefore Miss Yamamoto and the 1st office are trying to keep the room open during the lunch period. The only time it is used at noon-time is on Saturday. This is only an experiment.

Mr. Burnett asked Mrs. Howe to write a letter to Mr. Sommer thanking him for his help on the Board and say we are sorry he is in ill health.

Mr. William B. Sappington was welcomed as a new member of the Board. He replaced Mr. Sommer who resigned because of ill health.

Mrs. Nelson moved adjournment. Mrs. Stern seconded the motion. Meeting was adjourned at 5:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Howe
Secretary