

DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY
Decatur, Illinois

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
November 30, 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, November 30, 1962.

Members Present:

Mr. Jack Burnett, President
Mr. John Cheeks
Mr. Harold Koslofski
Mrs. Dwight Nelson
Mr. David Pilcher
Mrs. Erich Stern

Members Absent:

Mr. Francis Hart, Vice-President
Mr. James Sommer
Mrs. Roger Pogue

Others Present:

Mr. Icen, Herald reporter
Mr. Miller Board, Ill.State Library
Mrs. Mary T. Howe, Lib-Sec.
Mr. Robert Kirchgraber, Asst. Lib.
Miss Marjorie Stafford, Chief, Tech.Pro.

The Minutes of the October 30, 1962 Board Meeting was approved with one correction - "Mr. Burnett came in later and assumed the chair for the meeting".

The Finance Committee report was given by Mr. Koslofski, Chairman. The committee met on Tuesday, November 27th and checked the November bills. Mr. Koslofski moved payment of the bills. Mrs. Stern seconded the motion. Roll was taken. Mr. Burnett, Mr. Koslofski, Mr. Cheeks, Mrs. Stern, Mrs. Nelson and Mr. Pilcher voted aye. Motion carried.

Bills for November 1962:

Staff Salaries	\$14,859.68	
Janitor's Salary	348.33	
Total Salaries		\$15,208.01
Operating Expense		5,889.82
TOTAL BILLS		\$21,097.83

The recommendation for a \$7,000 increase in the salary budget was discussed. It was explained this was the only increase in the 1963/64 budget but the 1964/65 budget would have recommendations for increases in various items.

Mrs. Howe explained that as book prices have increased the book budget has been decreased so over the last three years we are 30% short. The budget for 1963/64 is set; therefore, we have put in a \$12,000 increase in the Book item for 1964/65.

The members discussed the 10% increase in the 402 account and questioned whether this was an adequate increase. The salary increase for the professional was discussed and interest was evidenced that merit increases should be considered that are not covered by the Civil Service payroll schedule.

Mrs. Howe promised the cost figures and a breakdown in the budget figures.

It was recognized there would be no December meeting but a study session in the early part of January would be profitable. A dinner meeting was scheduled for January 4, 1963 in the Decatur Club.

The Annual Audit will begin next Wednesday. Murphy, Jenne and Jones will do it. A request was made to give the Finance Committee power to approve the December bills in lieu of a December Board Meeting. Formal approval should be given at the January meeting. Mr. Cheeks moved the request and Mr. Pilcher seconded the motion. The Finance Committee will be called for December 19 or 20. Mrs. Goff will page the members.

Miss Marjorie Stafford, Chief of Technical Processes reviewed nine new books for the members present - Vance Packard, "The Pyramid Climbers"; Jean Renoir, "Renoir, My Father"; Patrick Dennis, "Genius"; "We Seven"; James Thurber, "Credos and Curios"; Brooke Astor, "Patchwork Child"; G. Hatji, "Design for Modern Living"; Paul Gallico, "Coronation"; Lillian Smith, "Memory of a Large Christmas".

The Properties Committee has been working on the assignment and Mr. Hart, Chairman visited South Shores with Mr. Irwin, City Planner.

Nancy William's speech was given by a tape recording. This was made at a speech class recently.

Mr. Miller Boord from the Illinois State Library was introduced to the Board members. He expressed interest in the way the Board operates. It was the first time he had seen books discussed. He also observed the excellent way we prepared books for circulation.

Mr. Boord began discussing multi-county library service. He was uncertain whether we meant a district tax area or giving library service from a central point. State regional libraries have nothing to do with a district library. There are four regional libraries with a fifth one being considered for Eastern, Illinois. The State Library has found that the State University towns have a special appeal to their areas. Their cultural appeal and facilities have brought the library program into focus.

Mr. Burnett asked if there was any other way in which Decatur Public Library could possibly be of service to the small libraries in Macon County.

Mr. Boord explained about the Library Development program being set up by the Illinois Library Association to begin operation in 1963. He expressed the opinion that one proposal that might emerge would be a state aid program. The Federal Library Service Act may be expanded to include schools, universities, public libraries and all types of libraries may be developed.

Another question asked was whether any area in the country or state has a central community and surrounding area cooperation whereby better use is made of the tax dollar.

The New York, Missouri, and Ohio plans were cited. Some areas get together without outside funds. Contractual services are permissible by law. After the next legislature meets, it may be possible to have a federation of libraries. "The way the law is set up now all of the libraries would have to belong to a taxing district and you may go five counties for a multi-county set up.

The thing that has not been favorable to that in Illinois is the fact that we already have little individual libraries that are very happy with the the fact they are a library, although, they can't have the advantages - they don't mind".

Mr. Burnett said we are trying to^{do} the best job we can for everybody at the lowest possible cost. The trend in other states has been to larger libraries having a wider area. Dr. Goldhor suggested we investigate this.

Action has to be taken by a strong local committee. Elgin is working with Milwaukee; however, they do not want to be a branch library and lose their identity. Lake County, Indiana has a cooperative federation. There was a four county unit - Washington, Clinton, Monroe, and St. Clair set up to do this with a federal grant. The way the law reads now, the rural areas have to vote separately from the urban areas. Although, some would be very happy and vote for it, the rural areas would not.

Mr. Burnett emphasized the Board had in mind any way we could give service and books to more people for less money. He said Mrs. Pogue was very interested in regional plans but she was unable to be present today.

Mr. Cheeks reported the Personnel Committee is still working on their assignment.

The staff invited the Board of Director's and their children to the Christmas party Saturday evening. There will be dessert and everyone will decorate the library.

Mrs. Howe reported the Girl Scout volunteers would give the library 30 hours a piece to shelve books.

Mr. Burnett asked the Board members to attend the Mayor's Town Meeting in January. After the general assembly the crowd will break up into 10 seminars for the different city agencies. Everyone will receive the details later.

Jack Burnett will chair a sub-committee on libraries from the Education Committee of the Association of Commerce. A report will be made in March 1963. By that time we hope to have some plans to solidify our capital improvements. John Cheeks, Lloyd Latendresse, Mrs. Henry Staley, and Mr. Arvid Engdale are on the committee.

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary T. Howe,
Secretary