

Board of Trustees
January 29, 1954

The regular meeting of the Board was called to order at 4:00 p.m..

Members present: Mr. Hull, presiding; Mrs. Ridgley, Messrs. Blackford, Felts, Gore, Rollins and Schroeder.

Rodney Spangler of Harris Associates was present to discuss air-conditioning the main building.

Mr. Spangler said he had talked the previous day with an air-conditioning specialist from Peoria who had agreed with him that the plan as submitted by the Crum Distributing Company (window units) was, to be sure, the cheapest system to install, but was the most unsatisfactory. Window units would take care of the two offices but on days where they were most needed they would probably cool only about two-thirds of such areas as the Young Adult Room, Adult Reading Room and the Magic Carpet. It is questionable whether there would be any advantage gained in the charging area, and it would have no effect on the stacks.

Mr. Rollins observed that the Mississippi Valley Building used window units, and had found them entirely satisfactory. It was Mr. Spangler's opinion that their building was not nearly so large as ours; also he felt quite sure they had some ceiling ducts.

There are two other air-conditioning systems, Mr. Spangler explained, one, the central duct system is very expensive and practically impossible to use here without tearing the building completely apart. The other is the package unit of three, five and seven ton units. He thought 18½ tons of units at maybe \$600. a ton would be of minimum effectiveness here. A cooling tower would be necessary. Water ducts would have to be exposed but he thought these could be installed in such a way as not to be too ugly.

Mr. Hull asked him if we should have an expert from the engineering field survey the building. Mr. Spangler recommended this - someone not connected with actually selling the equipment. A competent engineer could make a survey at an hourly cost which would not be too expensive. Then if the project were continued, the engineer and the architect would expect to receive the assignment on a fee basis.

Mr. Hull asked him if he could give the Board a wild guess as to the cost. Mr. Spangler said that was impossible but if the Board were really serious he could have the figures reasonably soon.

The members agreed that he should make a pre-survey of the building and report back in two weeks, giving an estimate of what an actual survey will cost. His report is to be made to a committee and the Librarian who are authorized to proceed with the actual survey if the price is reasonable. Later in the meeting Mr. Hull appointed Mr. Blackford, Mr. Schroeder and Mrs. Gage to this Committee.

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Mr. Spangler left the meeting at this point.

The motion was made by Mr. Blackford, seconded by Mr. Rollins and unanimously passed that the reading of the December 2nd minutes be omitted.

The motion was made by Mr. Schroeder and seconded by Mrs. Ridgley that January bills for maintenance totaling \$3224.97 and salaries totaling \$5341.11 be paid and those for December (maintenance \$363.86 and salaries \$5443.58) be approved. Roll call, all voted "aye".

The Librarian reported that Mr. Threlfall spent most of the day January 11th examining the building and the plans but that she had received no word from him since that date - also that Mrs. Threlfall had told her he was not well enough to have the responsibility of supervising the outside work.

After discussion the motion was made by Mr. Blackford, seconded by Mr. Schroeder and unanimously passed that Mr. Rollins explain to Mr. Threlfall that the Board is investigating air-conditioning and think it better to drop immediate plans for outside renovations.

The motion was made by Mr. Rollins, seconded by Mr. Felts and unanimously passed that Mr. Spangler be authorized to prepare a plan for necessary maintenance of the outside of the building including all interior areas such as window frames that affect the exterior and to prepare specifications for bidders.

The Librarian reported that Mr. Frank Schroeder, Manager of W.D.Z., had asked her for permission to sell The Book Peddler to a commercial sponsor.

After discussion the Board resolved that there was no objection from the Trustees to the Librarian appearing on commercially sponsored T.V. and radio programs although they would prefer that she appear as an individual with the title "Librarian" and not as the Librarian of the Decatur Public Library. The Board assumes that such commercial sponsors would be "dignity" institutions. *

The Librarian asked for permission to notify the McNaughton Lending Library Corporation that we would be willing to accept less than one fourth of the proceeds from our rental collection. She explained that the rental collection was not as profitable to McNaughton as it should be and that she was apprehensive lest he withdraw it. The motion was made by Mr. Felts, seconded by Mr. Schroeder and unanimously passed that the Librarian bargain with McNaughton's for a fee that would keep the rental collection here.

The members agreed that the Librarian should go to the A.L.A. Midwinter Convention in Chicago February 1 to 6.

It was reported that Mrs. Lucile Carroll had accepted the position of Assistant Librarian and would come on duty April 1st, that Miss Martin had been granted a six month leave of absence beginning January 1st because of her mother's serious illness, that Miss Fox had resigned as Young Adult Librarian, her resignation to become effective March 1st and that Mrs. Dorthia Turnbo had come on duty January 4th as a clerk.

** The members pointed out that this resolution referred only to the Librarian. Activities of this nature by other staff members are to be discussed as they come up*

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The Librarian reported that the Library had completed payments to the Herald-Review Newspapers for the microfilming project begun October 26, 1945.

Respectfully submitted,

Muriel E. Perry
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Secretary