DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY
Decatur, Illinois

Special Meeting to Discuss the Parking Lot With
The City Council, March 9, 1960

Members present: Mr. Madden, Mrs. Moothart, Mr. Cheeks, Mrs. Greider, Mr. Felts, Mr. Morey, Mr. Koslofski, Mayor Grohne, Mr. Colburn, Mr. Kopetz, Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Merris, and Mr. Dever. Mrs. Howe, Mrs. Goff, Mrs. McNabb, Mrs. Appelt, and Mr. Puhek were also present.

Mr. Madden talked with members of the Library Board of Directors before lunch in the Boyd Room of the Main Library. The proposed parking lot was considered and the plot examined and questioned. A petition from the Library employees was read protesting the public parking lot on the library lawn and the entrance which had been suggested by the City Council.

Pressures on the library were suggested by Mr. Felts that we need parking. "We do not need beautiful trees and views. It would be different if the library were located in the country where we could appreciate those things "

Other points considered before the City Council arrived:

Aerial rights and supports in case the library needed to build,
Placement of the Auto-page,
Retaining wall on Eldorado as well as along the South side of the library,
Lease for 15 years,
Three favorable telephone calls to Mr. Madden,
Facts and Ideas on the Parking lot,
Entrance from Eldorado Street,
Eliminating employee parking.

Mrs. Moothart asked if the Council considered they were helping the Library. Mrs. Howe pointed out the 150 space parking lot one block from the Library.

Members of the City Council arrived later and joined the Directors of the Library Board in luncheon. After a very agreeable meal, the meeting was called to order by Mr. Madden.

Mr. Dever said that the technical questions could be worked out. "The City wished to acquire 54 feet where the American Legion building stands and pay $42,000. The proposal is to obtain the commitment for the Library to lease it as a public parking lot for the period of 15 years and the design of the parking lot is such that you would come in from Main Street and go out on Main Street. You do have the alternative of coming in from Eldorado Street because there is access to the back of the Library and the Library property is 'no man's land" and an alley, which goes up to the Library building, however, I would assume that one reason it was laid out this way is that the Library would want to close off the entrance on Eldorado during the times they are using it for Bookmobiles and so on. They could use some sort of rope or chain affair that you could put up when you wanted to block it off, because there is a perfect way to get in and get out from Main Street without any problem as far as the back of the Library is concerned. The grades, the improvement, the cost and so on, change of grades so that there would be reasonable grades in the lot, the front of the sidewalks so they would conform is a good deal more than would be necessary in the estimate to take care of the approaches and sidewalks and changes in grades."

Mr. Merris said there is a provision in the law that property that is not needed for Library purposes may be sold or otherwise disposed of. "I think a lease would probably be another "otherwise" disposition, but there must be a finding that it is not needed for Library purposes. If you leased it, it might be recovered at the termination of the lease <u>if you can declare that it is needed for Library purposes</u>."

Mr. Dever said "what is in the back of the thinking here is to provide parking for the Library as a public institution as the City's responsibility and, of course, also in acquiring the Ameraican Legion property this is protecting the Library for future development because if somebody would buy that property and put a substantial investment there, it may be very expensive in the future...in essence we are putting our money in the bank really to protect itself....for library purchases in 10 years...actually" Mr. Dever said, "we will pick up some more spaces, there are 3 or 4 more there, so we won"t lose more than maybe 1 space if you shut that off, but personally I think you would be unwise to do so, you lose another way of getting around the building. There's lots of possibilities."

After much discussion pro and con Mr. Madden said we would have to work a more specific contract and lease. He asked if there were more questions...if the Trustees wanted to think about this more or at the present time express an opinion. Mr. Felts said he would suggest that they have a meeting. Mr. Colburn said the Council members would withdraw and the Board could have their meeting "now". Mrs. Howe said all of the Trustees were not present. Mr. Madden said the Board should not wait till the next Board meeting and suggested an answer would be given to the Council next week. He thanked the Council members for coming and discussing the matter with the Board of Directors. Mrs. Greider expressed appreciation to the Conncil for meeting with the Board.

The members present paid $1 for the lunch.

The combined Board and Council meeting adjourned at 1:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary T. Howe
Mary T. Howe
Secretary

decatur public library

MARY T. HOWE, Librarian 457 NORTH MAIN STREET DECATUR, ILLINOIS

March 7, 1960

To the Board of Directors:

The Staff Association of the Decatur Public Library is dismayed by the news item in the Herald-Review of Sunday 6, March 1960. The proposal to deprive the library personnel of the use of the area adjacent to the building will work a real hardship on:

1. The Extension Department. Parking the Bookmobiles after use and getting them out onto the street to make their stops is a time consuming and hazardous operation at best. To contemplate the operation where public traffic has to be coped with is horrifying.

   Furthermore the Bookmobiles have to be loaded and unloaded, which means that personnel would constantly be exposed to the hazards of walking in the path of cars coming into the parking lot from Eldorado. Books for transport by the station wagon, for hospital, home service, and Evans Branch are all loaded in the driveway at the rear of the building. The driveway being one car width, this operation blocks it.

2. Staff parking area. We would very much regret the elimination of this convenience.

3. We visualize the noxious fumes from the starting of motors immediately under the windows of the technical processes department, being sucked in by the air-conditioners.

4. South lawn. We would deplore the cutting down of this grassy area.

We earnestly request you to consider these points.

Frances L. Robison
Mary A. Read
Hattie Houck
Rebecca C. French
Frances L. Mitchell
R. Atchison
Nellie McNabb.
Charlotte W. Williams
Edna Frances Jones
Ora E. Ruedger
Dorthia Turnbo
Lynn Buuta
E. H. Allard
Jennylind Boggess
Gladys E. O'Dell
Carola L. White
Marjorie Stoffard
John J. Boggess
Myrna Ayers
Sally Jo Stuke
Eleanor E. Sloan
Harold E. McMillan
Mary L. Brickey
Eunice E. Ensign
Margaret E. Larmon
Estelle Shobe
Marjorie E. Klabrinick
Mildred Leonard
Shirley A. Bork
Patricia A. Goff
Juanita E. Appelt
Opal Hannold
Cynthia Martz
Mary K. Weidner
Helen Zitzlaff
Dora Petersen
Joyce E. Knight
M. Catherine Yamamoto

DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY
Decatur, Illinois

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Board of Directors
March 15, 1960

Members present: Mr. Madden, president, Mr. Burnett, Mr. Hart, Mr. Cheeks, Mrs. Greider, Mrs. Moothart, Mr. Koslofski, Mr. Felts, Mrs. Howe, Mr. Hendricks, Mrs. McNabb, Mrs. Appelt, and Mr. Puhek from the newspaper.

The members of the Board of Directors and Staff enjoyed a buffet luncheon served at 12 Noon in the Anne Boyd Room of the Main Library.

The meeting was called to order immediately afterwards. Mr. Cheeks excused himself early but recorded a "yes" vote for the retaining wall to go straight back to connect with the front wall and leave it open.

Mr. Madden said the purpose of the meeting was to discuss the leasing of the Library property to the City for a period of 15 years for parking...the plat was indicated and Mr. Rosenberg's letter read to the members.

Mr. Felts said "it seems to me that by leasing this property we would be changing the status of property so that it would continue to be useful to the Library in another form rather than the storage of books by parking of cars."

Mr. Burnett said "if the City is in agreement, I can't see anything wrong with the proposal as it now stands with the express knowledge that the title of the land will be retained by the Library and at the expiration will revert back to the Library. I think what we will gain we will then get back from the City a completely equipped parking lot and now I can't see any building expansion even in 15 years."

Mrs. Howe pointed out certain discrepancies in the plan and hazards to the staff working in the basement of the building.

Mrs. Greider pointed out the other"city departments have free parking for their employees: fire, police, schools, water and the Library should have some too."

Mr. Madden said, "I am very much interested in something that Mrs. McNabb had to say the other day about the bookmobiles loading and unloading."

Mrs. McNabb said, "As you realize, that narrow space when the bookmobiles are moving around and until the bookmobile is almost straightened out, the driver has no view of this area. Likewise a driver coming from this direction would have just the length of the building. It is just enough of a slope now that when it gets slippery, the men have to use sand or salt... It would have to be changed where the bookmobiles are parked."

Some further discussion was pursued concerning the engineering aspects of the parking lot.

Mr. Felts suggested a motion: The Board of Directors of the Decatur Public Library agrees and authorizes its Properties Committee, including the President of the Board, to negotiate with the City of Decatur a lease which would protect the rights and interests and the future growth and development of the Library, such as air rights and foundation rights over the Library property, the development of an expanded black topping service area to the North and no through access from Eldorado." The motion was seconded by Mr. Burnett. Roll call was read and all present voted "yes". Mrs. Ridgley and Mr Cheeks sent their vote "yes". Motion was carried.

Mrs. Howe presented the proposal to purchase a cash register for the Main Desk. General approval was given to purchase the cash register from Taylor Office Machines for the low price of $239.60.

The question of auditing the library accounts was considered. Mr. Burnett suggested we have two months to consider the matter but it should be authorized as of April 30th.

The card catalogs were suggested for purchase at $650 per set of 60 drawers. The matter was referred to the Properties Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Mary T. Howe

Mary T. Howe
Secretary

DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY
Decatur, Illinois

MINUTES of the BOARD of DIRECTOR'S MEETING
March 25, 1960

Mr. Dean Madden, President, called the regular monthly meeting to order at 4:00 PM, March 25, 1960, in the Decatur Public Library. Those present were: Mr. Madden, Mr. Felts, Mrs. Ridgley, Mr. Burnett, Mr. Cheeks, Mrs. Greider, Mr. Koslofski, Mr. Hart and Mrs. Moothart. Mr. Hendricks, Mrs. Howe, Mr. Sweetnam and Mr. Carr were also present.

The minutes of the February 26th, March 9th and 15th meetings were approved as received by mail.

Mr. Burnett presented the March bills and moved for payment:

Staff salaries	$15,049.62	
Janitor's salaries	461.00	
Total		$15,510.62
Operating expenses		7,530.58
Total		$23,041.20

Mr. Hart seconded the motion. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

The Properties Committee recommended the purchase of 6 card catalogs from Gaylord Bros. whose bid was low. The reinforcing of the second floor was discussed with Mr. Sweetnam, Architect. Mrs. Moothart moved to have Mr. Sweetnam draw up plans and submit to bids. Mr. Cheeks seconded the motion. All present voted aye. Motion carried. The Properties Committee will open the bids on Wednesday, April 20th.

The parking lot was discussed. Mr. Burnett moved the authority to the President and Secretary of the Board to sign the Contract with the City. Mr. Cheeks seconded the motion. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

A progress report was made on the shelving in the Magic Carpet Room. The shelves were due to be installed the week end of April 2nd in time for National Library Week, April 3-9th.

Mrs. Ridgley made the report on the summit meeting of trustees from Rockford, Peoria, Springfield and Decatur to be held in Peoria on May 20th. The meeting will begin about 10:00 AM and last through dinner. The two subjects suggested were purpose and budget .

The Librarian reported on National Library Week and invited everyone to attend International Night Tuesday, April 5th, 8-10 PM. She also told about the Revenue Class under the direction of Mrs. Virginia Gibson. The Friends of the Library Group is shaping up and will be in operation in the near future.

Mr. Burnett moved the meeting adjourned at 5:05 PM. Mr. Hart seconded the motion. All present voted aye. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

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Secretary

DECATUR PUBLIC LIBRARY
Decatur, Illinois

MINUTES of PROPERTIES COMMITTEE
March 25, 1960

The Properties Committee of the Decatur Public Library met with members of the Budget Committee from the City Council for lunch and discussion at 12 noon March 25th in the Boyd Room of the Decatur Public Library. Those present were: Mr. Madden, presiding; Mrs. Moothart, Mr. Burnett, Mr. Hart, Mr. Cheeks, Mrs. Greider, Mrs. Howe, Mrs. Hendricks, Mrs. McNabb and Mrs. Appelt from the Library; Mr. Morey, Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Merris from the City Council; and Mr. Puhek from Herald newspaper.

Mr. Madden called the meeting to order at 12:40 PM and said the purpose of the meeting was to anticipate the library's problems for the next 15 years. The pros and cons of the parking lot were discussed. Mr. Lloyd agreed the retaining wall on the North side of the Library was needed.

Mr. Morey presented the points of the Contract starting backwards with the last one and a discussion was held on each point. The points of disagreement were resolved by agreeing these were an engineer's problem and the group would abide by whatever solution the engineers recommend. Finally the number of days required to do the job was changed from 120 to 150.

Mr. Merris was to draw up the Contract for the City and submit it to the Council and the Library Board for signing. He said the Board of Trustees could authorize the President and Secretary to sign the Contract.

Meeting adjourned at 1:55 PM.

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The members of the Properties Committee reconvened for discussion of some points in the Contract.

It was agreed to recommend the purchase of the card catalogs from Gaylord Bros. The remodeling of the second floor was discussed.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM.

* * * * *

MINUTES of the FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
March 25, 1960--3:15 PM

The Finance Committee met to check the March bills and approve them for payment. Those present were: Mr. Madden, Mr. Burnett, Mrs. Greider, Mr. Hart and Mr. Cheeks.

After carefully checking each bill, they were declared in order.

Meeting adjourned at 3:45 PM.

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