

MortonGroveChampion

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Library hires consultant

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The Morton Grove Public Library Board will be working this year toward creation of a citizens group to support library activities after hiring a consultant to help with the task.

The board last week approved a contract with the Executive Service Corps of Chicago to help form a Friends of the Library group.

The volunteer group will assist in publicizing library activities, raising money, help with events such as the library book sale and perform other activities in support of the library. In addition, the Friends group could assist in providing information to the

community about the need for a new library if officials decide to go ahead with plans for a new building.

Creation of the Friends of the Library group is one of the jobs the board had set for this calendar year.

"We talked about it last year and we knew we would need help," said Ben Schapiro, the library's executive director.

In addition to finding volunteers to serve on the group, Schapiro said that among the jobs that need to be done are creation of a 501c3 non-profit corporation, development of bylaws for the Friends group and modifying the library board's own bylaws.

The five-month, \$5,000 contract will provide three re-

tired business executives to assist in the development of the Friends group.

"There's money in the budget for consultants and this is very reasonable," Schapiro told the Library board at last Thursday's meeting. "They will guide us through the process."

He noted that if the work was done by the library's regular staff, it would take too much time away from their regular duties. "I think this will be a significant savings," he said.

The Executive Service Corps of Chicago is a group of volunteer retired business executives who provide consulting services to non-profit groups, schools and governments.

Schapiro said the organi-

zation was hired last year to develop a fundraising program for the library. "They were very good at it," he said.

"Their job is to identify what you need to do and help you do it," Schapiro added.

"They know how to focus us in on a task," added Renee Miller, Library board president.

Board members, in approving the contract, agreed that the staff and board alone will not have the time or expertise to devote to creation of the Friends of the Library group.

"I don't see anybody on the board having the qualifications," said board member Estelle Cooperman.

"I don't see us getting it done without them," added board member Dan Hoffman.