

City of Mesa Library Advisory Board Meeting

Date: March 21, 2023
Time: 5:30 p.m.
Location: Main Library, Board Room
64 E. 1st Street
Mesa, AZ 85201

Members Present

Ralph Wilson, *Vice Chair*
Cindy Smith
Jo Wilson
James Martherus
Kristin Ricklefs-Johnson
Ellen Bachman

Staff Present

Polly Bonnett
Jesse Simms
Tenecia Philips
Tony Garvey
Brandon Williams
Brenna Klassen
Jeff Robbins
Kellie Rorex

Members Absent

Steven Miner, *Chair*
Jeff Clubb
Alisha Ward

Guests Present

Dilworth Brinton

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
Call to Order	Vice Chair Member, Ralph Wilson, called the meeting for the City of Mesa Library Advisory Board to order at 5:31 p.m. on March 21, 2023.
Approval of January 17th meeting minutes	<p>The January 17th meeting minutes were moved by Jo Wilson and seconded by Ralph Wilson. Upon the tabulation of votes for the meeting minutes, the results showed:</p> <p>AYES – R. Wilson, Smith, J. Wilson, Martherus, Ricklefs-Johnson, and Bachman NAYS – None</p>
Public Comments	There were no public comments.
Introductions, Recognitions, and Announcements	Library Director, Polly Bonnett, welcomed the new Library Board Members joining the Advisory Board, James Martherus and Kristin Ricklefs-Johnson. James and Kristin introduced themselves, shared the number of years they have lived in Mesa and discussed what drew them to join the Board. All other Board members and staff present introduced themselves to the new Board members. No other recognitions or announcements.
City of Mesa General Plan Update	<p>Jeff Robbins, Sr Economic Development Project Manager, and Kellie Rorex, Sr Planner, from the City of Mesa’s Development Services and Planning Department offered an overview of the City of Mesa’s General plan 2024 update that is currently underway. They shared that this document being developed is a guide for policy decisions over the next 10 years and will be brought to the Mesa voters for final approval in 2024.</p> <p>The plan looks at land use in Mesa and not only plans for the next 10 years of growth but has an outlook of 25 years. Board member, Jo Wilson, asked “what happens if the voters don’t pass the plan?” and Jeff shared that City staff would reevaluate the plan, offer updates and modifications and then bring it back to the</p>

AGENDA ITEM **DISCUSSION**

voters at a later time for approval. Board member, Ellen Bachman, was interested in the map overlays that were presented. Jeff/Kellie shared the different land uses on the map and how the City plans to balance the needs of the Mesa community as it looks to achieve the broader goals of the 10 and 25 year general plan.

MPL Literacy Initiatives

Librarian III, Brenna Klassen, offered a presentation on Literacy Initiatives MPL is currently working on this fiscal year. She highlighted the Kindergarten Library card sign-up initiative MPL started in 2023, which has provided hundreds of children with new library cards since its inception. She discussed how MPL Librarians focus on building relationships with multiple schools each year and are the main point of contact for teachers and school librarians when connecting with MPL, our programs and our resources. She also discussed the Northstar Digital Literacy program that MPL is investing in, which provides self-guided and classroom-based assessments and lessons on computer basics like email, computer software skills, smart phone use, etc.

Board member, Cindy Smith, asked about an age limit on library cards and Brenna shared that there is no age limit as long as a guardian is with them. Ralph Wilson asked where the NorthStar trainings would be held and Jo Wilson asked if these trainings will be bilingual. Library Technology Administrator, Brandon Williams, shared that trainings can be done at home and confirmed that the program does have trainings in English and Spanish. Plans are to have drop-in assessments that can be completed onsite at an MPL branch as well.

Library Strategic Plan

Library Director, Polly Bonnett, provided an update on the new MPL strategic plan that has been developed over the last year. She reminded the Board of the community survey that was conducted last summer, the focus groups that were held with MPL stakeholders, and how the library has taken the feedback and updated strategic plan with new priorities for the next few years. Polly also shared the updated Vision and Mission statements with the Board.

Jo Wilson asked about the Library’s Outreach team and if we intend to have a service similar to the Arts center and their “Mabel”. Polly shared that as part of the Budget request to Council for FY23/24, MPL will be creating an Outreach team that focuses on community events, library programs offsite, and support Mesa Express library locations. The team will manage the future MPL bookmobile and will use the “I Love Mesa” van as an outreach vehicle as well.

Identify items for future agenda

Jo wilson asked to see a presentation on the library’s budget and Polly also identified the Dobson Ranch public art project that can be brought to the Board in a future meeting. No other items currently identified.

Next Meeting Dates

May 16th, 2023 – Main Branch Library Board Room

Adjournment

Board member Ralph Wilson moved, and Jo Wilson seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 6:35pm. Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – R. Wilson, Smith, J. Wilson, Martherus, Ricklefs-Johnson, and Bachman
NAYS – None

The next meeting will be held on the 16th of May 2023 at 5:30 p.m in the Library Board Room at the Main branch Library.