

City of Mesa

Library Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Date: May 21, 2024
 Time: 5:30 p.m.
 Location: Main Library, Board Room
 64 E. 1st Street
 Mesa, AZ 85201

Members Present

Ellen Bachman
 Jo Wilson
 Kristin Ricklefs-Johnson
 Lonica Rowley
 James Martherus

Staff Present

Polly Bonnett
 Jesse Simms
 Brandon Williams
 Megan Guderian
 Tenecia Philips
 Erin Jones
 Tony Garvey
 Zach Gomez-Robinson

Members Absent

Ralph Wilson, *Chair*
 Jeff Clubb, *Vice Chair*
 Steven Miner
 Alisha Ward

Guests Present

Lee Swanson
 JR Clanton

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
Call to Order	Chair Member, Jo Wilson, called the meeting for the City of Mesa Library Advisory Board to order at 6:15 p.m. on May 21, 2024.
Approval of March 19th meeting minutes	The March 19 th meeting minutes were moved by Jo Wilson and seconded by Lonica Rowley. Upon the tabulation of votes for the meeting minutes, the results showed: AYES – Bachman, Wilson, Ricklefs-Johnson, Rowley, and Martherus NAYS – None
Public Comments	There were no public comments.
Introductions, Recognitions, and Announcements	All staff and Board members present introduced themselves.
Facilities Master Plan Interview	Mesa Public Library’s Facilities Master Plan consultants Lee Swanson and JR Clanton led the Board through a focus group on the future of Library Services in Mesa.
Team LEAP update	Supervisory Librarian, Megan Guderian, shared an update with the Board on MPL’s newest Outreach team, Team LEAP. She shared that Mesa Express Library at Monterey Park, the LEAP team’s branch, has seen over 3,000 checkouts from the hold lockers alone. MEL operates from 7 AM to 8 PM, six days a week. Megan also discussed their community engagement, including participation in events and successful lobby stops at senior living centers. She noted that they now offer hold services and provide programs in various locations, reaching around 500 attendees so far. Board member, Lonica Rowley inquired about collaborations with schools for summer reading and the bookmobile’s presence at lobby stops. Megan confirmed the start of school collaborations and how MPL’s librarians will continue to work with surrounding schools. She also mentioned that when the bookmobile is operational, although it will go to some lobby stops, it won’t be able to go to all of them. Megan finished her presentation by highlighting the LEAP teams ongoing partnership with Mesa Art’s Centers, MABEL.

AGENDA ITEM**DISCUSSION****Family Resource Center and Main Projects**

Main Branch Coordinator, Erin Jones, provided an update on the Family Resource Center (FRC) and discussed recent grant opportunities. She highlighted a \$1.5 million allocation from a \$15 million funding package specifically for family resource centers that the City of Mesa is receiving a portion of to help fund the FRC. Erin reviewed the layout and needs of the FRC space, including furniture, equipment, and programming development. Phoenix has four FRCs, with one located in a library, while Scottsdale's Library systems collaborate closely with these centers.

Erin detailed the budget for FY24 through FY27, focusing on parenting activities and education. She mentioned two grant-funded full-time positions designated for this Center and shared a sample calendar of activities. Erin emphasized the potential for increased patron engagement through these centers.

Board Member, Jo Wilson, inquired about partnerships and the public visibility of the FRCs, while Lonica asked about the opening timeline for the center, which is scheduled for Fall. Jo also asked about a long-term funding strategy after the grant ends, to which Erin confirmed the current four-year commitment but noted that COM staff have not discussed the plans for after the grant funding period.

Director's Update

Library Director, Polly Bonnett, presented the library's FY25 budget proposal, noting that the Council is scheduled to approve the budget for the next fiscal year on June 3rd. She reviewed the budgetary savings that had been incurred this FY due to vacancies within a few of our positions, and also shared a bond project updates, indicating that the library did not secure any projects to be placed on the 2024 bond being voted on this November. She also shared that the Facilities Master Plan we are working on should strengthen MPL's probability to be added to a bond package in the future.

Jo inquired about the departments that did receive bond funding. Polly reported that \$250 million of the \$600 million was approved to make it on the bond, with the highest funding going to aquatics, police/fire departments, parks, community centers, and transportation. The Council will finalize these decisions in the coming weeks. Lonica then asked about the role of the library's former Master Plan in the bond process. Polly explained that while the 2002 Library Master Plan included a branch in North Mesa, there just wasn't enough public support.

Identify items for future agenda

No items identified during the meeting.

Next Meeting Dates

September 17, 2024 – Main Branch Library Board Room

Adjournment

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

AYES – Bachman, Wilson, Ricklefs-Johnson, Rowley, and Martherus

NAYS – None

The next meeting will be held on the 17th of September 2024 at 5:30 p.m in the Library Board Room at the Main branch Library.



Polly Bonnett, Library Director signs for minutes