

COUNCIL MINUTES

September 21, 2020

The City Council of the City of Mesa met in a Study Session Meeting via a virtual format streamed into the lower level meeting room of the Council Chambers, on September 21, 2020 at 5:02 p.m.

COUNCIL PRESENT

John Giles*
Mark Freeman*
Jennifer Duff*
Francisco Heredia*
David Luna*
Kevin Thompson*
Jeremy Whittaker*

COUNCIL ABSENT

None

OFFICERS PRESENT

Christopher Brady
Dee Ann Mickelsen
Jim Smith

(*Council participated in the meeting through the use of video conference equipment.)

Vice Mayor Freeman joined the meeting at 5:04 p.m.

Mayor Giles conducted a roll call.

1. Review and discuss items on the agenda for the September 21, 2020 Regular Council meeting.

All of the items on the agenda were reviewed among Council and staff and the following was noted:

Conflict of interest: None

Items removed from the consent agenda: Item 6-a.

2-a. Hear a presentation and discuss an update on the programs and services provided by the Mesa Historical Museum.

Arts and Cultural Director Cindy Ornstein introduced Susan Ricci, Executive Director of the Mesa Historical Museum and displayed a PowerPoint presentation. **(See Attachment 1)**

Ms. Ricci reviewed the types of activities completed at the Mesa Historical Museum (MHM) during the pandemic shut down. (See Page 2 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Ricci displayed pictures showing the temporary inventory set up in the auditorium where the staff cleaned rooms and inventoried collections. (See Page 3 through 4 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Ricci shared the MHM does special exhibits twice per year, but because of the circumstances, the museum will have the upcoming exhibit, *Women in Aviation* running through Memorial Day of 2021. She explained the Wings of Flight Foundation at Falcon Field, Phoenix 99's, Chandler Museum, and the Pima Air and Space Museum assisted with the exhibit since the pandemic made it difficult to request out of state inventory. She shared photographs of the inventory obtained for the exhibit. (See Pages 6 through 9 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Ricci expressed excitement about the inventory from the 1900's that is being loaned to the museum. She mentioned when the museum rotates exhibits, a Lehi school exhibit will be featured in one of the small rooms. (See Pages 10 through 12 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Ricci stated museum staff recently updated the Mesa History room during the closure. She pointed out the Baseball exhibit was relocated to another room, and agriculture was incorporated into the history room in place of baseball, since it is an important part of the settling in Mesa. She provided some of the many topics covered in the exhibit such as ranching, blacksmithing, and the role of women. She displayed photos of the newly remodeled exhibit. (See Pages 13 through 15 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Ricci announced the MHM will be creating a Founding Families exhibit that will display different vignettes of what daily living was like for the founders, as well as photographs of the families. She hoped the front porch vignette could become interactive so speakers can come to the museum to tell stories about the history of Mesa. (See Pages 16 through 17 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Ricci announced a few of the future exhibits that will be created for 2021. (See Pages 18 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Ricci highlighted the grants and awards the MHM received during the closure. She mentioned placing a television on the front porch vignette so the museum can run videos and interviews about the exhibit throughout the day. (See Page 19 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Ricci discussed the upcoming fundraising events for the MHM, which include a rummage sale, book fair, cemetery tours, and other events that will be created by the fundraising committee. (See Page 20 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Ricci noted the online collections and virtual exhibits that are currently available. (See Pages 21 through 23 of Attachment 1)

Ms. Ricci thanked Vice Mayor Freeman for recommending Robert Wilson who has volunteered to help catalog the MHM collections.

Ms. Ricci commented the grand reopening of the MHM will be October 10, 2020 with limited hours until November 1, 2020.

Mayor Giles expressed excitement to see the MHM opening and said the museum is a very pandemic friendly place in terms of social distancing. He looked forward to participating in the upcoming cemetery tour.

Vice Mayor Freeman commented he was invited to talk about a direct decedent of the Crismon family, and a direct decedent of Daniel W. Jones who was one of the founding leaders of Lehi.

Councilmember Duff thanked MHM for putting together the exciting collections of Mesa history, specifically the *Women in Aviation* exhibit. She mentioned this exhibit is an untold story and that she is appreciative of the exhibit at this time since this year we are celebrating the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage.

Councilmember Thompson indicated he was impressed with the MHM exhibits, especially the Play Ball display.

Councilmember Luna congratulated Ms. Ricci and staff about the *History of Mesa* exhibit. He is looking forward to seeing the museum in the future.

In response to a question from Mayor Giles, City Manager Christopher Brady stated a plan for reopening Mesa's museums will be presented in October.

Mayor Giles thanked Ms. Ricci for the presentation.

3. Acknowledge receipt of minutes of various boards and committees.

3-a. Human Relations Advisory Board meeting held on June 24, 2020.

It was moved by Councilmember Luna, seconded by Councilmember Thompson, that receipt of the above-listed minutes be acknowledged.

Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Giles-Freeman-Duff-Heredia-Luna-Thompson-Whittaker

NAYS – None

Carried unanimously.

4. Current events summary including meetings and conferences attended.

Councilmember Luna –	2020 International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) Fallen Firefighter Virtual Memorial Economic Development Virtual Meeting Economic Development Advisory Board Meeting – Business community needs I.D.E.A. Museum Meeting on board/sponsorship/donor needs
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Councilmember Duff acknowledged the recent passing of Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, who fought for equality of the sexes and women's rights.

5. Scheduling of meetings.

City Manager Christopher Brady stated that the schedule of meetings is as follows:

Thursday, September 24, 2020, 7:30 a.m. – Study Session

Thursday, September 24, 2020, 8:00 a.m. – Public Safety Committee meeting

Saturday, September 26, 2020, 9:00 a.m. – COVID-19 Testing and Flu Shots available at Lincoln Elementary

Mr. Brady reported the first of five Saturday COVID and flu shot events had a great turnout. He stated there were over 400 flu shots provided and roughly 200 COVID tests completed. He expressed appreciation to City staff and Mesa Public Schools for the support with the events.

Mayor Giles announced the COVID testing and flu shot events will be provided at four different Mesa elementary schools on Saturday mornings over the next four weeks. He mentioned there will be masks provided to families as well as information about the City's resourceful programs.

7. Adjournment.

Without objection, the Study Session adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

JOHN GILES, MAYOR

ATTEST:

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Study Session of the City Council of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 21st day of September 2020. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

DEE ANN MICKELSEN, CITY CLERK

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(Attachments – 1)

MESA HISTORICAL MUSEUM

UPCOMING EXHIBITS AND EVENTS

CLOSURE ACTIVITIES

- Cleared out two remaining classrooms that were being used as storage to make way for new exhibits.
- Created Online Collections and Virtual Exhibits which are accessible through our website.
- Revamped the entire collections department and updated our database.
- Cleared out Old Town and Myrick Room for cleaning and organizing collections.
- Created three new exhibits and revamped the Mesa History Room.
- Held weekly staff meetings and worked together as a team each week to create new storyboards and displays to share with our visitors.



Temporary shelving set up in auditorium to inventory collections

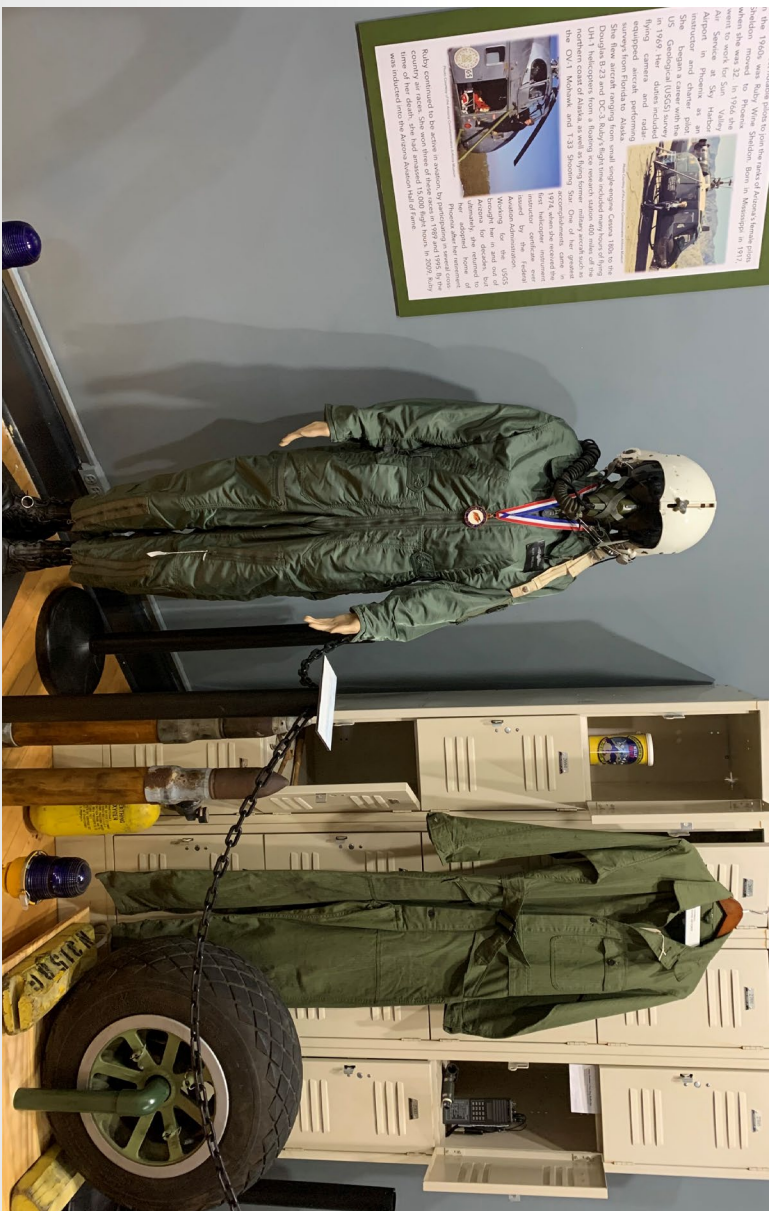


Staff organizing and documenting collections

NEW EXHIBITS

WOMEN IN AVIATION

Women in Aviation honors the contributions by women aviators who lived, worked and flew in Arizona. We worked closely with Wings of Flight Foundation out of Falcon Field to obtain objects for the exhibit. It was difficult finding some of the artifacts we needed due to so many closures. However, the Phoenix 99s, Chandler Museum and Pima Air and Space Museum loaned us objects as well.



Aviatrix Ruby Wine Sheldon's flight suit



Bomber style jacket typically worn by WASPs during WWII



First class of ten female pilots trained by the United States Air
Force at Williams AFB

LEHI SCHOOL EXHIBIT

- The history of the Lehi School, home of the Mesa Historical Museum
- Never before seen photos of elementary classes in the early 1900s
- Rotating high school graduation classes
- Artifacts such as yearbooks, diplomas and books from the early 1900s





Lehi First Grade Class 1919

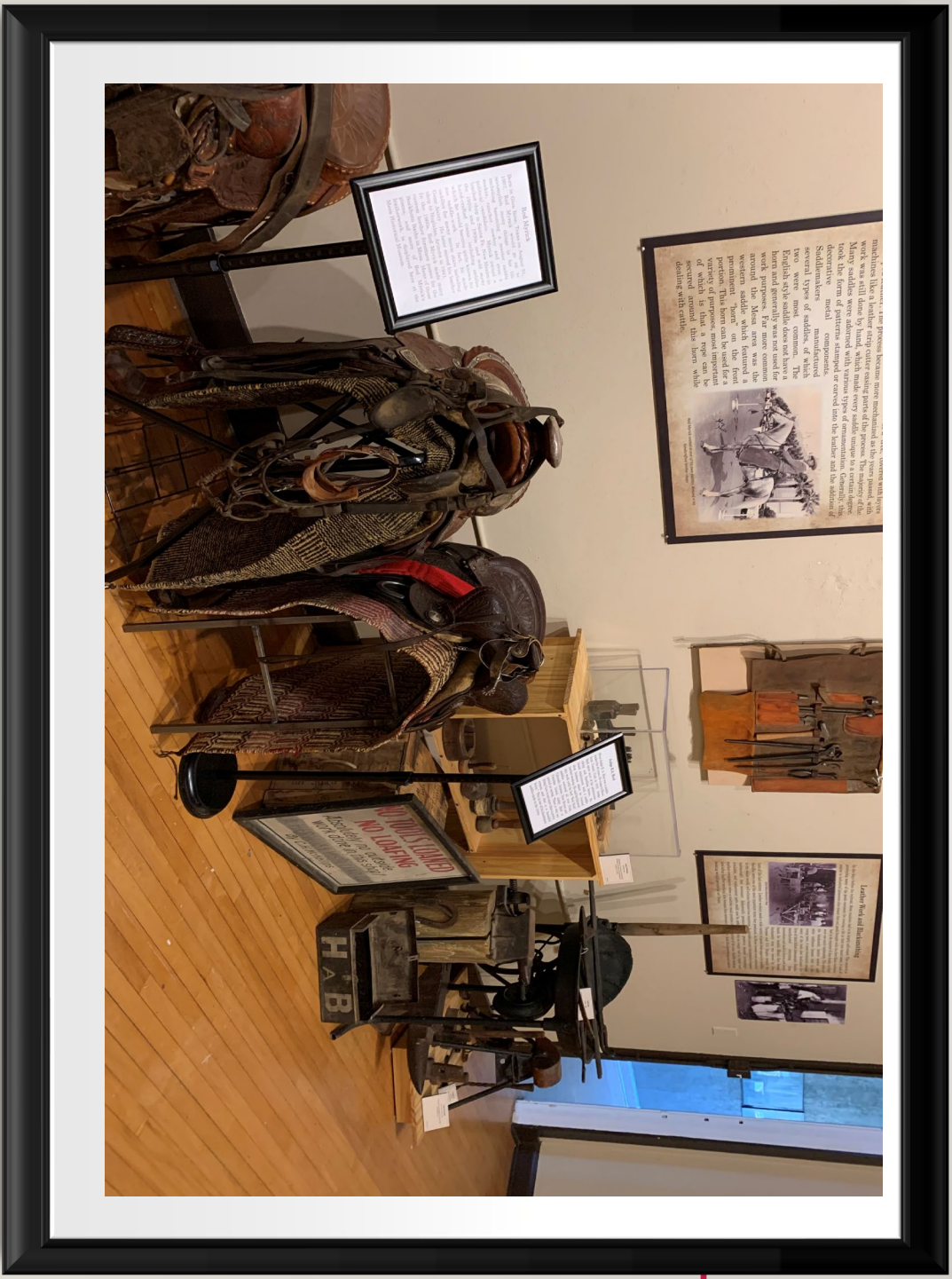
MESA HISTORY ROOM

The newly renovated Mesa History Room now includes the domestic life of the founding men and women, including agriculture and blacksmithing as well as the 5 Cs of Arizona.

Our goal for this room is to use it as a teaching exhibit for students who want to learn about the settlement of Mesa.



The 1893 organ was donated to the Museum by the Crismon Family



FOUNDING FAMILIES EXHIBIT

- This exhibit will showcase a wide array of collections and stories from members of the first founding families who settled in Mesa and Lehi.
- Construction of a “front porch” area that will become interactive with stories and guest speakers
- The Founding Families room will be a permanent exhibit at the Mesa Historical
- Some of the family collections include Dana, Lesueur, Pomerooy, Crismon and Rogers to name a few. We will be dedicating a full storyboard to all of the founding families within the exhibit.



Founding Families Room is still a work in progress

FUTURE EXHIBITS

- Permanent *Play Ball* exhibit which we plan to open before spring training in 2021.
- Highlight the birth of the Cactus League and the impact that spring training has had on the Mesa Community.
- Our upcoming special exhibits for 2021 includes *Diversity in Mesa* which will feature the many cultures in the community including a special display that honors Dr. Alston, the first black doctor to practice in Mesa.

GRANTS

- We received a grant in the amount of \$5,000 from AZ Humanities CARES Act to create a virtual exhibit.
- We also received a grant for \$370 from the AZ Preservation Foundation to purchase software to create an online digital collection.
- We were awarded \$1,300 grant from Arizona Historical Society to conduct an Oral History Project

FUNDRAISING

- We are holding a rummage sale on September 25 and 26
- We are planning a huge book fair for the first week in December.
- Our Cemetery Tour is scheduled for October 24th
- Donor appeal letters will be sent out in late November to attract increase our membership now that we have re-opened.
- A Spring event is being discussed by our fundraising committee

ONLINE COLLECTIONS AND VIRTUAL EXHIBITS

- Our new Online Collections is a search tool that allows community members and other enthusiasts to look through some of our collections and search our objects, photographs, archives, and library resources.
- This week we plan to unveil our Virtual Exhibits which will explore some of our Buckhorn Collection, Baseball Collection, class photos of the various Mesa Schools, a Pioneer Collection (photos and artifacts from early Mesa/Lehi pioneers), a collection of photographs of early Mesa sights, and a virtual exhibit that explores fashion through the years.

[Home](#) [Keyword Search](#) [Advanced Search](#) [Random Images](#) [Archives](#) [Photos](#) [Libraries](#) [Objects](#)

Welcome to our Online Collections Database!

Tips for Searching

Keyword Search

The **Keyword Search** button allows you to perform a general search across multiple fields for any catalog records online. Keyword searches use OR as the default connector between words (e.g. a search for *Harley Ranch* will return records associated with *Harley* OR *Ranch*). If you want to find records where both keywords are found, type in AND between the two words. To search for a specific phrase, be sure to put the phrase within quotes (e.g. "Rocky Pine Ranch"). You can also use the asterisk (*) as a wildcard (e.g. a search for *histor** would come up with records containing *history*, *histories*, *historical*, etc.). Searches are not case sensitive.

Advanced Search

The **Advanced Search** button can help you be more specific with your search. You can search for a word or phrase within a particular search category or use multiple categories to further narrow down your search results. For example, searching *White* in the People field will bring up any records associated with a member of the *White* family, without having to sift through black & white photographs. You can also search People and Creator records through **Advanced Search**. Phrase searching with quotes and use of wildcards (*) are available in **Advanced Search**.


Random Images

The **Random Images** button is a great way to just browse the collection. Each Random Images page displays a random assortment of images from the records online. If something piques your interest, click the thumbnail to view a larger version of the image.

Catalog Searches (Archives / Photos / Libraries / Objects)


Front page of our Online Collections Database

Mesa Historical Museum Virtual Exhibits




Pioneers

Mesa and Lehi settled in the area in the 1870's and this exhibit shows their daily life through photographs and the items they used to survive and thrive in their new homes.... [View Exhibit Page](#)




Mesa Sights

Photos of people, places, and events in Mesa and Lehi from its early days on.... [View Exhibit Page](#)




Buckhorn Baths

In 1939 Ted and Alice Siger were looking to dig a well on their property. Instead, they found hot, undrinkable mineral water and decided to open up the Buckhorn Baths Motel. This attracted the attention of the baseball players in town for Spring Tra... [View Exhibit Page](#)




Baseball

Baseball and Spring Training in Mesa... [View Exhibit Page](#)



Cat People of the Outer Regions: Cat People Dolls made by Karen Kuykendall

Eccentric artist Karen Kuykendall created a fantasy world that consisted of 5 Queendoms of the Outer Regions -Sapphire, Diamond, Ruby, Emerald, and Topaz. These "Cat-People" inspired a lot of her artwork which includes dolls, sculptures, paintings, a... [View Exhibit Page](#)

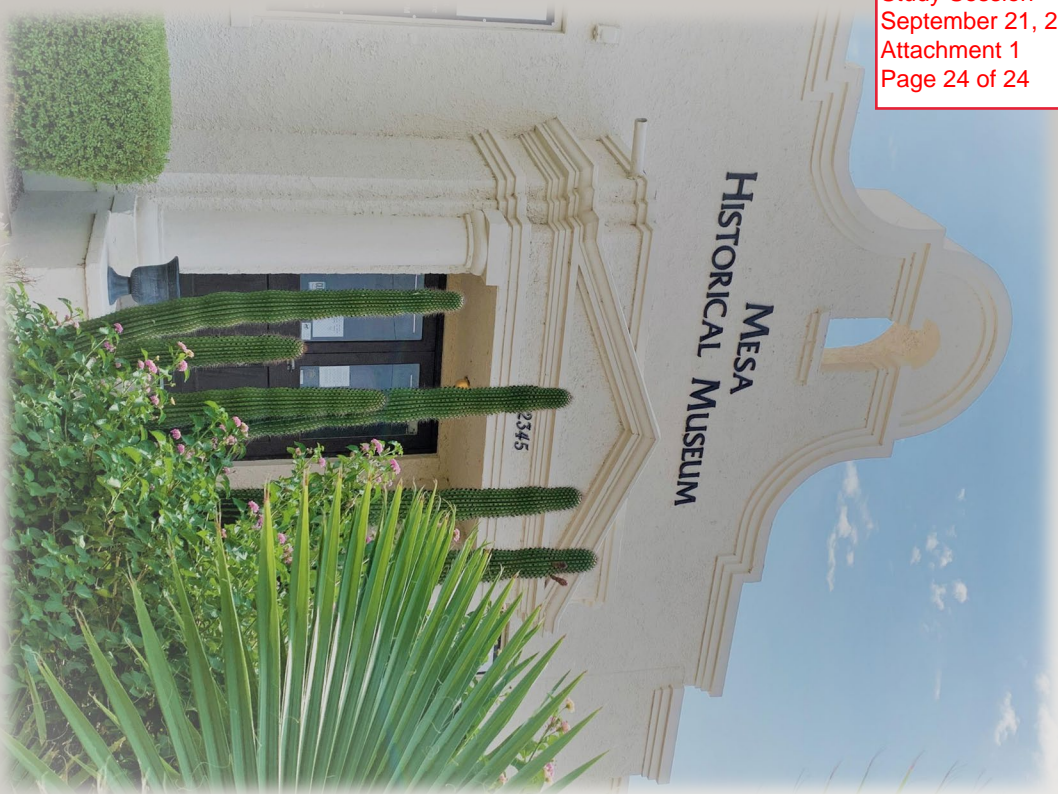


Fashion through the Ages

Various clothing items from the late 1800's and on... [View Exhibit Page](#)

Mesa Historical Museum 2020

Front page for our Virtual Exhibit



The Mesa Historical Museum Public Re-opening:

Saturday, October 10, 2020
from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

***Visitors will be required to wear facemasks**

**We recommend calling ahead to reserve a
timeslot**

**Hours during October:
Wednesday-Saturday 10 am - 2 pm**