

# City of Mesa Library Advisory Board Meeting

Date: January 19, 2021  
 Time: 5:30 p.m.  
 Location: Zoom Meeting

**Members Present**

Megan Sterling, *Chair*  
 Cynthia Jones, *Vice Chair*  
 Ralph Wilson  
 Ellen Bachman  
 Alexis Ross  
 Joy Petroff  
 Irene Frklich  
 Cindy Smith  
 Steven Miner

**Staff Present**

Heather Wolf  
 Tony Garvey  
 Brandon Williams  
 Anna Mathews  
 Polly Bonnett  
 Joyce Abbott  
 Natalie Lewis

**Members Absent**

**Guests Present**

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
<b>Call to Order</b>	Chair Member, Megan Sterling, called the meeting for the City of Mesa Library Advisory Board to order at 5:32 p.m. on January 19, 2021.
<b>Approval of November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes</b>	<p>The November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes were moved by Ellen Bachman and seconded by Cynthia Jones. Upon the tabulation of votes for the meeting minutes, the results showed:</p> <p>AYES – Sterling, Jones, Wilson, Bachman, Ross, Petroff, Frklich, Smith and Miner            NAYS – None</p>
<b>Public Comments</b>	There were no public comments.
<b>Introductions, Recognitions, and Announcements</b>	There were no Introductions, Recognitions, and Announcements.
<b>Library Director’s Update</b>	<p>Library Director Heather Wolf shared an update on the Library Bond projects. She shared the news that demolition begins January 22<sup>nd</sup> for the Main Library bond project, renovating the Children’s Room. The goal is to have the space opened by May 2021, in time for the annual summer reading program. The Dobson Ranch Bond project is also under design and will go to the Design Review Board on February 8<sup>th</sup> for approval of the exterior design. The goal is to bring the final contract to Council in June and begin construction in July or August of 2021.</p> <p>Board Member Ellen Bachman asked about the Dobson Ranch landscaping and shared that she would like to see Donna DiFrancesco from Environmental Management and Sustainability involved in the landscaping design. Heather affirmed that MPL will continue to work with Donna and the Environmental Management and Sustainability Department as we move forward.</p>

**AGENDA ITEM****DISCUSSION**

Heather discussed the current and next phase in the Library’s reopening plans, which expanded hours at all 3 branches on January 19. MPL will now be open from 10am-5pm with limited capacity (currently, 20) at each location. She shared the safety precautions that have been put in place and the measures that the City has taken to keep visitors and employees safe while in the building. Heather shared the services now available, which include browsing materials, picking up holds, checking out materials, self-service pay stations, and limited computer use. She shared that MPL continues to offer curbside service from 8am-9am and is looking into offering curbside service by appointment.

Board member Ellen Bachman wanted to know why MPL chose to open now and shared her concern with community spread of Covid-19 being at a heightened level. Heather shared the high interest in the community and by City leaders to expand Library services to a community in need. She also reiterated the safety precautions being taken and shares that the City monitors community spread and will continue to monitor the situation as MPL launches this expanded service. Board member Cindy Smith voiced her support of the service expansion, comparing the service to similar grab and go retail and grocery stores that are currently open. Board President Megan Sterling asked about those experiencing homelessness, and Heather shared the ways the City is supporting those experiencing homelessness.

Heather also gave the Library Board an update on the Mesa Cares program which concluded at the end of calendar year 2020. Heather shared statistics on the number of residents helped, businesses supported, utility account holders subsidized, and other ways the City of Mesa has been able to utilize federal funds. She shared the storyline of the Library’s role in Mesa Cares and discussed how Library staff were able to create, manage, and support a Mesa Cares call center in a matter of days, lasting through 2020.

The Board voiced their support for MPL and thanked Library staff for their hard work and for their impact on the community. Several board members shared their appreciation. Deputy City Manager, Natalie Lewis, also shared how the City is documenting these programs and projects and shared the long-term vision and goals with the storyline project.

**Identify items for future agenda**

No items at this time.

**Next Meeting Dates**

March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 – Held virtually on Zoom

**Adjournment**

Board member Steven Miner moved, and Alexis Ross seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30pm. Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Sterling, Jones, Wilson, Bachman, Ross, Petroff, Frklich, Smith and Miner

NAYS – None

The next meeting will be held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of March 2021 at 5:30 p.m. held virtually on Zoom.