

# City of Mesa Library Advisory Board Meeting

Date: May 16, 2023  
Time: 5:30 p.m.  
Location: Main Library, Board Room  
64 E. 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Mesa, AZ 85201

## Members Present

Steven Miner, *Chair*  
Ralph Wilson, *Vice Chair*  
Cindy Smith  
Alisha Ward  
James Martherus  
Kristin Ricklefs-Johnson  
Ellen Bachman  
Jeff Clubb

## Staff Present

Polly Bonnett  
Jesse Simms  
Anna Mathews  
Cory Black  
Tony Garvey

## Members Absent

Jo Wilson

## Guests Present

Dilworth Brenton

AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION
<b>Call to Order</b>	Chair Member, Steven Miner, called the meeting for the City of Mesa Library Advisory Board to order at 5:32 p.m. on May 16, 2023.
<b>Approval of March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes</b>	<p>The March 21<sup>st</sup> meeting minutes were moved by Cindy Smith and seconded by Jeff Clubb. Upon the tabulation of votes for the meeting minutes, the results showed:</p> <p>AYES – Miner, R. Wilson, Smith, Ward, Martherus, Ricklefs-Johnson, Bachman, and Clubb NAYS – None</p>
<b>Public Comments</b>	There were no public comments.
<b>Introductions, Recognitions, and Announcements</b>	Library Director, Polly Bonnett, welcomed a new Library Board Member joining the Advisory Board, Alisha Ward. Alisha introduced herself, shared her current employment with a tech start up, and discussed what drew her to join the Board. All Board members present, two members of the public and staff present in the meeting introduced themselves to the new Board member. Polly then recognized Cindy Smith for her 6 years of dedication to the Library Advisory Board and thanked her for her service, as her term comes to an end on 6/30/23.
<b>Dobson Ranch Public Art Project</b>	Due to the addition of the THINKspot at the Dobson Ranch Library, the public art that was onsite until 2022 had to be removed. Dobson Ranch Branch Coordinator, Anna Mathews, shared that MPL is working with the Mesa Arts and Culture department to identify an artist to create new public art on the columns outside of THINKspot. An RFP was put out to the public in the Spring of 2023 and the process to select of the artist is underway. With 25 submissions, it was initially paired down to 10 and now down to 5 finalists. A finalist will be selected in the coming months.

**AGENDA ITEM****DISCUSSION****Library and IT Wi-Fi Router Partnership**

Assistant Library Director, Jesse Simms, shared the background on the MPL and City of Mesa IT router program focused on expanding internet access throughout the community. This program to provide internet connectivity through dispersing free routers to library users without home internet access in qualified areas of the city of Mesa was funded through FCC grant funds. Mesa Public Library’s Main branch was the central location dispersing routers in the Spring of 2023, which has come to an end as MPL staff prepare for the kick-off of the 2023 Summer Reading program, starting June 1st. To expand the reach of the library’s efforts, Jesse then discussed how the City of Mesa has partnered with CompuDopt to go door-to-door checking with residents in qualifying neighborhoods to identify residents who may need internet access and would qualify for the free router.

Board member, Ellen Bachman, asked about census tracks and how they were used, and Board member, Jeff Clubb, asked about plans for expansion of the program. Jesse shared that that census tracks were identified need based and that the Library isn’t expanding the program at this time but IT and the City may continue to explore ways to grow the program. Board member, James Martherus, asked if these routers were on the City’s network and Board member, Kristin Ricklefs-Johnson, asked about tech support and if these could be reused after returned. Jesse shared that the network is very similar and will have some similar restrictions and shared that there is tech support available, via the phone number on the router. MPL will look into what kind of reuse the routers may have down the road.

**Director’s Update**

Library Director, Polly Bonnett, provided the Board with an update on the Library’s budget presentation to Mesa City Council, which included requests for positions related to the MPL Outreach team and the personnel and operating budgets for the new library development in Southeast Mesa. These requests are being recommended for approval by MPL. Polly then shared the potential names of the new library branch and asked the Board to identify their top 3 name preferences on their way out after the meeting concluded. Polly also discussed the new Mesa Express Library currently under construction at Monterey Park and highlighted the Open+ software and its subsequent waiver for use that all patrons will have to sign ahead of using the self-service branch. Polly concluded her report by sharing that the City of Mesa was nominated for an All-American City award, which recognizes communities that are working to improve the health and well-being of young people, and winners will be announced in Denver.

**Identify items for future agenda**

The topic of artificial intelligence in Libraries was discussed as a potential future topic.

**Next Meeting Dates**

September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Main Branch Library Board Room

**Adjournment**

Board member Cindy Smith moved, and Kristin Ricklefs-Johnson seconded that the meeting be adjourned. The meeting was adjourned at 6:38pm. Upon tabulation of votes, it showed:

AYES – Miner, R. Wilson, Smith, Ward, Martherus, Ricklefs-Johnson, Bachman, and Clubb

NAYS – None

The next meeting will be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2023 at 5:30 p.m in the Library Board Room at the Main branch Library.