



# LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

## ACTION MINUTES

May 16, 2023

The Library Advisory Board of the City of Mesa met in the Board Room at the Main Library Branch, 64 East 1st Street, on May 16, 2023 at 5:32 p.m.

### BOARD PRESENT

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

### BOARD ABSENT

Jo Wilson

### STAFF PRESENT

Polly Bonnett  
Jesse Simms  
Tony Garvey  
Anna Mathews  
Cory Black

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of March 21, 2023 minutes

The March 21<sup>st</sup> minutes were moved by Cindy Smith and seconded by Jeff Clubb. The minutes were unanimously approved by all board members present.

3. Public Comments

No public comments. No votes taken.

4. Introductions, Recognitions, and Announcements

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. No other recognitions or announcements. No votes taken.

5. Dobson Ranch Public Art

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. No votes taken.

6. 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 1<sup>st</sup>. 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. No votes taken.

7. 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. 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. No votes taken.

8. Identify items for future agendas

The topic of artificial intelligence in Libraries was discussed as a potential future topic. No votes taken.

9. Next meeting dates

September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 – Location, Library Board Room at the Main Library.

10. Adjournment

Cindy Smith motioned, and Kristin Ricklefs-Johnson seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Without objection, the Library Advisory Board meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the action minutes of the Library Advisory Board meeting of the City of Mesa, Arizona, held on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of May 2023. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

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TONY GARVEY, MANAGEMENT ASSISTANT II