



# LIBRARY ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

## ACTION MINUTES

November 21, 2023

The Library Advisory Board of the City of Mesa met in the THINKspot at the Dobson Library Branch, 2425 S Dobson Rd, on November 21, 2023 at 5:32 p.m.

### BOARD PRESENT

Ralph Wilson, *Chair*  
Jeff Clubb, *Vice Chair*  
James Martherus  
Kristin Ricklefs-Johnson  
Lonica Rowley

### BOARD ABSENT

Jo Wilson  
Steven Miner  
Ellen Bachman  
Alisha Ward

### STAFF PRESENT

Polly Bonnett  
Jesse Simms  
Tenecia Philips  
Erin Jones  
Tony Garvey  
Anna Mathews  
Megan Guderian

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of May 16, 2023 minutes

The May 16<sup>th</sup> minutes were moved by Jeff Clubb and seconded by James Martherus. The minutes were unanimously approved by all board members present.

3. Public Comments

No public comments. No votes taken.

4. Introductions, Recognitions, and Announcements

All staff and Board members present introduced themselves. No votes taken.

5. Election of the Chair, Vice Chair

Former Vice Chair, Ralph Wilson, assumed the role of Chair, nominating Jeff Clubb as Vice Chair. Board member James Matherus seconded the motion. All Board members in attendance voted in favor of the motion, with Board member Jeff Clubb abstaining. Motion passed.

6. MPS Presentation

Library Director, Polly Bonnett, and Assistant Library Director, Jesse Simms, provided an update on the Mesa Public Library and Mesa Public Schools partnership focused on getting Library cards into the hands of MPS students. They shared background on how the concept came up after hearing about success stories of other city / school partnerships throughout the Country. Polly and Jesse Shared that MPL has successfully added an “opt-in” drop-down menu option for an MPL library card sign-up on all MPS kindergarten student registrations and has seen progress so far with card sign-ups. This year, guardians of over 1,400 of 3,700 kindergarteners opted in to receive a Library card, with hopes to expand to other grades in future years. They discussed Marketing for the program, plans for future partnerships, and ways to streamline the approach down the road. No votes taken.

7. Director’s Update

Library Director, Polly Bonnett, Assistant Library Director, Jesse Simms, and Management Assistant II, Tony Garvey, presented the MPL MesaStat Socrata story page highlighting Library Services performance over the last year. The team discussed the strategic priorities for MPL, which included Community Literacy, Engagement and Access, Customer Experience, and Employee Engagement. The following performance measures were shared in detail, reviewing month-to-month stats: Library Circulation, MPL visitor counts, library card sign-ups, and employee turnover. Each of these MPL performance measures has targets set 2.5% above last year’s actuals, with plans to continue to increase our monthly goals into next fiscal year. The team highlighted the circulation successes growing the use of the MPL collection by 5%, MPL visitor success with a in-person visitor increase of 13% year-over-year, and library cards registered success, bringing our active library user base to over 98,000. This is up from just 82,000 in October of 2022. No votes taken.

8. Identify items for future agendas

Board member, James Martherus, asked to learn more about the Gateway Library. Board member, Kristin Ricklefs-Johnson, asked to learn more about Program development. Board member, Lonica Rowley, asked to learn more about CSS purchasing. The topic of MPL’s Budget and Capital Improvement Program was discussed as a potential future topic. No votes taken.

9. Next meeting dates

January 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 – Location, Library Board Room at the Main Library.

10. Adjournment

James Martherus motioned, and Lonica Rowley seconded that the meeting be adjourned. Without objection, the Library Advisory Board meeting adjourned at 6:37 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 21<sup>st</sup> day of November 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